

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD school buses to deliver fresh fruits and veggies directly to students each week

Students at 68 schools eligible to participate in program

May 27, 2020 – School buses will roll once again, but for a special reason — they will be delivering fresh produce to students at 68 select elementary campuses as part of a new produce delivery program.

Fresh Bus school buses will provide weekly deliveries of fresh fruits and vegetables to several locations in each school community, making fresh produce directly available to more than 36,000 students.

The initiative is funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program and coordinated by a collaboration between HISD’s Nutrition Services and Transportation Services.

“We’ve worked hard over the last two months to ensure our students and their families continue to have access to good food despite schools being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. “This program is another way to keep that momentum going.”

The Fresh Bus produce delivery program is expected to run through the end of July.

Students enrolled at participating schools are eligible, but parents must complete a [registration survey](#) for each child participating in the program. After completing the survey, they will be notified by phone with their confirmed pick-up time.

“The Fresh Bus is an innovative way to ensure our students have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, which is especially important now as we look at ways to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic,” Nutrition Services Officer Betti Wiggins said. “This program helps lay the foundation for a healthy lifestyle for our students.”

When picking up produce, families are required to follow signage and directions from bus attendants, who will be on site to ensure safe pedestrian traffic and appropriate social distancing at the pick-up site.

For more information on the program, visit www.houstonisd.org/freshbus, or call 713-556-2473 or 713-556-2981 between 6:30 a.m. and noon. Messages left after noon or on days when the district is closed will be returned the next business day.

**Fresh Bus: Good Food Brought Home to You
Participating Schools**

Alcott ES	Atherton ES	Barrick ES	Bastian ES
Benavidez ES	Benbrook ES	Blackshear ES	Bonham ES
Braeburn ES	Briscoe ES	Browning ES	Bruce ES
Burbank ES	Burnett ES	Burrus ES	Codwell ES
Cook ES	Coop ES	Durkee ES	Eliot ES
Foster ES	Franklin ES	Frost ES	Gallegos ES
Garcia ES	Garden Villas ES	Golfcrest ES	Gregg ES
Halpin Early Childhood Center	Hilliard ES	Hobby ES	J.R. Harris ES
Kennedy ES	Lockhart ES	Looscan ES	Mading ES
McGowen ES	McNamara ES	Milne ES	Mitchell ES
Nat Q. Henderson ES	Northline ES	Oates ES	Osborne ES
Paige ES	Peck ES	Petersen ES	Pleasantville ES
Port Houston ES	R.P. Harris ES	Reynolds ES	Robinson ES
Rodriguez ES	Ross ES	Rucker ES	Sanchez ES
Scarborough ES	Shadydale ES	Shearn ES	Sherman ES
Thompson ES	Tinsley ES	Wesley ES	Whidby ES
White ES	Whittier ES	Woodson ES	Young ES

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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.

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