

— A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM —
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
GRENITA LATHAN

Dear HISD Parents:

Reading is a fundamental part of life. It isn't just vital to a well-rounded education. Reading helps us learn about the world and experience new perspectives. In a city as richly diverse as Houston, it allows us to connect with our neighbors and friends on a deeper level.

Tomorrow is [Read Across America Day](#), and March is National Reading Month.

As a district, HISD is committed to enriching students' lives through reading—both in school and for the rest of their lives. And [our approach to literacy](#) is more than just a program or initiative—it's a movement to turn around and end the literacy crisis in Houston.

We start with a strong foundation, one that includes phonics, guided and independent reading, and writing instruction. The end goal is to have every child reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade.

But that goal is about more than just a statistic. It's about creating a future for our children—and our city—that is fair and equitable, and creating empathetic and engaged citizens.

Schools across HISD will be participating, not just tomorrow but all month long. Libraries and book stores will also be taking part, with events for everyone in Houston. We'll highlight a few events tomorrow on social media, as well.

Students who feel recognized and included in the stories they read become engaged readers, so take advantage of the diverse set of books available at your [local library](#). Check out this [list of books](#) to get you started.

We hope you will celebrate **#ReadAcrossAmerica** Day with us tomorrow. Read on, Houston!

Sincerely,



Grenita F. Lathan, Ph.D.
HISD Interim Superintendent