

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Prioritizes Student Needs in 2024-2025 Budget Planning

Supt. Miles pledges to maintain or increase magnet funding, will not close schools next year

March 19, 2024 - HISD Superintendent Mike Miles is meeting this week with principals to discuss the budget planning process for the upcoming school year. In a news conference today after the first of those meetings, the superintendent said HISD is facing a challenging financial picture but will take steps necessary to fund its most urgent priorities. These include boosting achievement among all students, improving underperforming schools, delivering high-quality special education services, and preserving unique school options such as the District's robust magnet programs. Superintendent Miles also again pledged that he will not close schools in the 2024-2025 school year.

Approximately \$1.2 billion in federal Covid relief aid provided to the District over the past three years will end this academic year, and there is no projected increase in state funding for education. While the previous administration projected the District would be facing a fiscal cliff, absent any significant changes, by the end of the 2024-2025 school year, Superintendent Miles is developing a budget proposal that keeps resources focused on students. It also maintains a fund balance of approximately \$800 to \$850 million.

"HISD's budget must reflect our most urgent priorities," **Superintendent Miles said.** "As we reduce expenditures and allocate our resources, we've developed a set of principles to guide our investments. We will keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible and will invest in our teachers and school leaders. This is critical to support student success."

The superintendent also pledged to:




- Prioritize funding for initiatives that narrow achievement gaps and help meet the School Board's adopted goals.
- Continue to cut waste at the central office.
- Make no cuts to funding that supports small and/or unique schools. He said magnet funding would be provided at the same or greater levels than the current year. In addition, the high school allotment and small-school subsidy would be unchanged from the current year.

Budgets for New Education System (NES) schools are set by the District, while principals of non-NES schools create budgets for their campuses. These spending plans are based on funds tied to a school's enrollment and average daily attendance rates. For the first time in three years, schools will not be held harmless on enrollment or attendance. In previous budget cycles, if a school's enrollment declined or its average daily attendance decreased, it received a budget

allocation from the District as if the school had not experienced a decrease in enrollment or attendance. Given that the state allocation does not hold the District harmless for these decreases, HISD can no longer afford to give schools money for students they do not serve. Budgets for this coming school year will reflect this reality. Some campuses will see a reduction in funding. HISD, however, will cap any loss at 12 percent. Without this cap, one campus, for example, would lose 43 percent of its funding.

The Board of Managers will vote on the budget proposal at its June meeting.

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 190,000 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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4400 West 18th Street | Houston, Texas 77092-8501 • HoustonISD.org

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