

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Board of Education to consider appreciation stipends for employees

May 11, 2021 – Houston Independent School District (HISD) employees could see a boost in their paychecks later this month. Trustees will consider a one-time stipend of \$750 for eligible district employees as an appreciation for their dedication and commitment during this unprecedented school year.

If approved at Thursday's regular Board of Education meeting, the payment will appear in the employees' May 26, 2021 paychecks.

To help further the education of students and staff, HISD is also asking the Board of Education to allow the district to negotiate an interlocal agreement with Texas A&M University-Commerce. The agreement is designed to increase the number of graduating HISD seniors and employees that earn undergraduate and graduate degrees at A&M-Commerce. It includes three primary programs in partnership with HISD: President's Promise program provides a last-dollar tuition scholarship; Rising Lion program provides a structured academic experience for incoming freshmen; and the Quick Start Grant program provides financial support to select HISD employees who choose to pursue a graduate degree at A&M-Commerce.

The board will also consider approving \$750,000 to spend on In/After-School Community Outreach Programs over a three-year period. The programs are intended to improve academic and social-emotional learning by addressing and preventing early aggression, academic failure, and school dropout. The vendors HISD is seeking approval for are: BenCheri Educational Center, D.A.R.E. America, Outdoor Tomorrow Foundation, Teen and Police Academy Service Academy, The KNEW Solutions, and There is Life After Life.

Also, up for approval is a grant from the USA Swimming Foundation. Recognizing the importance of giving more students the opportunity to learn how to swim, the foundation has awarded HISD a second grant in the amount of \$19,000 to help expand current swim programming. HISD commits to leveraging access to swim lessons to students in high-risk drowning zones. Lessons will be available first to middle school students then third- and fourth-graders.

The agenda for the May 13, 2021 board meeting can be found [here](#).

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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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