

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Houston ISD Foundation Luncheon Brings Partners Together for Houston Students

Program Featured State of the District Address from Superintendent Mike Miles and Student Performances

March 21, 2024 - Houston Independent School District (Houston ISD) Superintendent Mike Miles delivered the State of the District address at a luncheon to benefit the Houston ISD Foundation this afternoon. He told the audience that transformative work is difficult, but the District is on the right path.

“When you look at our progress to date, we are on track and running hard,” **Superintendent Miles told the audience.** “We will keep moving forward so that all of our kids have that promise of America that’s still not broken. We can change their stars. Education is key to that.”



In his remarks, the superintendent highlighted performance on NWEA mid-year exams, saying Houston students exceeded the national average in almost all tests. He discussed the District’s competitive compensation—among the highest in the nation for teachers—and plans for a 2024-2025 budget that will allocate funding to Houston ISD’s most urgent priorities and keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. During a fireside chat with Houston ISD Foundation CEO Katherine Smith, Superintendent Miles also talked about teachers’ hard work, his approach to the superintendency, and the need to upgrade many outdated schools and facilities.


“Our theme for today’s event was *A Vision for 2035*,” **CEO Smith said.** “The room was filled with people from our community who care about students and schools. The role of the Houston ISD Foundation is to fund projects and programs that fall outside the District’s operating budget, things that directly impact students and the quality of their lives. With the continued generosity of the Houston community, I am confident we will create a legacy of excellence that will endure for generations.”

Today’s program also featured students from Chavez High School, Crespo Elementary School, Lamar High School, Madison High School, West Briar Middle School, and Westside High School. In addition, students from across Houston ISD—in grades pre-K through 12—created artful table centerpieces showcasing the *Vision for 2035* theme.

The Houston ISD Foundation connects philanthropic resources with District stakeholders to increase opportunities for students and help ensure their success. Learn more at the foundation’s website [here](#), and visit the Houston ISD website [here](#).

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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