

# HISD MEDIA ADVISORY

## Houston ISD Foundation to hold virtual State of the Schools fundraising event

*Interim Superintendent Lathan to deliver State of Schools address focusing on meeting academic challenges during pandemic*

**What:** The Houston Independent School District Foundation's annual State of the Schools fundraiser will take place virtually this year for the first time ever and will focus on effective methods for supporting student achievement amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan will deliver the State of the Schools address during which she will discuss HISD programs to mitigate academic atrophy while keeping students, staff, and their families safe -both now and in the months to come.

The virtual event will also highlight educational projects funded by grants to the Houston ISD Foundation as well projects funded directly by the district's charitable organization, such as: real-world laboratory and field experiences to study water quality and its global impact; on-campus gardens to promote nutrition awareness, beautification, and mental health; and an interactive STEM lab for elementary students.

Funds raised by the foundation support projects and programs that fall outside the district's operating budget in the areas of college and career readiness, comprehensive supports for students and their families, innovation, and equity. Proceeds go directly to the Houston ISD Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

Each year, the State of the Schools event highlights the importance of community investment in public education and focuses on the social and economic impact that occurs locally and globally when public school students have access to a quality education.

Virtual tables, which allow for networking and viewing the event with a group, are available for purchase [here](#).

**Media is invited to attend a Q & A session with Dr. Lathan following the program's intermission.**

**Media must RSVP to attend the virtual Q & A by emailing:  
pressoffice@houstonisd.org.**

**Who:** HISD Board of Education Trustees, HISD Interim Superintendent **Grenita Lathan**, HISD executive leadership team, Houston ISD Foundation Board Member **Matthew Noll**, Houston ISD Foundation Executive Director **Katherine Smith**

**When:** Wednesday, March 24  
noon

**Where:** The event may be viewed by registering at the link provided above.

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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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