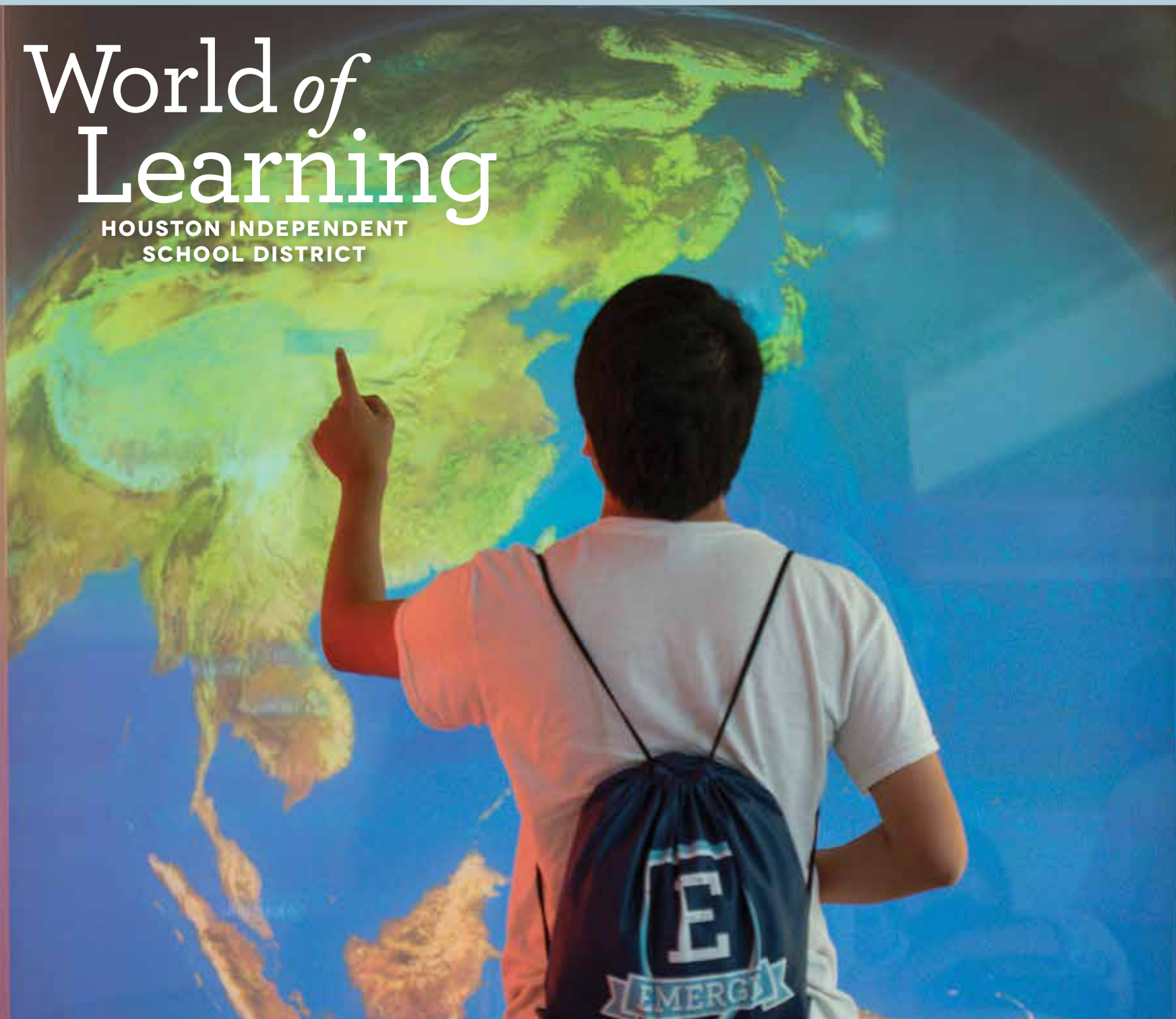


World of Learning

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT



A MESSAGE FROM

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



HISD is part of a daring and diverse city where impossible dreams become practical realities that have changed the world. Houston has built the nation's busiest port, powered lives through energy innovations, transplanted hearts, and put men on the moon. Most importantly, Houston's can-do spirit has been a beacon when times have been their toughest — through international conflicts, civil strife, and economic downturns.

In HISD, we celebrate that Houston spirit: We deal daily with the real-world problems of poverty, mobility and immigration, and fractured families. Still, we set our aspirations and expectations high. Our aim is for all of our students, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, to reach their full potential and be prepared for global citizenship.

In 1962, in the middle of the Cold War, civil rights battles, and widespread poverty, John F. Kennedy stood on the football field at Rice University and set goals of putting an American on the moon in that decade and other unimaginable challenges, “not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

In HISD, our mission to educate students is a difficult one, but one we are facing with day-to-day practicality, boundless vision for global citizenship, and the support of committed stakeholders.

This annual report is a reflection of that complex mission — what we have begun in the past year, and where our dreams are guiding us and the youngsters whose futures are in our hands. We hope it enlightens and inspires you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry B. Grier".

A MESSAGE FROM

Juliet Stipeche

President, HISD Board of Education, 2014



No other city in the nation more clearly exemplifies the dramatically changing social, political, and economic landscape of America's urban centers than Houston. In my lifetime, Houston has transformed from a bi-racial southern city on the bayou to arguably the most ethnically and culturally diverse community in the nation.

HISD faces unique challenges in this new landscape, and the solutions require great leadership, innovation, collaboration, and lots of hard work. But the rewards for our efforts are immeasurable. Quality education transforms the lives of children and is the cornerstone for Houston's future prosperity and success. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child has access to a high quality education regardless of ZIP code.

The risks and rewards of our work impact every Houstonian. As we in HISD share this past year with you, our partners in this work, you will be reminded of the dual nature of our mission. We are addressing real, immediate challenges such as ensuring literacy and numeracy skills in all of our students, while also positioning our graduates for life beyond HISD.

Education provides access and opportunity. It is the great social equalizer. We want every HISD student to succeed locally and globally. My dream is for Houston to earn the nickname “Intellectual Capital of the World.” Let us work together to make this a reality. We are very grateful for your commitment and support and welcome your engagement.

It has been an honor to serve HISD as its board president.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliet Stipeche".

PHOTO ON THE COVER

HISD EMERGE students tour Northeastern University.

Our vision of an HISD graduate

A LEADER

Works collaboratively and leads by example. Embraces new ideas and technologies and motivates others to be open to change.

A CRITICAL THINKER

Identifies and dissects issues, seeks multiple opinions, and critically evaluates various solutions. Understands when additional information is needed and effectively uses technology (21st century literacies) to do research.

A COLLEGE-READY LEARNER

Proficient in the core disciplines, as evidenced by successful performance on state and national assessments. Works hard and persists to achieve academic and career goals.

ADAPTABLE & PRODUCTIVE

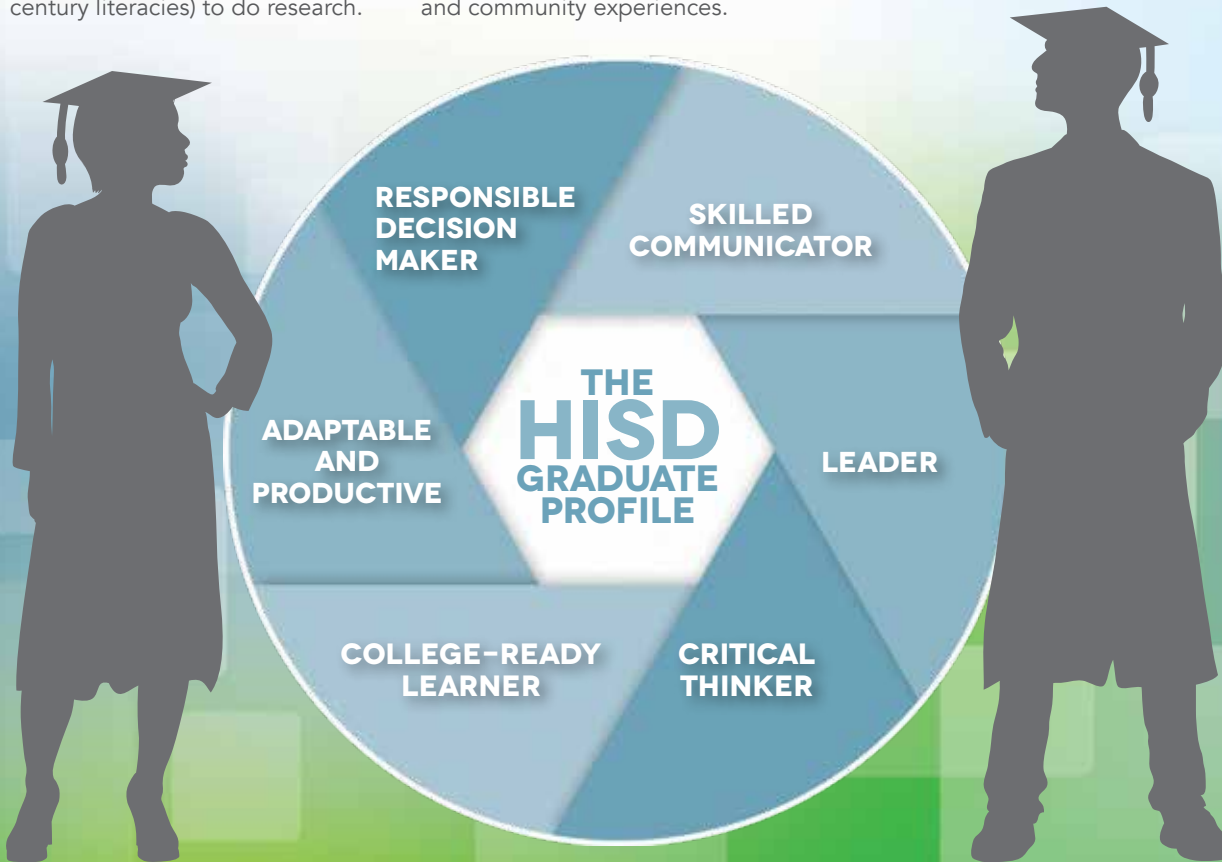
Industrious member of a global society. Demonstrates flexibility and cross-cultural skills when fulfilling personal, professional, and community experiences.

A RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKER

Sets goals, develops action plans, and works hard. When faced with challenges and obstacles, is able to persist to achieve goal.

A SKILLED COMMUNICATOR

Reads, writes, speaks, and listens effectively — adapting to diverse audiences and settings.



2014 HISD BOARD OF EDUCATION



Juliet Stipeche

*District VIII
President*

Rhonda Skillern-Jones

*District II
First Vice President*

Manuel Rodriguez, Jr.

*District III
Second Vice President*

Anna Eastman

*District I
Secretary*

Wanda Adams

*District IX
Assistant Secretary*

Paula Harris

District IV

Michael L. Lunceford

District V

Greg Meyers

District VI

Harvin C. Moore

District VII

Dual language, single vision of a global graduate

Dual language programs challenge all students to become fluent in two languages – a desirable attribute in today's global economy. In an effort to produce adaptable and productive graduates with cross-cultural skills, HISD is expanding its dual language offerings in 2015 from 28 elementary schools to roughly 50 campuses.

HISD has a number of other initiatives designed to prepare students to succeed in a multilingual, multicultural world.

- International Baccalaureate programs at nine elementary, four middle, and three high school campuses.
- Operation of two international schools, the Houston Academy for International Studies and Sharpstown International School.
- Participation in the Global Learning Network and an international assessment from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which measures how our high schools compare internationally in reading, math, and science.

Photo: Students work on their dual language skills at Helms Elementary School.



LAMAR AND BELLAIRE'S
INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMAS

106

MEMBERS OF THE
CLASS OF 2014 EARNED
IB DIPLOMAS



ADVANCED PLACEMENT

117,209 STUDENTS

around the globe took the Advanced
Placement macroeconomics exam last year.

Only 51 students across the U.S. made

A PERFECT SCORE,

two of them from

BELLAIRE HIGH'S CLASS OF 2014.



*Yujing "Mike" Xiong
(now a University of
Texas student)*

*Jinchen Zou
(an IB diplomate
now at Yale)*

GLOBAL
SPOTLIGHT 

THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN HONORED
EIGHT U.S. SCHOOLS FOR LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION IN 2014.

Wharton K-8 Dual Language
Academy won its award for
academic excellence.

Helms Elementary dual language
campus was a finalist.

January 2015		February 2015					March 2015											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<h1>February 2015</h1>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10						AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH					1	2
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7												
	Groundhog Day		Athletic Signing Day															
8	9	10	11	12	13	14												
			State of the Schools									Valentine's Day						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21												
	President's Day		Ash Wednesday	FAFSA Day Lunar New Year														
22	23	24	25	26	27	28												



The Houston Academy for
International Studies was named a
**U.S. BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL
IN 2014.**

Students at this early college
high school earn an HISD diploma
and an HCC associate's degree.

HISD leads the state in
dual language and language
immersion programs.
By the 2015 – 2016 school year,
HISD is projected to have
MORE DUAL LANGUAGE SCHOOLS
than Austin, El Paso, and
Dallas ISDs combined.



Engaging students around digital content

HISD is in the midst of a digital revolution that is transforming teaching and learning. Students who were once lined up in neat rows of desks are now grouped in work stations so they can explore, create, and collaborate using digital content and online tools. Learning is being extended beyond the four walls of a classroom and the school day to include a world of resources. More than 40,000 students at 32 high schools now have laptops as a result of the district's PowerUp initiative, but PowerUp is about more than just giving kids computers.

The PowerUp initiative includes:

- Intense training and professional development for teachers on the use of digital resources and tools to personalize instruction.
- Phasing out of textbooks and transitioning to districtwide digital content and curriculum.
- Creation of the HUB, a K-12 online teaching and learning platform accessible by students, teachers, and parents.

Photo: Students at the Energy Institute High School engage in project-based learning.



POWERUP GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1:1

A laptop for every student. By January 2016, every high school student at HISD will be issued their own laptop each school year.

HUB

Online teaching and learning platform that eventually will become the center of curriculum, instruction, collaboration, and communication for all HISD staff, students, and parents.

DIGITAL CONTENT MIGRATION

Transition of district's curriculum and instructional resources to a digital platform (HUB) that can be accessed anywhere and anytime by teachers and students.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING Classroom approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges through collaborative projects with their classmates.

BLENDED LEARNING

Classroom approach that is a "blend" of teacher-driven, face-to-face instruction combined with online or digital media activities.

FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Students learn content online by watching video lectures, usually at home, and homework is done in class with teachers and students discussing and solving problems.

February 2015		March 2015					April 2015											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<h1>March 2015</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</p>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14						8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21						15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28						22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31										29	30	31				
		Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo March 3 – 22																
Daylight Saving Time Begins					Digital Learning Day													
	Spring Break March 16 – 20	St. Patrick's Day			First Day of Spring													
		STAAR End-of-Course Exams March 30 – April 1																

THE POWERUP INITIATIVE HAS THREE MAIN ELEMENTS



TECHNOLOGY
Provide HISD students and teachers with devices



HUB
Districtwide access to online teaching and learning platform



PERSONALIZATION
Transform instruction and curriculum to allow for personalization

If you find
A/S/L? MEET F2F?
texted to your child, will you
SPOT THE DANGER?
(Translation: Age/sex/location?
Meet face-to-face?)

Visit www.HoustonISD.org/CyberSafety for resources, tools, and tips on staying safe in today's digital world.

Communities get in on the ground level

While HISD's \$1.89 billion bond program is all about creating schools customized to each learning community, there are three features each project has in common: transparency, accountability, and inclusion.

- An independent, nine-member citizens Bond Oversight Committee is monitoring progress of projects, their costs, and reporting to the superintendent, board, and public on its findings.
- A Project Advisory Team of five to eight members — a mix of educators, students, teachers, parents, community members, and the architect and HISD team — assists with the planning and design of each construction project.
- Community informational meetings create stakeholder awareness and elicit valuable feedback.
- A firm commitment to strong participation by minority- and women-owned businesses for professional services contracts on bond projects reinforces HISD's tradition of supporting M/WBEs.

Photo: Students participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion Magnet School.





ON-SITE LEARNING

The new High School for the Performing and Visual Arts will be located near Houston's Arts and Theater District.



ALL NEW HISD SCHOOLS ARE BEING BUILT "GREEN."

HISD has committed to building new facilities to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, saving the district money with reduced energy and water usage.

March 2015		April 2015						May 2015				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
			1	2	3	4						
					Good Friday Passover Begins at Sunset Spring Holiday							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
Easter Sunday		Scholars Banquet				Passover Ends						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
	National Library Week April 13 – 17		SAT Test Day									
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
			Earth Day									
26	27	28	29	30								

Members of the Worthing Project Advisory Team sign a beam that will be used in the construction of their new building.

Parents, students, staff, and community members are actively involved in the planning of new schools.



HISD's tax rate is the **LOWEST PROPERTY TAX RATE** among Harris County school districts and the state's 13 largest school districts.



HISD has the highest underlying bond ratings among Harris County schools

AAA — MOODY'S
AA+ — STANDARD & POOR'S

An unwavering commitment to all students

With the annexation of North Forest in July of 2013, HISD now covers 333 square miles of a diverse, multinational city where welcoming newcomers is a way of life.

Over time, we've improved the physical condition of former North Forest campuses, added administrators, social workers, instructional specialists in reading and math, plus tutoring and security. Performance, attendance, and behavior have all improved — and there's a new confidence among families who have seen a turnaround.

And plans for a new North Forest High School are in the works as the region is poised to grow: More than 500 new housing starts are projected in the area in the next five years. Long-term, even more growth is possible because of the region's proximity to the Beltway 8 East and quick access to the growing Port of Houston and petrochemical industry.

Photo: Fonwood Early Learning Center is one of the former North Forest ISD campuses that is thriving as part of HISD.





“The new high school is for the students, so students should be involved in the planning process. We were given a voice, and collective ideas came forward that improved the vision.”

— Jarvis Dillard
North Forest High School senior and Project Advisory Team member
(who has been accepted into UT-Austin, Texas A&M, and Morehouse College)

IN THE NEWS

After touring North Forest High School in December 2014, Michael Williams wrote an Op/Ed that was published in the Houston Chronicle:

“The campus culture had changed. As I walked through the halls ... I found students and teachers actively engaged in learning.”

— Michael Williams
Texas Education Commissioner

April 2015		May 2015					June 2015												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<h1 style="text-align: center;">May 2015</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH</h2>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	STAAR End-of-Course Exams May 4 – 8 Teacher Appreciation Week May 4 – 8	Cinco de Mayo	Academic Signing Day	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
26	27	28	29	30			Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
							17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
							24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Memorial Day Graduation Ceremonies May 25, 26, 27, 29, 30 & 31	Last Day of School for Students	Last Day of School for Faculty and Staff	30	
							31	Check out summer learning opportunities at your school — classes, enrichment, extended-year programs may be offered starting June 2 and 3.											



37 COUNTRIES
ARE REPRESENTED AT
LAS AMERICAS
NEWCOMERS SCHOOL,
with languages ranging from
Amaharic to Kinyarwanda,
Dzonkha to Oromoo —
more than 30 in all.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Embracing all learners so they can reach their full potential is the goal of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL). HISD applies UDL principles to everything from designing new campuses, to devising curriculum, to creating programs such as PowerUp, to reach and engage even the most challenged learner. The result: a more efficient, effective, and appealing design for all.





Picture yourself at an Ivy League school

The HISD EMERGE program was launched five years ago to propel students — particularly those from under-served communities — to new heights by preparing them to attend and graduate from the nation's top colleges and universities. Now more than 400 high school students across 30 campuses participate in college preparatory activities and out-of-state college visits.

Across HISD, high schools are committed to helping students move on to higher education:

- Widespread Advanced Placement class offerings mean students can earn college credits in high school and be prepared for college rigor.
- The PSAT/NMSQT, an exam that measures college readiness, is administered to all 9th- through 11th-grade students during the school day.
- During SAT Day, all juniors can take the exam for free on their own campus.
- FAFSA Day offers hands-on information and registration for financial aid programs to families.

Photo: EMERGE Program Manager Danny Rojas snaps a group photo as he leads students on a tour of Harvard.

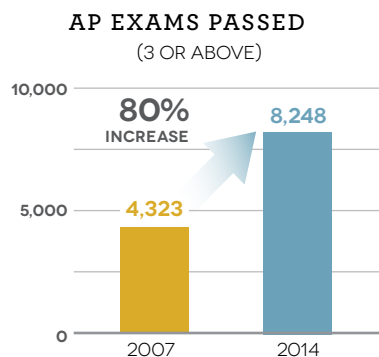


“For first-gen students like myself, the thought of leaving Houston and going out of state for college is frightening, but EMERGE helped me realize that it was the best choice for me and my family.”

— Karen Banda
Furr High School EMERGE program graduate and
Smith College freshman

Follow EMERGE students and
grads on their blog
WWW.EMERGINGVOICES.COM

**HISD IS TURNING OUT INCREASING
NUMBERS OF COLLEGE- AND
CAREER-READY STUDENTS.**



The number of AP exams passed in 2014 represents an estimated 24,744 college credits with a potential college **COST SAVINGS OF \$7.3 MILLION** for HISD students.

May 2015		June 2015						July 2015												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2											1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9							5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16							12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23							19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30							26	27	28	29	30	31		
31																				
		Visit www.HoustonISD.org for information about free summer meals available to HISD students.																		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY														
	1	2	3	4	5	6														
7	8	9	10	11	12	13														
14	15	16	17	18	19	20														
Flag Day							Ramadan Begins													
21	22	23	24	25	26	27														
First Day of Summer Father's Day																				
28	29	30	<p>Students and adults: How is your summer reading going? For suggestions, visit www.HoustonISD.org/LibraryServices</p>																	

\$255 MILLION
in scholarships and
financial aid was offered to
seniors in 2014.

This is a five-fold
increase from
\$51 million in 2009.



EMERGE has produced almost
80 HISD GRADUATES
who have gone on to attend
**TOP-TIER COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES**
such as Columbia, Harvard,
Oberlin, Smith, Stanford,
and Yale.



Taking the lead in school leadership

Developing exceptional educators who effect change is the goal of HISD's dynamic Office of School Leadership. Leaders at more than 100 schools are nurtured through consistent professional development, campus-based coaching, and regular practice labs — all geared toward student achievement. These transformational efforts have four critical areas of focus:

- Data-driven instruction that defines the roadmap for rigor and adapts teaching to each student's needs.
- Professional one-on-one teacher coaching and feedback to increase effectiveness.
- Instructional planning that guarantees well-structured lessons with meaningful content.
- Creation of a strong culture among both educators and students in which learning thrives and habits for success are developed.

Photo: HISD leaders collaborate on strategies during the opening day of the Summer Leadership Institute.



LEADERS EMPOWER TEACHERS TO EMPOWER STUDENTS

“ I’m asking individual questions, getting students discussing their answers more in class, and getting them to teach more while I teach less. They feel like they have more ownership of the class and that we are all trying to get better together. ”

— HISD teacher testimonial



June 2015		July 2015					August 2015											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S						S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6													1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13						2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20						9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27						16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30										23	24	25	26	27	28	29
												30	31					
							Follow us on Twitter at Twitter.com/HoustonISD and Twitter.com/HISDEspanol											
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY												
			1	2	3	4	Independence Day											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11												
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Eid al-Fitr Begins at Sunset											
19	20	21	22	23	24	25												
26	27	28	29	30	31													



HISD is in the third year of “Your Voice,” an annual survey developed to measure customer satisfaction among HISD parents, students, and campus staff. Results from the survey are used to help campus leaders develop school improvement strategies.

YOUR VOICE: 2014 RESULTS

- Parents’ satisfaction with rigor: 93% (up 1%)
- Students’ satisfaction with consistent education: 88% (up 2%)
- Principals’ satisfaction with Central Office support: 71% (up 7%)
- Teachers’ satisfaction with safety: 80% (up 3%)

Opening a new chapter on literacy

“When someone from the outside comes in and reads to these children, they just feel special. When you feel special, you are more open to every experience that comes your way.”

— Kimberly Thompson

The ability to read is the one basic, non-negotiable skill that every student must master in order to be successful at learning. HISD's Literacy By 3 movement, launched in the fall of 2014, aims to have every child reading on grade level by the end of third grade and provides targeted support to struggling students in higher grades to get them back on track.

The district also launched a pilot program called Read Houston Read, through which caring volunteers work with one or two first-graders each week to build their reading skills. Mentors interact with students either in person or online in nearly 300 classes at more than 50 schools, engaging them through reading activities and celebrating their progress.

Photo: Read Houston Read volunteer Kimberly Thompson mentors a student at Sutton Elementary.





Even older students want to **GET IN ON THE MENTORING ACTION.** Resourceful members of the National Honor Society at Davis High School have been using their early release day every month to read with students at Pugh Elementary.

July 2015		August 2015					September 2015												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S						S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4									1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11						6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18						13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
26	27	28	29	30	31							27	28	29	30				
							Visit www.HoustonISD.org for back-to-school information.												
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY													
														1					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8								8					
					Texas State Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 7 – 9														
9	10	11	12	13	14	15								15					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22								22					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29								29					
	First Day of School																		
30	31						<p>Are you ready for some football? Follow HISD teams at HoustonISD.org/SportsSchedules</p>												



READ HOUSTON READ

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BECOME A VOLUNTEER.

Register online at www.ReadHoustonRead.com.





Tackling illiteracy takes a team approach

Our schools can't go it alone. By building meaningful partnerships with families, community businesses, institutions, and living legends, HISD has created a network of support for our efforts surrounding literacy and struggling schools.

- Our Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team supports parents every step of the way by empowering parents as partners in their children's education. From preschool through graduation, programs range from home-based preschool help to parent-teacher

support to facilitating community meetings about important issues and initiatives.

- One of the best investments Houston's communities can make is in their schools and students. HISD's Strategic Partnerships identifies and connects outside resources directly to schools, students, and families through formal partnerships, sponsorship of special events, and the Volunteers in Public Schools program.

Photo: Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt reads to students at Neff Elementary School.



The Rev. Eugene Jones was HISD's top senior volunteer and a Texas Board of Education 2014 *Hero for Children*. His tireless efforts inspire students, teachers, and parents at Jones High.



At 29 elementary schools, the **ACADEMIC PARENT-TEACHER TEAMS (APTT)** program built partnerships between 3,700 parents and their children's teachers to develop students' foundational skills at home via simple activities that support reading and literacy.

August 2015		September 2015					October 2015													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	September 2015						1	2	3					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IS SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15.						4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			1	2	3	4	5	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
30	31							Labor Day	International Literacy Day					25	26	27	28	29	30	31
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
							Rosh Hashanah Begins at Sunset		Rosh Hashanah Ends											
20	21	22	23	24	25	26														
									Yom Kippur Begins at Sunset	Fall Holiday First Day of Autumn Yom Kippur Ends										
27	28	29	30																	



THE HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPIY) program trains 813 families across 42 elementary school communities to prepare their pre-K children to start kindergarten by modeling simple activities in language, science, and math.

Culture of Service Excellence supports learning

“ We improve lives and build trust by providing exceptional service that creates a safe and caring environment. ”

Learning requires more than teachers and classroom tools. HISD has established a culture dedicated to providing students with what they require to learn every day — a secure campus, a hot meal, materials and furniture, a safe ride on the bus, and schools that are clean, comfortable, and well-maintained. Our Business Operations team of about 7,000 dedicated employees is embarking on a Service Excellence initiative that will transform the way they connect with their customers. Can we improve on excellence? We will, taking customer service to new levels.

HISD'S CUSTOMERS

Students, parents, teachers, administrators, community

SERVED BY

Transportation, Business Assistance, Nutrition Services, Construction and Facility Services, Police

Photo: New officers take the oath of office during a swearing-in ceremony at the HISD Police Department.





HISD Transportation has more than **1,200 EMPLOYEES** and operates **1,000 BUSES** with more than **30,000 STUDENTS** who ride daily.



Nutrition Services serves more than **270,000 MEALS** across HISD each day.

September 2015		<h1>October 2015</h1>					November 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH Visit HoustonISD.org/CyberSafety						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8	9	10	11	12	13	14					1	2	3
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
29	30							Columbus Day					
							18	19	20	21	22	23	24
								National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 19 – 23					
							25	26	27	28	29	30	31
													Halloween

Construction and Facility Services is responsible for the construction, renovations, and maintenance of more than **320 CAMPUSES** around greater Houston in **29.3 MILLION SQUARE FEET** of building space.



HISD SAFETY STATS

- Crime at HISD schools has dropped almost 60 percent in the last five years.
- Upgrades to campus security cameras, fencing, and lighting are underway across the district.
- All school buses have interior and exterior cameras, silent panic alarms, and child-safety-check alarms.



School Choice: A world of possibilities

In HISD, whether a student's passion and aptitude is medicine or music, languages or law, art or aviation — or dozens of other fields — that interest can be pursued from the youngest age. HISD pioneered school choice more than 40 years ago, and with new policies and funding in place, the integrity and equity of HISD's magnet schools are assured more than ever before. Families are always encouraged to investigate HISD's fine schools in their own neighborhoods but also to consider the vast array of options that can develop a student's special interests and skills that will prepare them to be competitive in a rapidly changing world.

- All-girls/all-boys college preparatory
- College- and career-focused
- Fine arts
- International
- Montessori
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)
- Vanguard

Photo: Students practice loading shipping containers on a simulator as part of Austin High School's Maritime Studies.



Music, visual arts, theater, dance, writing, and literature — students can take advantage of


HISD'S FINE ARTS MAGNETS FROM ELEMENTARY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

Nineteen elementary, six middle school, and one high school program allow students to explore their creative natures and develop their talents through specialized instruction, opportunities for individual expression, and collaboration.


**THE RESULT:
HIGHER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE,
ALONG WITH HIGHER SELF-ESTEEM
AND IMPROVED SOCIAL SKILLS.**



October 2015		November 2015					December 2015											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	<h1>November 2015</h1> AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH					S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3						S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10						1	2	3	4	5		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17						6	7	8	9	10	11	12
18	19	20	21	22	23	24						13	14	15	16	17	18	19
25	26	27	28	29	30	31						20	21	22	23	24	25	26
												27	28	29	30	31		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7												
Daylight Savings Time Ends	Magnet Awareness Week Nov. 2 – 6	Election Day																
8	9	10	11	12	13	14												
			Veterans Day															
15	16	17	18	19	20	21												
22	23	24	25	26	27	28												
			Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25 – 27	Thanksgiving Day														
29	30																	



With the online application system firmly in place, HISD received nearly **62,000 APPLICATIONS FOR MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAMS** by the December 2014 deadline. That was up from 48,400 in 2013, the first year for the new system.



Linking classrooms to the real world

HISD students are measured by more than test scores, GPAs, and a diploma. We want our students to dream big, and beginning with our smallest youngsters, we give them the knowledge and opportunities — and a model, in the form of our HISD Graduate Profile — to glimpse where their futures lead beyond mere numbers.

Through programs that blend pathways to careers and higher education, we are equipping students with the core education, technology, and project-based learning — but more importantly, the skills and personal characteristics — they need to excel at jobs that keep Houston strong and to compete globally. It's not just students who are using these tools: Linking classrooms to the real world and defining important qualities in an HISD grad gives everyone — parents and educators — a roadmap, too.

Photo: Jane Long Futures Academy students Kinza Rizwan and Estanislado Sandoval III get real-world experience at Houston Community College's Coleman College for Health Sciences pharmacy technology labs.





“ We have noticed increased attendance — and a greater sense of ownership — among ninth-graders in the program. When you have a large student population, it’s easy to get lost in the shuffle. But the personalization piece is exciting — every student feels empowered and important.”

— Connie Berger, principal
Reagan High School, with Health Sciences pathway

LINKED LEARNING

The Linked Learning approach, funded by a five-year, \$30 million federal Race to the Top grant, uses hands-on learning to keep students engaged.

- In elementary school, students are introduced to careers and what role higher education plays.
- In middle school, students experience field trips, guest speakers, workplace tours, and college visits.
- HISD high school students receive work-based learning opportunities and the chance to earn college credits, associate’s degrees, and workplace certifications with their diplomas, which prepares them to choose an “endorsement,” or focus of study.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <small>Hanukkah Begins at Sunset</small>	7 <small>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</small>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <small>Hanukkah Ends</small>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <small>Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1</small>	22 <small>First Day of Winter</small>	23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 <small>Kwanzaa Begins</small>
27	28	29	30	31 <small>New Year’s Eve</small>		

THE WORLD OF CODING

It’s not enough anymore to be a passive user of technology. That’s why HISD has committed to making students active creators by establishing computer coding as an integral part of their lives from the earliest age.



140 campuses participated in the 2014 Hour of Code, which challenged students of all ages to learn the basics of coding and computer programming.

One HISD campus, **KOLTER ELEMENTARY, WON \$10,000 WORTH OF LAPTOPS** for participating in the event.



Supporting and appreciating HISD teachers

2014 ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

“ I ... try to get my students to understand that through a good attitude and cooperation, they can help each other achieve excellence. ”

— John Augustine
Sinclair Elementary School

2014 SECONDARY OF THE YEAR

“ I do not teach; I facilitate students' learning. My students are the center of learning in my classroom. I am not. ”

— Lynn McGowan
Forest Brook Middle School



On average, an HISD teacher spends over **EIGHT HOURS A MONTH** in professional development.

Face-to-face training sessions and online exemplar videos for teachers cover a variety of topics including:

- Literacy routines and guided reading
- Developing effective lesson plans
- Classroom and behavior management
- Using data to drive instruction
- Using digital resources to personalize learning



During the past three years **82%** of teachers hired early remained with the district. **DATA SHOWS THE EARLIER TEACHERS ARE HIRED, THE MORE EFFECTIVE THEY WILL BE.**

December 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<h1>January 2016</h1> <p>SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH</p>						February 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Stay up-to-the-minute on how winter weather is affecting our schools. Sign up for text alerts to your phone by texting YES to 68453 or by following us @HoustonISD on Twitter.					1 <small>New Year's Day Last Day of Winter Break</small>	2	
3 <small>Kwanzaa Ends</small>	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18 <small>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</small>	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							



HISD awarded **\$21.9 MILLION IN BONUSES** to 5,771 educators whose students made the largest academic gains during the 2013 – 2014 school year.

HISD FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Houston Independent School District has maintained the highest possible bond rating and the lowest property tax rate of the two dozen school districts in Harris County. At the same time, HISD has gained a national reputation for excellence in public school financial accountability.

REVENUES (GENERAL FUND)

Local Tax	1,242,514,890
Other Local	14,755,990
State Sources	403,749,782
Federal Sources	6,126,695
Other Sources	21,260,550
Total Revenues	\$1,688,407,907

EXPENDITURES (GENERAL FUND)

Instruction	922,290,074
Instructional Related Services	35,041,286
Instructional Leadership	16,638,293
School Leadership	122,672,082
Student Support Services	56,666,395
Student Transportation	50,027,580
Food Services	169,538
Co-Curricular Activities	13,159,242
General Administration	31,783,881
Plant Maintenance and Operations	189,553,017
Security and Monitoring Services	21,832,721
Data Processing Services	55,976,623
Community Services	2,093,401
Tax Reinvestment Zone Payments	53,641,961
Tax Appraisal and Collection	10,588,700
Other Uses	89,618,609
Total Expenditures	\$1,671,753,403

Instruction	55.17%
Instructional Related Services	2.10%
Instructional Leadership	1.00%
School Leadership	7.34%
Student Support Services	3.39%
Student Transportation	2.99%
Food Services	0.01%
Co-Curricular Activities	0.79%

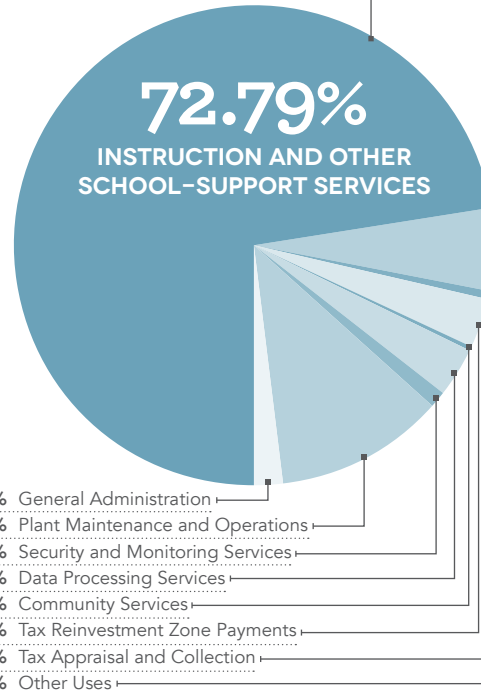


Chart: Total expenditures for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014 were \$1,671,753,403, with instruction and school-support services accounting for 72.79% of the total. (Figures do not total 100% because of rounding.)

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, and gender identity and/or gender expression in its educational or employment programs and activities.

HISD

Becoming #GreatAllOver

HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATING
215,000 STUDENTS,
HISD IS THE LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN TEXAS AND THE 7TH LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE UNITED STATES

WITH MORE THAN
28,000 EMPLOYEES,
HISD IS ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN HOUSTON

283 SCHOOLS
SERVE OUR STUDENTS

\$255 MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID
WAS OFFERED TO SENIORS IN 2014

ABOUT
100 LANGUAGES
ARE SPOKEN ACROSS THE DISTRICT

IN 2014 - 2015, DUAL LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
WAS OFFERED IN
29 SCHOOLS

10,417
NUMBER OF DUAL CREDIT COURSES
PASSED IN 2013 - 2014

\$1.89 BILLION BOND
IS BUILDING MODERN SCHOOLS ACROSS HOUSTON

97%
OF RATED HISD SCHOOLS MET
STATE STUDENT PROGRESS STANDARD

92%
OF RATED SCHOOLS MET
STATE CLOSING PERFORMANCE GAPS STANDARD