

HISD 2021-2022 BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

# READY SET GO



UPDATED APRIL 1, 2022

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



# HISD FAST FACTS

## SIZE & DIVERSITY

**LARGEST**  
School District in Texas



**EIGHTH**  
largest in the United States

## 196,943 STUDENTS



- 61.84% Hispanic
- 22.4% African American
- 4.4% Asian
- 9.67% White
- 100 Languages Spoken

## 276 SCHOOLS

- 8.....Early Childhood Schools
- 160.....Elementary Schools
- 39.....Middle Schools
- 37.....High Schools
- 32.....Combined/Other

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

- ▶ 121+ Magnet Programs
  - ▶ Montessori
  - ▶ Vanguard
  - ▶ International Baccalaureate Programs
  - ▶ Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
  - ▶ Dual Language & Language Immersion
  - ▶ Fine Arts
  - ▶ Early Colleges
  - ▶ Career Academies
- ▶ Prekindergarten
- ▶ Bilingual Education
- ▶ Specialized Special Education Programs
- ▶ Gifted & Talented
- ▶ College & Career Prep with free college credit and industry training and certifications

## AWARDS & HONORS

**\$240 MILLION**  
in scholarships and financial aid offers in 2020

**7 schools** ranked No. 1 by Children at Risk best public schools listing

**4 high schools** recognized by U.S. News & World Report as among the top 100 schools in the country  
**43 schools** offering prestigious international baccalaureate programming

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Hello HISD Family,

I'm so excited to join you on this journey as we prepare for a safe, successful 2021-2022 school year.

I believe this fall will mark the start of a new beginning for the Houston Independent School District. As we continue to navigate one of the most challenging times in recent history, I know everyone is eager to safely move forward.

That's exactly what I want us to do. And I know we can do it, if we work together.

Long before I accepted this position, the Houston Independent School District was on my radar. I knew this district placed a sharp focus on student success and was always innovative in its approach. I knew this community was passionate about its children and rallied around each other during tough times like Hurricane Harvey, the 2021 Winter Storm, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

But most of all, I knew great things were ahead for this district and I wanted to be a part of it.

As your superintendent of schools, I pledge to work tirelessly in support of our students as we lay out a vision for the future that ensures equity and success for all. That future starts here with this plan, and I encourage you to review it.

We know in-person learning is critical for both student growth and success as well as addressing pandemic-related learning losses. Our goal this fall is to make sure those in-person experiences are as safe as possible. For this reason, masks are required for students, staff, and visitors in all HISD schools, buildings, and buses regardless of vaccination status.

I think you'll see we've got a great roadmap in place as we start this journey together. I look forward to seeing you all in school this fall.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. House II', written in a cursive style.

**Millard House II**

Superintendent of Schools  
Houston Independent School District



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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## INTRODUCTION ►►

HISD is providing in-person learning five days per week for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. To ensure safe in-person experiences, HISD gathered community input, in the form Board meetings, community events and surveys, from community members, parents, and HISD students and staff and HISD is continuing to work closely with health and education officials and maintaining key health and safety protocols.

The purpose of this ‘Ready, Set, Go!’ Plan is to provide students, families, employees, and community stakeholders with the information necessary for a safe return to in-person learning. The plan outlines both instructional and operational protocols for all facets of the country’s eighth largest public school system. Because of changing conditions, HISD will continually monitor health conditions and review procedures and protocols, making adjustments as needed. These updates are as of Spring 2022. The Ready, Set, Go! Plan is available to view in the following formats:

- Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic translations
- HTML – To view the plan in the browser and on mobile devices
- ePub – To read the plan as an e-book on an iPad or other e-book readers
- Electronic Braille – To view the plan as a BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
- Audio – To listen to the plan as a MP3 version
- BeeLine Reader – To view the plan in an enhanced version for easier and fast on-screen reading

### MASKS

Masks are highly encouraged for both students and staff that may need additional layers of protection or are currently sick.

Masks are no longer mandatory inside or outside of HISD schools, buildings, or buses.

### SELF-MONITORING

Students, staff, and visitors are asked to monitor their health and stay home when sick.

### VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are our first line of defense against COVID-19. The district is hosting several vaccination clinics.

Additional details and vaccination locations in the city of Houston can be found online at [HoustonEmergency.org/COVID-19-Vaccines](https://HoustonEmergency.org/COVID-19-Vaccines).

### COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The district has outlined guidance and protocols for confirmed, presumed, and exposed individuals. For more information, see [HISD’s Procedural Guidelines for COVID-19 Exposure, Presumed, or Confirmed Positive Individuals](#).

### COVID-19 TESTING

HISD encourages all students and staff to participate in regular COVID-19 screen testing, which allows preventative measures to be taken to avoid further transmission of COVID-19.

Beginning in January 2022, HISD will provide free COVID-19 testing to all consenting HISD students and staff on participating campuses.

A one-time consent form is required for participation in the COVID-19 campus testing program. The form can be completed at [HoustonISD.org/COVIDTesting](https://HoustonISD.org/COVIDTesting).

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/HealthAlerts](https://HoustonISD.org/HealthAlerts).

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## HYGIENE

Students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to wash/sanitize their hands regularly. Sanitization stations will be maintained at all HISD schools, facilities, and buildings.

## SANITIZATION & DISINFECTION

All district schools and buildings will continue to be cleaned, disinfected, and fogged nightly with hospital-grade disinfectants as a precautionary measure.

Hand sanitizer and other cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided in all school, buildings, and buses.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

While no longer required, physical distancing of at least three feet is encouraged indoors as space allows. Assigned seating will be required in classrooms.

## SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service at full capacity. Students and bus operators are highly encouraged to wear masks when needing additional layers of protection or are sick. Assigned seating is no longer required.

## STUDENT MEALS

Nutrition Services is resuming normal operations and offerings. Assigned seating is no longer required. Additionally, water fountains will be available as refilling stations only. Students should not drink directly from water fountains and are advised to bring refillable water bottles to school each day.

## HISD VISITORS

Schools and buildings are allowed to have visitors, including after-school program staff, as well as parent and community members who have been approved through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program and have appointments. Parents registering their children for school also are allowed.

## STUDENT UNIFORMS & DRESS CODE

Student uniform policies will be flexible at all campuses for the 2021-2022 school year but campus dress codes should still be followed.

## ATTENDANCE & GRADES

Perfect attendance will not be recognized this year as an award category, and there are no plans for grade exemptions. All grades will count toward a student passing a course/grade. For more information about grades, contact your campus directly.

## ATHLETICS, UIL, & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Competitions and practices, as well as extracurricular activities and performances, will take place following campus guidelines. While no longer required, masks are highly encouraged for attendees when needing additional layers of protection or are sick.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips and extracurricular activities are permitted with no restrictions or limitations.

## IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

In-person gatherings, meetings, and events are allowed with no restrictions or limitations.

## OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Out-of-district travel and conferences are permitted following district guidelines.

## CLOSURE PLAN

We do not anticipate school closures. Should deteriorating COVID-19 conditions warrant the closure of a campus, classroom, or portion of a classroom, that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by HISD Health & Medical Services in consultation with the Houston Health Department.



# 2021-2022 TIMELINE ►►



**AUG. 2 – 13, 2021**  
Camp Spark Academic  
Enrichment Opportunities



**AUG. 9 – 12, 2021**  
Bridge Academic Camps for  
6th and 9th Grades



**AUG. 16, 2021**  
Teachers Report to Work



**AUG. 23, 2021**  
First Day of School



**JAN. 14, 2022**  
Last Day of First Semester



**JAN. 19, 2022**  
First Day of Second Semester



**JUNE 7, 2022**  
Last Day for Students



**JUNE 8, 2022**  
Last Day for Teachers

[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR](#)



## SAFE IN-PERSON LEARNING & WORKING ►►

### MASKS

Masks within HISD schools, facilities, and school buses are optional. Students, staff, and any other HISD stakeholders that may need an additional layer of protection or are exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease are highly encouraged to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

Anyone wanting to wear a mask can still request one when entering an HISD building.

Exceptions and reasonable accommodations will be made for those with a documented medical disability.

### SELF-MONITORING

Students, parents, employees, and visitors are required to self-monitor and should not enter any district school, building or bus when sick or experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease.

### EMPLOYEES

- All HISD employees are required to self-monitor and are encouraged to stay home and follow the notification procedures set by their campus or department. It is the employee's responsibility to notify the appropriate campus administrator and campus nurse, or department supervisor when sick or experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease or if they have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

### STUDENTS & VISITORS

- Parents and guardians are advised to monitor their children and check temperatures at home each day before school starts.
- Visitors at all HISD Schools and Buildings: All scheduled visitors must self-monitor for symptoms and stay home when sick.

### VACCINATIONS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, full vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants. Individuals who are 5 and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, research shows that the COVID-19 booster provides an additional layer of protection against COVID-19 and its variants. The COVID-19 booster is available for individuals 16 years of age and older.

The Houston Independent School District is working closely with health and education professionals and the City of Houston to ensure students and staff have access to vaccinations. Details regarding vaccination locations, assistance, and more can be found at [HoustonEmergency.org/covid-19-vaccines](https://HoustonEmergency.org/covid-19-vaccines).

Additionally, the Houston Health Department is ready to support COVID-19 vaccination clinics in HISD. We highly encourage campuses to host at least two COVID-19 vaccination clinics. For more information, coordinate with your campus nurse or contact the HISD Health & Medical Services Department at [713-556-7280](tel:713-556-7280) or via email at [HealthMS@HoustonISD.org](mailto:HealthMS@HoustonISD.org). Students can receive the COVID-19 vaccination and booster (if eligible).

Getting the COVID-19 vaccination is free and does not require proof of residency, citizenship, or insurance.

## COVID-19 GUIDELINES

### STUDENTS

All campuses are required to have a Student Health Isolation Pod (SHIP). This is a designated area where students can isolate. Isolation must be separate from the school clinic.

Students exhibiting symptoms of a recognized communicable disease must be placed in this isolation area, away from others, until picked up by a parent/guardian.

The school nurse will document confirmed COVID-19 cases in HISD's electronic health record. If campuses do not have a school nurse, the principal will fulfill these duties.

If a student becomes infected with COVID-19, they must notify their campus, stay home and isolate following CDC guidelines, and attend temporary online learning established by their campus. Students will not be counted absent as long as they attend four hours of temporary online learning each day.

If a confirmed COVID-19 case is detected in a classroom, parents/caregivers will be notified and provided with next steps related to isolate/quarantine and any other measures that should be taken. If isolation/quarantine are required, the student must stay home.

See the table on page 14 for more information.

### STAFF

All HISD campus and non-campus staff must self-monitor and will be required to isolate or quarantine if any of these conditions are met:

- ▶ Lab-confirmed COVID-19 case
- ▶ Exhibiting symptoms of a recognized communicable disease
- ▶ Ongoing exposure to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case

If staff are at work when meeting any of the above three conditions, they must leave immediately. Otherwise, they are instructed to remain at home and notify their immediate supervisor. In the interest of all HISD stakeholders, staff meeting any of the three conditions are strongly encouraged to seek medical attention and get tested for COVID-19.

See the table on page 14 for more information.

COVID-19 paid leave (up to 10 days for the 2021-2022 school year) will be available to exempt and non-exempt employees who are fully vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to be vaccinated. Proof of vaccination or medical exemption must be submitted to qualify.

Any additional time off beyond the COVID-19 leave days granted to qualifying employees will be processed from an employee's leave bank in accordance with Board Policy DEC (LOCAL). In addition, Family Medical Leave is available to all employees who qualify.

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

CASE TYPE	CONFIRMED	PRESUMED	ONGOING EXPOSURE
Who does this apply to?	Individual with a positive COVID-19 test result.	Individual with one or more COVID-19 symptom.	Individual who is living in the same household as someone who has been confirmed COVID-19 positive.
Quarantine/Isolation Time	Isolate 5 days from onset of symptoms or date test was taken if no symptoms.  Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.	Isolate 5 days from onset of symptoms or date test was taken if no symptoms.  Continue to wear a mask around others.	Isolation for 5 days from the onset of the confirmed case. Quarantine for an additional 5 days to monitor symptoms.
Requirements to Return to Work/School	Completion of isolation, fever free for at least the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and improvement in symptoms.	Completion of isolation time or qualifications for early return: fever free for at least the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and improvement in symptoms.	Meeting requirements based on vaccination/boosted status. Please see below.  Staff should follow supervisor's guidelines. Students should follow campus nurse or designee recommendations.
Guidance for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals	<p>If you test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, you must isolate for 5 days, regardless of vaccination/boosted status.</p> <p>If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around others.</p> <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>	<p>If you are presumed positive (exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms), you must isolate for 5 days, regardless of vaccination/boosted status.</p> <p>If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around others.</p> <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>	<p>If you are exposed to COVID-19, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Wear a mask around others.</li> <li>▶ CDC recommends to test on day 6.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.</i></p>

See [HISD's Procedural Guidelines for COVID-19 Exposure, Presumed, or Confirmed Positive Individuals](#)

Employees who are not vaccinated must use their personal leave time to isolate due to COVID-19.

Additionally, staff may get tested or vaccinated during work hours without using personal time with approval from their supervisor.

The Texas Education Agency and HISD Board of Education approved a one-time stipend to exempt and non-exempt employees who were fully vaccinated, as well as those who were medically unable to be vaccinated.

Proof of vaccination status or medical exemption was required by November 19, 2021 (was extended until December 10, 2021).

The stipend was paid on December 22, 2021.

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## HISD COVID-19 TESTING

Next Level Urgent Care provides COVID-19 testing for HISD staff enrolled in the HISD medical plan for a \$20 visit fee. Free COVID-19 testing services are available at the two HISD Health & Wellness Centers located at the Hattie Mae White ESC and Attucks MS.

Additionally, beginning in January 2022, HISD will provide free COVID-19 testing to all consenting HISD students and staff on participating campuses.

A one-time consent form is required for participation in the COVID-19 campus testing program. The form can be completed at [HoustonISD.org/COVIDTesting](https://HoustonISD.org/COVIDTesting).

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/HealthAlerts](https://HoustonISD.org/HealthAlerts).

## HARRIS COUNTY COVID-19 TESTING

COVID-19 testing helps students, families, and staff ensure a safe and effective return to school. Information about free COVID-19 testing is available through Harris County at [readyharris.org/Get-Tested](https://readyharris.org/Get-Tested).

HISD encourages all students and staff to participate in regular COVID-19 screen testing, which allows preventative measures to be taken to avoid further transmission of COVID-19. Additionally, HISD strongly recommends immediate testing if you are sick or feel sick.

## HYGIENE

Individuals are strongly encouraged to routinely wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, prior to eating, and after each visit to the restroom. Individuals are also encouraged to practice proper respiratory etiquette by covering coughs and sneezes with the inside of their elbow, a tissue, or mask.

Sanitization stations will be maintained at all HISD schools and buildings.

## SANITIZATION & DISINFECTION

All district schools and buildings will continue to be cleaned, disinfected, and fogged nightly with hospital-grade disinfectant as a precautionary measure. High-touch surfaces will continue to be sanitized regularly at all campuses and existing plexiglass will remain in place. Schools and offices also will continue to be provided with hand soap, paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant. Schools can purchase additional cleaning supplies as needed.

Air ventilation systems will continue to be inspected regularly, with repairs prioritized and filters replaced using the highest-grade allowable.

Additionally, HISD is creating a \$7 million (\$35 per student) discretionary Flexible Safety Fund to help schools address campus-specific sanitization and disinfection needs.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

While no longer required, physical distancing of at least three feet is encouraged indoors as space allows. Assigned seating will be required in all classrooms.

## SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Transportation Services is resuming normal operations and bus service at full capacity. Students and bus operators are highly encouraged to wear masks when needing additional layers of protection or are sick. Assigned seating is no longer required.

Students must sanitize their hands and scan their bus badge upon boarding. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized regularly with hospital-grade disinfectant as a precautionary measure. Each bus will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant, towels, and first aid supplies.

All students are required to self-monitor and should stay home if experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease.

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/Transportation](https://HoustonISD.org/Transportation).

## STUDENT MEALS

Nutrition Services is resuming normal operations and offerings, including breakfast in the classroom and lunch in the cafeteria, as well as snack and dinner service at select campuses. All student health, medical, and special dietary needs, as well as allergy concerns, will be accommodated.

When not actively eating or drinking, masks are highly encouraged for both students and staff who may need additional layers of protection or who are currently sick.

Assigned seating is no longer required.

While campus water fountains will be fully functional, they will be available as refilling stations only. Students should not drink directly from water fountains and are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to school each day.

Campus curbside pickup for student meals is discontinued for the 2021-2022 school year, though occasional large-scale community food distributions may be held as needed. If such an event is scheduled, families will be notified.

If your family needs meal assistance, please submit a Student Assistance Form to HISD's Wraparound Services Department via [HoustonISD.org/SAFhelp](https://HoustonISD.org/SAFhelp).

Competitive food sales — food sold by schools, parent groups, booster clubs, and outside vendors — continues to be prohibited.

## HISD VISITORS

Schools and buildings are allowed to have visitors, including after-school program staff, as well as parent and community members who have been approved through the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program and have appointments. Parents

registering their children for school also are allowed.

Masks are highly encouraged for visitors who may need additional layers of protection or who are currently sick. Visitors experiencing symptoms of a recognized communicable disease must stay home and will not be allowed on HISD premises.

For more information on VIPS and to register as a volunteer: [HoustonISD.org/VIPS](https://HoustonISD.org/VIPS).

## STUDENT UNIFORMS AND DRESS CODE

HISD is aware that the retail industry is experiencing severe inventory challenges. Student uniform policies will be flexible at all campuses for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students should still adhere to the dress code standards set by their campus but no disciplinary action will be taken.

If your family needs assistance with clothing, submit a Student Assistance Form to HISD's Wraparound Services Department via [HoustonISD.org/SAFHelp](https://HoustonISD.org/SAFHelp).

## ATTENDANCE & GRADES

Perfect attendance will not be recognized this year as an award category. If a student becomes ill with any communicable disease, the student must follow the district's COVID-19 guidelines: [HoustonISD.org/COVIDGuidelines](https://HoustonISD.org/COVIDGuidelines).

There are no plans for grade exemptions. All students must meet the corresponding criteria to earn a passing grade on assignments and classwork. All grades will count toward a student passing a course/grade. For more information about grades, contact your campus directly.

## ATHLETICS, UIL, & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Competitions and practices, as well as extracurricular activities and performances, will take place following campus guidelines.

All indoor and outdoor competitions, practices, and extracurricular activities/performances occurring at HISD facilities will allow spectators.

While no longer required, masks are highly encouraged for attendees needing additional layers of protection or are sick.

## FIELD TRIPS

Non-athletic field trips, including enrichment and curricular trips, are permitted with no restrictions or limitations.

## IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

In-person gatherings, meetings, and events are allowed with no restrictions or limitations.

## OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Out-of-district travel and conferences are allowed with no limitations.

## CLOSURE PLANS

We do not anticipate full or partial school closures. Should deteriorating COVID-19 conditions warrant the closure of a campus, classroom, or portion of a classroom, that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by HISD Health & Medical Services in consultation with local health agencies. These decisions are based on all the evidence and totality of circumstances and in alignment with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While done in consultation with local health agencies, the HISD Superintendent of Schools will make the final decision on any closures.

## TEMPORARY ONLINE LEARNING

Students who are unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition are eligible for a maximum of 20 days of Temporary Online Learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

To qualify, one of the following conditions must be met:

- ▶ Student has a positive COVID-19 test result or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

## INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

Temporary online learning will be delivered synchronously by a certified teacher for four hours per day, following the standard HISD scope and sequence for each of the four core subject areas — English, math, science, and social studies. Students will be assigned a temporary teacher for online learning.

Schools will issue a device and hotspot for any student who requests one while participating in temporary online learning.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

To participate in temporary online learning, families must follow the following steps:

Parent notifies their campus, submits required documentation, and requests enrollment.

- ▶ School nurse (or designee) confirms documentation and eligibility.
- ▶ Campus temporary online instruction coordinator enrolls student in HUB course.
- ▶ Student uses HUB to locate daily agenda and teams meeting links.

## STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT ►►

### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Our social and emotional programming is based on the understanding that supportive relationships help make learning challenging, engaging, and meaningful. We help students develop skills to manage their emotions, form positive relationships, feel empathy for others, and make responsible decisions.

This year, we are increasing our number of certified counselors and expanding our trauma-informed care practices to better support students as they transition back to in-person learning.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/SEL](https://HoustonISD.org/SEL).

### WRAPAROUND SERVICES

This year, HISD has expanded its Wraparound Services program to all 276 HISD campuses. Wraparound service specialists support students and families by connecting them with community-based resources to address issues that impact learning, such as mental and physical health and food and housing insecurity.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/Wraparound](https://HoustonISD.org/Wraparound).

### CRISIS RESPONSE & PREVENTION

Our crisis intervention team strives to increase student success by addressing emotional and behavioral barriers to learning. Among our tools are intervention services, behavioral consultations, and trauma support for students, parents, and employees.

Made up of licensed specialists in school psychology, licensed professional counselors, and professional school counselors, the crisis intervention team also trains school staff on suicide prevention, self-injury, trauma response, and mental health awareness.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/CrisisResponse](https://HoustonISD.org/CrisisResponse).

### PHYSICAL HEALTH

COVID-19 has underscored the importance of health, fitness, and physical activity. In addition to being fun for children, regular physical activity has many health benefits, including strengthening bones, decreasing blood pressure, reducing stress and anxiety, increasing self-esteem, and helping with weight management. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children ages 3 to 5 should be active throughout the day. Children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 years should be physically active at least 60 minutes each day.

For more information, visit [CDC.gov/PhysicalActivity/Basics/Children](https://CDC.gov/PhysicalActivity/Basics/Children).

### COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

In HISD, we aim to ensure every student graduates ready to enter their chosen college or career.

At the middle school level, Project Explore provides college and career readiness planning support. At the high school level, every HISD school offers personalized college advising through our Ignite program for grades 9-11, our Launch program for seniors, and our Orbit program that helps graduates with their postsecondary transition.

The district also offers 16 different Career and Technical Education pathways, allowing students to graduate with industry-recognized certifications in high-growth, high-demand career fields.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/CollegeReadiness](https://HoustonISD.org/CollegeReadiness) or [HoustonISD.org/CareerReadiness](https://HoustonISD.org/CareerReadiness).

## LEARNING LOSS

HISD is focused this year on making sure all students impacted by the pandemic are back on track academically, socially, and behaviorally.

To do this, HISD is utilizing \$1.6 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief federal grants provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to address pandemic-related learning loss.

The grant funds will focus on 11 key areas:

- ▶ Supports for reading and math, as well as college, career and military readiness
- ▶ Tutoring and interventions
- ▶ Wraparound Services and Social and Emotional Learning
- ▶ Special Education
- ▶ After-school programming
- ▶ English language learners
- ▶ Student engagement, enrollment, and attendance
- ▶ Technology and digital resources
- ▶ COVID-19 safety and cleaning
- ▶ Fine Arts
- ▶ Human capital and compensation

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/ESSERPlan](https://HoustonISD.org/ESSERPlan).

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

HISD continues to focus on improving the services provided to students who qualify for special education services. This year, the district is focused on increasing the number of resource teachers, improving its ability to identify students with special needs, and providing additional technology and services to help address pandemic-related learning loss.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/SpecialEd](https://HoustonISD.org/SpecialEd).

## INTERVENTIONS

This year, many students will enter school with academic deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Interventions Office is tasked with supporting these students and their schools by helping tier students for the Response to Intervention process, planning and guiding intervention class scheduling and student placement, providing identification, meeting and progress monitoring support for Intervention Assistance Teams, and offering professional development and resources, as well as advising schools on intervention-related issues.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/Interventions](https://HoustonISD.org/Interventions).

## MULTILINGUAL PROGRAMS

Multilingual Programs provides research-based instructional practices designed to address the cognitive, linguistic, and affective needs of students in bilingual education and English as a Second Language programs. Families of English learners can visit our [parent resource page](#) for information and resources to help them support their children at home.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/Multilingual](https://HoustonISD.org/Multilingual).

## GIFTED & TALENTED

In light of the learning gaps caused by the pandemic, HISD wants to ensure it's developing customized instruction that meets the needs of every student. To support students who qualify for gifted and talented services, HISD's Gifted and Talented department will continue providing tailored instructional plans for students and research-based professional development for staff to ensure appropriate acceleration is available for students when needed.

For more information, visit [HoustonISD.org/GT](https://HoustonISD.org/GT).

# HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PARENT UNIVERSITY

Parent University workshops connect HISD parents and students to district resources that support academic success, as well as general health and well-being of students and their families.

Sessions for the 2021-2022 school year will be held in person and streamed live online. Topics and locations listed below are subject to change. For more information visit [HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity](https://HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity).

- ▶ **Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021**  
**Wheatley High School**  
HISD 101: Overview of Family and Community Engagement, School Choice, Wraparound Services, and Student Assistance
- ▶ **Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021**  
**Scarborough High School**  
Digital Resources
- ▶ **Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021**  
**Milby High School**  
College & Career Readiness
- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
School Choice
- ▶ **Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
Social and Emotional Learning and Special Education Services
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
**Virtual via Zoom**  
Grade Level Transitions: Elementary, Middle, High School, and College

## DIGITAL RESOURCES ▶▶

Digital resources and learning materials are still available to all students and staff through the HISD HUB. These resources include digital lessons in the HUB, Imagine Math, Imagine Language, myON, and MackinVIA.

Additionally, wireless hotspot devices will be made available to any student who does not have access to broadband internet at home.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Digital resources — like myON personalized reading — embedded into the curriculum during the previous school year are now available as learning tools that can be used both at school and at home.

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, an educational initiative sponsored by the Verizon Foundation, is expanding to 18 schools after a successful six-school pilot program last year.

Student enrolled at Verizon Innovative Learning Schools receive Chromebooks for use at school and at home. Each Chromebook is equipped with a Verizon 5G data plan providing access outside the classroom.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

All high schools are continuing to participate in the district's PowerUp 1-1 initiative, which provides all students with a laptop that can be used both at school and at home.

## ENROLLMENT/DREAM BIG CAMPAIGN ►►

As a district of choice, we believe all students deserve quality teachers, schools, and academic programs that foster their growth and success. We believe our students can accomplish anything with the right tools and support.

Every student deserves the chance to find their passion and dream big.

Enroll now and dream big with us. Join us as we work to ensure every student has the knowledge, skills, and support needed to turn their dreams into reality.

Want to enroll in your neighborhood or zoned school? Just go to [HoustonISD.org/FindASchool](https://HoustonISD.org/FindASchool) to find your school and their contact information and then reach out to them directly to enroll.

Interested in a magnet or specialty program? Contact our School Choice office:

- Pre-K Enrollment  
[HoustonISD.org/DreamBig](https://HoustonISD.org/DreamBig)
- General Enrollment  
[HoustonISD.org/Enroll](https://HoustonISD.org/Enroll)  
[schoolchoice@HoustonISD.org](mailto:schoolchoice@HoustonISD.org)  
713-556-6734

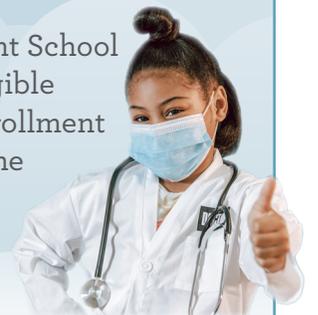
- Free prekindergarten for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds
- Specialized academic programs:
  - International Baccalaureate
  - College & Career Prep
  - Dual Language & Language Immersion
  - Science, Technology, Math & Engineering
  - Fine Arts
  - Montessori
  - Specialized Special Education Programs
  - Gifted & Talented
- Student mentoring and support programs
- Family assistance and community resources
- Free breakfast, lunch, and dinner for students



### DREAM BIG IN HISD

**Dreaming big in HISD starts in Pre-K.**

The Houston Independent School District welcomes all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds for enrollment in pre-kindergarten for the coming school year.



If you have questions or need additional information,  
please contact your campus directly.

For general information, please email  
[Parents@HoustonISD.org](mailto:Parents@HoustonISD.org) or call **713-556-7121**.

