

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Students Within Reach Walk successfully brings students back to school

Sept. 18, 2021 – Volunteers at 17 HISD high schools spent Saturday morning knocking on doors across Houston encouraging students who have not returned to school this academic year to re-enroll. The outreach effort was part of the Students Within Reach Walk which led to 82 HISD students deciding to return to school immediately and many more promising to give school another try.

As of the start of the school year, 5,440 high school students grades 9-12 needed to be re-engaged. These are students the district expected to attend school on day one who did not. As of September 15, 1,036 of the 5,440 high school students have returned to HISD. Outside of re-enrollment, HISD is seeing daily increases in new student enrollment grades 9-12.

“It may be that some of these families have moved or that they need to be bought back into high-quality learning environments here in HISD. That work continues September with engagement efforts like the Students Within Reach Walk,” said Superintendent Millard House II. “We are not here to judge; we are here to support. As we knock on doors, we are here to ensure that we get these students back in classrooms so they can get the kind of support they need.”

Schools and central office staff have been conducting targeted outreach for months to support these students and their families. Saturday’s walk was one of those efforts to re-engage students.

HISD administrators, staff and volunteers met with dozens of families across the district to talk to them about the various options that HISD offers to help students get back in school and graduate.

Participating HISD high schools include Austin, Chavez, Furr, Heights, Liberty, Long Academy, Middle College Gulfton, Milby, Northside, Sam Houston, Scarborough, Sharpstown, Sterling, Waltrip, Westbury, Westside, and Wisdom.

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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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