

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Board to consider formation of District of Innovation Committee

District remains on track to return to in-person instruction on Oct. 19, pending COVID-19 conditions

Sept. 9, 2020 – At its Thursday night meeting, the Houston Independent School District Board of Education is scheduled to approve a consent agenda item that includes a resolution concerning virtual instruction in the district.

Currently, HISD is scheduled to begin in-person instruction on October 19, 2020, pending COVID-19 conditions. The item requests that the Board of Education provides flexibility to extend the virtual learning period for an additional two weeks if that becomes necessary based on recommendations from health authorities. As announced on July 15, HISD's plan to provide face-to-face instruction beginning on October 19 has not changed.

The board's virtual regular monthly meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, and can be viewed live online at www.hisd.tv and on HISD TV (Xfinity channel 18 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99). Click [here](#) to view the full agenda.

Other items on the consent agenda, which trustees are scheduled to approve without discussion or individual motions, include:

- As part of the resolution on virtual instruction, a plan to carry out online learning on Election Day, November 3, 2020 to accommodate voters and maintain safe conditions for students and staff amid COVID-19 conditions.
- Authorization for the district to submit its finished asynchronous learning plan to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), once the plan has been finalized, in order for the district to earn average daily attendance (ADA) funding.

HISD has implemented an asynchronous or independent instructional model for students, which provides periods of synchronous live support from educators during virtual instruction.

- Acceptance of more than \$58,000 in cash and in-kind donations to provide school supplies, uniforms and clothing to Holland Middle School and Tijerina Elementary School. The donations are from the Christian Community Service Center and the Assistance League® of Houston in partnership with Operation School Bell®.

Additionally, the board is scheduled to discuss and vote on the formation of a District of Innovation (DOI) Committee to develop a plan for HISD to obtain the designation. Receiving the DOI designation would allow the district to set an earlier school start date, have flexibility from the state's 90% attendance rule, and increase the district's ability to hire teachers specifically for Career and Technical Education courses that are difficult to staff due to certification requirements.

The district previously held a virtual public hearing on pursuing DOI status. HISD would join 893 other districts across Texas in becoming a District of Innovation. The designation would take effect in time for the 2021-2022 school year.

The board is also scheduled to vote on adopting a resolution designating September 30, 2020, as a day in honor of Vanessa Guillén, who graduated from HISD's César E. Chávez High School in 2018 before serving in the United States Army. Guillén's tragic death has focused a national spotlight on the treatment of women in the military, giving rise to the hope that her loss will be a catalyst for change and equal and fair treatment of all members of society.

Trustees will also review and discuss a Board Operating Procedures Manual, which is intended to formalize the general practices of the governing body.

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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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