

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Trustees to consider facilities assessment to address aging infrastructure across the district

Feb. 11, 2020 – The Houston Independent School District Board of Education on Thursday will consider authorizing a comprehensive, districtwide facilities assessment designed to aid administrators as they prepare to address aging infrastructure across the district.

The board's regular monthly meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, in the Manuel Rodríguez Jr. Board Auditorium of the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center, 4400 W. 18th St., 77092. Click [here](#) to view the full agenda.

The assessment data will be used to drive the district's response to maintenance issues, safety concerns, student population growth, and building capacity needs, as well as vertical curriculum alignment and educational equity.

Trustees will also consider approval of a contract with Teach for America (TFA) for the 2020-2021 academic year. TFA recruits recent college graduates from all fields who commit to teach in urban public schools for two years or more. TFA has partnered with HISD since 1991, and the district is seeking trustees' approval to renew a contract with the organization after the agreement lapsed last year. If trustees approve, up to 35 TFA teachers would undergo summer training in time for classroom assignments in August when the new school year begins.

Thursday's agenda also includes an item to approve a partnership with Goodwill Industries of Houston that would provide training, wraparound support, and post-graduation employment at an annual salary of about \$35,000 for dozens of students in high-poverty communities.

HISD would be one of the first districts in the state to participate in the partnership aimed at reducing inner-city financial hardship. Students at Sterling, Wheatley, and Worthing high schools would participate in the initiative, which is made possible by a contract between Goodwill and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

The board will also consider a \$140,000 grant from Chevron Houston and a \$120,000 grant from Verizon Innovative Learning to fund computer science courses and other STEM programs at 12 HISD middle and high schools, which applied for the funds. The donation from Verizon was awarded exclusively to HISD schools. Instructional programs would be provided by Project Lead the Way, a nonprofit education organization.

Trustees are also scheduled to approve the academic calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. It was developed after HISD administrators sought and received feedback from parents, employees, and the HISD community. The district calendar may be viewed [here](#) in English and Spanish.

The board meeting will be broadcast live online at www.hisd.tv and on HISD TV (Xfinity channel 18 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99).

HISD PRESS OFFICE | 713-556-6393 | PressOffice@HoustonISD.org | HoustonISD.org/HISDmedia

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 4400 West 18th Street | Houston, Texas 77092-8501
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