

PRESS RELEASE

HISD Convocation Celebrates Students' Academic Achievements and Looks Ahead to Continued Progress

District honored success of students and educators during hopeful celebration with theme "Houston is Unstoppable."

HOUSTON - August 7, 2024 – Houston Independent School District held its annual convocation on Wednesday both at Delmar Fieldhouse and virtually in schools across the district. Nearly 5,000 teachers, educators, staff, and administrators gathered to celebrate their successes from the 2023-24 school year and look ahead to the 2024-2025 academic year.

Over the last year, HISD embarked on a transformative journey and students made remarkable strides in academic achievement. The district embraced innovative and systemic change under the New Education System (NES), dedicated significant resources to fostering the leadership and instructional capacity of school principals to support teachers, and improved the quality of instruction district-wide.

The first year of the district's transformation has led to impressive results for students and schools. The district recorded some of its highest academic gains in reading and math that it has ever had. Additionally, the district's preliminary state accountability data show remarkable progress. Results show the district drastically reducing the number of "D" and "F" rated schools by nearly two-thirds, from 121 schools in 2023 to 41 in 2024. This improvement was particularly significant at NES schools, where the number of "D" and "F" schools dropped nearly 80 percent – from 63 schools to 14.

Across the district, the number of "A" and "B" rated schools increased by 82%, from 93 in 2023 to 170 in 2024, while NES campuses, where only 11 schools earned "A" or "B" ratings in 2023 educators and students achieved a remarkable 480% increase, with 53 NES campuses rated "A" or "B" in 2024. Further, preliminary accountability ratings show that Houston ISD is engaged in a transformative effort that benefits all schools, not just the NES campuses, as the number of "D" and "F" non-NES campuses also decreased and the number of "A" and "B" non-NES campuses increased by 30% from 2023-2024.

"Together, we are transforming the Houston Independent School District to meet the challenges of today and prepare our students for a fundamentally different world," said HISD Superintendent Mike Miles. "The progress across schools in Houston is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together, embrace change, and strive to deliver the education our students deserve. Over the coming school year, we will continue to develop the capacity of our teachers and principals, move more resources to schools, and deploy quality curriculum to support student achievement."

The district's educators and staff, including teachers, principals, support staff, and many others, have provided invaluable support to students during this transformational period. Principals have been instrumental in leading their schools, providing strong strategic vision to support teachers and foster a high-performance culture. Teachers have shown exceptional dedication and adaptability in embracing new high-quality instructional methods and materials.

"We are extremely proud of what we accomplished last school year. We cannot wait to celebrate our academic gains with our staff and students, and we remain determined to build upon our success," said Michelle Lewis, Principal at Wainwright Elementary. "The structured systems we established last year, as well as ensuring high quality instruction in every class every day, will ensure we meet our goals. Watch Houston SOAR!"

"From Teacher Leader Academy to extensive educational resources, HISD has gone above and beyond to invest in me and other teachers over the last year," said Jaqueline Banks, Art of Thinking (AoT) teacher at Kashmere High School. "I feel so supported and am excited to see what our students will achieve in the upcoming year!"

As the 2024-2025 school year approaches, HISD will continue to build on the progress made last year by focusing on a number of key priorities. This includes continuing to focus on the quality of instruction, improving lesson plans and curricular materials, bettering special education instruction and services, and adding additional Pre-K seats this academic year with a focus on underserved areas. Year over year, this continued progress will result in a school district that not only meets today's challenges but prepares its students for the future.

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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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