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**HISD’s Digital Transformation Efforts Recognized by National Education Groups**

***March 8, 2014* - HISD’s comprehensive efforts to** embrace and expand the use of innovative technologies district-wide, as well as in the classroom, have been recognized by the Center for Digital Education (CDE) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA). HISD has made the top 10 list of the 10th annual ***Digital School Districts Survey*** conducted by the CDE and NSBA.

HISD and other districts from around the nation were honored at the NSBA’s annual retreat in New Orleans this past weekend. HISD ranked fifth in the large student population district category. **The top 10 rankings are awarded to those school boards/districts that most fully implement technology benchmarks in the evolution of digital education, as represented in the survey questions.**

“Team HISD’s efforts to transform teaching and learning through the district’s PowerUp initiative have only just begun, and we are honored that our work is being recognized and acknowledged,” said Chief Technology Officer Lenny Schad.

As part of the PowerUp initiative, the district distributed laptops this year to students at 11 high schools, and by 2016 all high school students will have laptops to use for learning at school and at home. However, Schad and HISD’s top administrator, Superintendent Terry Grier, are quick to point out that PowerUp is about more than just any single device.

“PowerUp is going to create a personalized learning environment for today’s 21st century learners and enable our teachers to more effectively facilitate instruction, manage curriculum, and engage today’s digitally wired students,” said Grier.

As part of PowerUp, HISD is undergoing a major technology program to upgrade all districtwide devices to Windows 7 and will be implementing an online teaching and learning platform that will allow teachers to more effectively manage curriculum and instruction and collaborate with their peers, students, and parents.

“Schools and school districts are embracing technology, and it is really exciting not only to see the innovative ways they implement technology, but how they are using technology effectively to teach and advance education,” said Alan Cox, senior vice president of the Center for Digital Education. “These education leaders serve as an inspiration to other school districts nationwide for their creative efforts to provide an outstanding education for today’s students. Congratulations to this year’s winners!”

The complete top 10 list of this year’s winners from the large district category is below.

**Large Student Population District Category:**

Student population 12,000 or more:

1st Prince William County Public Schools, Virginia

2nd Colorado Springs School District 11, Colorado

3rd Hampton City Schools, Virginia

3rd Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, Georgia

3rd Township High School District 214, Illinois

4th Houston County School System, Georgia

4th Richmond County School System, Georgia

5th Houston Independent School District, Texas

5th Kent School District, Washington State

6th Fayette County Schools, Georgia

6th Katy Independent School District, Texas

7th Klein Independent School District, Texas

7th Northwest ISD, Texas

8th Forsyth County Schools, Georgia

9th Cherokee County School District, Georgia

9th Hall County School District, Georgia

10th Blue Valley Unified School District #229, Kansas

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