

HISD PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2024

HISD Announces 2023 School Ratings and New NES Schools

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) today announced individual school ratings. The ratings are based on state accountability data for the 2022-2023 school year. Due to ongoing litigation, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has not issued statewide accountability ratings. The state did, however, give districts the data and methodology that is used to calculate ratings and letter grades for campuses.

Using the TEA information, including state data that HISD proactively requested in the past month, the District's Assessment, Accountability, and Compliance Department performed the calculations. They indicate that HISD has 35 A rated schools and 58 B rated schools. It has 52 C schools, 65 D schools, and 58 F schools. (*See the Appendix—2023 School Accountability Ratings—for the complete list.*)

New Education System

The school ratings announced today are being used to determine which schools will join the District's New Education System (NES) in the coming school year (2024-2025).

NES schools:

- Use an innovative staffing model to ensure students receive consistent high-quality instruction. The model also allows teachers to focus on their core work and have better work-life harmony.
- Pay teachers and staff higher salaries and differentiate compensation based on the subject taught as well as rigorous teacher and leader evaluation systems.
- Have a specific instructional program and receive extra resources and support to dramatically improve academic performance.
- Provide Art of Thinking courses to teach students critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as well as how to assess, evaluate, and effectively use information.
- Provide specialty classes in the areas of fitness; music and fine arts; 21st-century media and technology; and hands-on science. These classes supplement schools' existing electives and magnet programs and are taught by community consultants with specific knowledge and skills.
- Offer free trips for students to experience new places and cultures.

HISD launched the NES at 28 historically underperforming campuses in the fall of 2023. At the same time, an additional 57 schools asked to be included in the NES; for the current (2023-2024) academic year, those schools are known as NES-aligned campuses. In the coming school year, HISD will not have a distinction between NES and NES-aligned schools. There will instead only be two kinds of campuses: (1) NES (encompassing existing NES, existing NES-aligned, and new NES schools) and (2) non-NES.

Six schools that received a low D (rating of 60 to 64) and 20 schools that received an F (rating of 59 or below) that are not already NES or NES-aligned campuses will join the NES in the fall of 2024. See the table immediately below for a list of these schools, their accountability ratings, and their letter grades.

Schools That Will Join the NES In 2024-2025

School	Accountability Rating	Letter Grade
Almeda Elementary School	64	D
Crockett Elementary School	63	D
Golfcrest Elementary School	64	D
Northside High School	63	D
Peck Elementary School	60	D
Westbury High School	64	D
Anderson Elementary School	56	F
Askew Elementary School	54	F
Browning Elementary School	59	F
Clifton Middle School	57	F
Codwell Elementary School	51	F
Fonville Middle School	55	F
Gregory-Lincoln PK-8	59	F
Grissom Elementary School	59	F
Kelso Elementary School	58	F
Longfellow Elementary School	59	F
Milne Elementary School	47	F

Mitchell Elementary School	55	F
Ortiz Middle School	59	F
Sharpstown High School	50	F
Stevens Elementary School	54	F
Thomas Middle School	56	F
Walnut Bend Elementary School	58	F
Welch Middle School	59	F
Wesley Elementary School	45	F
Woodson Leadership Academy	57	F

Another 24 schools—those with a high D (rating of 65 to 69)—that are not already NES or NES-aligned campuses have the option to be considered for the NES. The principals of these schools will gather input from staff, families, and members of their Shared Decision Making Committees to discuss the opportunity and will let the District know by February 7 if the school is interested in being considered for the NES.

The District currently projects that it will be able to accept up to 14 high-D campuses for the NES in the coming school year. HISD will select those campuses by February 9.

Schools Eligible for NES Consideration		
School	Accountability Rating	Letter Grade
Austin High School	66	D
Bell Elementary School	66	D
Braeburn Elementary School	69	D
Deady Middle School	69	D

Emerson Elementary School	68	D
Foerster Elementary School	69	D
Frost Elementary School	69	D
Gross Elementary School	65	D
Hines Caldwell Elementary School	66	D
Jefferson Elementary School	69	D
Ketelsen Elementary School	69	D
Love Elementary School	66	D
Marshall Middle School	69	D
Montgomery Elementary School	69	D
Navarro Middle School	66	D
Neff Elementary School	67	D
Petersen Elementary School	66	D
Reynolds Elementary School	67	D
Ross Elementary School	68	D
Sanchez Elementary School	69	D
Shearn Elementary School	66	D
Southmayd Elementary School	68	D
Tinsley Elementary School	68	D

Valley West Elementary School	69	D
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“The ratings and letter grades released today are based on data from the 2022-2023 school year. While there were bright spots, the ratings generally show declining achievement,” said **HISD Superintendent Mike Miles**. “The good news, though, is that this school year we are seeing encouraging signs of progress. Preliminary data from our mid-year exams this year indicate that achievement is improving. Additionally, the data from mid-year exams indicate that NES and NES-aligned campuses experienced higher academic growth than our non-NES campuses. This is especially important because, on the whole, our NES and NES-aligned schools are further behind academically. HISD won’t turn things around overnight, but we are on the right path.”

The NES is the largest and most significant effort to transform K-12 education in the United States. While other districts have tried to improve schools by taking incremental steps—such as adopting a new curriculum or expanding certain programs—the NES involves whole-scale, systemic reform. It is designed to dramatically improve academic performance, close achievement gaps, and ensure Houston’s students graduate prepared for the modern workplace and world. An ambitious effort for the city—and, indeed, the nation—the NES has the potential to remedy decades of ineffective K-12 policies and prove what is possible for America’s students.

Innovative NES Staffing Model

Given NES schools’ extensive needs, employees at these campuses earn higher salaries than staff at other HISD schools. NES schools also differentiate compensation based on the subject taught and rigorous teacher and leader evaluation systems.




HISD 2024-2025 Teacher Salaries		
	Starting Salary*	5-Year Salary*
Non-NES schools	\$64,000	\$67,000
NES—Elementary School	\$75,435	\$81,435
NES—Middle School	\$80,059	\$86,059
NES—High School	\$82,816	\$88,816


All salaries for non-NES teachers include a planned \$2,500 increase for the 2024-2025 academic year. In the NES schools, compensation varies by subject matter taught. Thus, the starting salary listed is an average of the teachers’ starting salaries for a school. The five-year salary is also an average of the teachers’ five-year salaries. More information will be included in the HISD Compensation Manual, which will be published in February.

In addition to higher salaries, NES teachers have a range of other resources. These include a centralized team that creates the daily lessons, which can be customized as necessary, so teachers do not have to spend a lot of time outside the school day building lessons from scratch. Teachers receive regular coaching from instructional experts and are supported by teacher apprentices and learning coaches. Teacher apprentices, who are pursuing their teacher certification, work alongside the teacher, learning the instructional model and effective teaching practices; co-teaching; substituting as necessary; and participating in the same training as teachers. Learning coaches, for their part, handle a variety of tasks outside the classroom, such as making copies and completing paperwork.

In December 2023, HISD released overall District accountability ratings. In preparing the campus ratings, the Assessment, Accountability, and Compliance Department worked for the past several weeks to perform additional quality checks before scores were given to each campus this morning. As a part of that process, the department needed to apply one final step of the TEA methodology. That resulted in an update to the overall District-wide information that HISD released last month.

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and approximately 185,000 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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