

## HISD PRESS RELEASE

### **HISD Board of Trustees to vote on resolution to extend COVID-related paid leave for staff**

*Jan. 6, 2021* – The Houston Independent School District Board of Education is scheduled to vote Thursday during its agenda review meeting on a resolution to extend paid leave to employees who are required to quarantine due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or close contact with an infected individual.

**The board’s virtual agenda review meeting begins Thursday, Jan. 7 at 5 p.m. and can be viewed live online at [www.hisd.tv](http://www.hisd.tv) and on HISD TV (Xfinity channel 18 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99). Click [here](#) to view the resolution.**

The board will consider adoption of an extension of certain leave benefits provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which expired December 31, 2020.

“In the interest of health and safety, it is the district’s intention and goal to fully support employees who are required to quarantine as a result of contracting COVID-19 or being exposed to it,” HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. “This is an important and necessary provision as we continue to navigate the pandemic.”

“Paid leave related to COVID-19 is an essential element that affects our staff, students and their families,” HISD Chief Human Resources Officer Julia Dimmitt said. “Extending the leave time addresses multiple issues of concern for safety, as well as morale for our employees.”

Employees would be able to apply for up to 80 total hours (or 10 days) of emergency paid sick leave when they are required to quarantine due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure to the virus.

The board is taking action since Congress has made no move to reinstate FFCRA. The board’s resolution would also give the superintendent the authority to determine whether and how to allow employees to continue to use the 80 hours of leave originally provided by the FFCRA if Congress modifies or extends the federal act.

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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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