HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Early Childhood Centers receive substantial investment to expand literacy programs

Nov. 04, 2022 – Houston Independent School District is partnering with PNC Bank and Houston Dynamo Football Club to invest in and prioritize early literacy. The early childhood education library project is aimed at improving access to early childhood literacy.

"We are excited to continue our investments in early childhood literacy programs by establishing vital partnerships with community pillars like PNC Bank and the Houston Dynamo" said Superintendent Millard House II. "This is the first year HISD is requiring a librarian at every campus as a part of our five-year strategic plan to promote strong educational achievements, academic success and an overall better educational experience."

The program will invest nearly \$130,000 in library refreshes, reading nooks, librarian training scholarships and programming events. Several HISD campuses will receive upgrades to their library spaces in the form of beautification projects, new furniture, reading kits, new technology, books in various languages and much more. Select campuses will be announced at a later date along with a ribbon cutting celebration.

"Our libraries are safe spaces in which students can explore, dream, and hope. Our dedicated staff and diverse resources can help them image their future careers, see wonders of the world, and dream of what they want to achieve in their lives" said HISD Director of Library Services Len Bryan. "We are thankful to our partners for investing in our students."

Students will also learn about financial literacy through PNC Grow Up Great® workshops to prepare for real-world financial situations. PNC Grow up Great is a \$500 million initiative focused on early education. In addition, PNC Bank volunteers will continue to support HISD schools with various sessions and events for parents and students to engage in reading activities together.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 197,000 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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