



Houston Independent School District
4400 W. 18th Street
Houston, TX 77092

Delivered Electronically

RE: Prioritizing Student Success in the HISD Budget Process

Dear Houston ISD School Board and Superintendent Miles:

Houstonians for Great Public Schools and the seven undersigned organizations ask you to consider the following in your adoption of the 2025-2026 budget:

As you engage in the 2025-2026 district budget process, we urge you to prioritize students' success by ensuring that HISD's financial decisions are strategic, equitable, and transparent. With school budgets under strain across Texas, difficult choices lie ahead, but the HISD School Board has an opportunity to adopt a budget that best serves all students—particularly those with the greatest needs. To that end, we encourage you to consider these five key budgeting principles as you finalize HISD's district budget:

1. Student Outcome-Based Financing

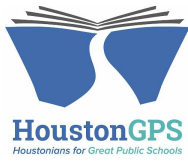
Every dollar in the budget should align with HISD's student outcome goals while honoring the constraints. Resource allocation should clearly demonstrate how it supports academic achievement and student growth.

2. Equitable Resourcing

Budget decisions must prioritize equity, ensuring that resources are directed toward students with the highest needs. Non-centralized campus budgets should be based on a per-student funding model, with additional support for high-need student groups. Additionally, central office resources should be leveraged to close achievement gaps across the district.

3. Transparent Budget Processes

The budgeting process should be accessible to the public, with opportunities for meaningful input. The proposed budget should be shared



with the Board and the community before campus budgets are finalized, and all financial documents should be posted online in a timely, consistent manner, and accessible in multiple languages.

4. **Long-Term Financial Planning**

To ensure fiscal stability, HISD should develop a balanced annual budget while maintaining at least three months of operating expenses in its fund balance. Board presentations should include a five-year financial forecast to allow for proactive financial planning.

5. **Efficient and Accurate Practices**

The budget should be based on current revenue and the District should continuously review its budgeting practices to enhance efficiency and accuracy. Resources should be adjusted to account for annual budget fluctuations, and an external efficiency audit should be conducted every five years to identify and implement necessary improvements.

By centering your decision-making on these principles, the HISD Board can create a financial plan that is not only fiscally responsible but also deeply committed to student success. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to Houston's students. We look forward to seeing how these principles are reflected in the final budget and welcome any opportunities to engage further in the process.

Please contact info@houstongps.org should you wish to discuss.

Sincerely,



The
PARENT
TEACHER
COLLABORATIVE

