

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Superintendent House shares report as he completes 100 days in HISD

November 12, 2021 – Superintendent Millard House II is releasing a report outlining his 100 days as superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, the largest school district in Texas and eighth-largest in the country. Superintendent House has focused his efforts on understanding the state of the district and listening and learning from the community as he charts an exciting future ahead for HISD.

“Listening is a core value of my leadership, and I’ve done that and will continue to do that at every step of the way,” said House. “The input of our community has been invaluable, and I look forward to the ongoing, candid conversations with parents, students, staff, and community members as all voices shape the future of our school district.”

Hundreds of parents, teachers, and community members participated in 16 Listen and Learn sessions with Superintendent House to share their feedback, concerns, goals, and hopes for HISD. He also met with community leaders in government, business, religion, and non-profit to hear their perspectives.

The key learnings that Superintendent House has taken from these engagements include the following:

1. **Parents, students, and the community highly prioritize and desire caring, effective, and engaging educators and support staff.** The need to develop, recruit and retain effective teachers, principals and support staff was often cited as the most important thing we should focus on as a school district.
2. **There is a widespread desire and imperative to strengthen teaching and learning at all schools.** The quality of teaching and learning varies greatly across the district, and differences in curriculum, testing, and classroom instruction are leading to inequitable academic outcomes, especially for children who attend more than one HISD campus during their school career.

3. **The community is very proud and supportive of its highly acclaimed schools and magnet programs, but there is a desire and a need for more high-performing schools and specialty programs, especially in underserved communities.** Many parents and students expressed that while the district has very high-performing schools and specialty programs, there are areas throughout the city where they do not exist and where the only options that exist are chronically low-performing campuses.
4. **The district offers a wide portfolio of services and resources for students, but these are not always equitably distributed across schools.** Student and family experience is very different across campuses and neighborhoods. This includes fundamental services like facilities, libraries, social and mental health services, fine arts education, extracurriculars, and access to advanced coursework.
5. **Many families who have children with exceptional needs are frustrated that the district has not lived up to its promise and obligation of providing their children with the services and supports necessary for them to thrive academically.** Students with exceptional needs, including students with disabilities and English language learners, are not realizing their full academic potential.

“My career has prepared me for leading this community right now, in this very challenging time. But I see these challenges as opportunities, and HISD certainly has so much potential to unlock through these opportunities,” said House. “Right now, is the time for bold change and re-commitment. And I’m passionate about leading this charge so that students from every zip code can thrive in a future with limitless possibilities.”

In reflecting upon what he has heard and learned, Superintendent House is leading the district’s strategic planning process which will identify bold, innovative actions that will culminate in HISD’s five-year strategic plan which is planned to be shared publicly by March 2022. At the core of this plan are Superintendent House’s five priorities:

1. **Cultivating World Class Talent at all Levels** - We will implement an ambitious, comprehensive strategy to recruit, develop & retain effective and caring teachers, principals, and support staff.
2. **Providing Equitable Opportunities and Resources at Every School** - We will ensure that every school provides a quality family and student core experience that supports the development of the whole child.
3. **Promoting High-Quality Teaching and Learning** - We will provide engaging and rigorous curriculum and instruction that bolsters academic performance.
4. **Ensuring Great Schools and Programs in Every Community** - We will accelerate student performance through bold, innovative actions at persistently underperforming schools.
5. **Delivering Effective Services and Supports to students with Exceptional Needs** - We will implement high-quality systems and services that increase achievement for students

with specialized needs, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Superintendent House's 100-day report can be viewed at www.houstonisd.org/100dayreport.

HISD PRESS OFFICE | 713-556-6393 | PressOffice@HoustonISD.org | HoustonISD.org/HISDmedia

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.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 4400 West 18th Street | Houston, Texas 77092-8501
HoustonISD.org | facebook.com/HoustonISD • facebook.com/HISDEspanol | [@HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD) • [@HISDEspanol](https://twitter.com/HISDEspanol)