

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District has for a number of years implemented voluntary measures, including measures pursuant to a Consent Decree approved by the federal district court in Harris County, to provide integrated learning experiences for its students and to address demographic challenges within the Houston Independent School District;

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District has offered school choice through magnet schools since 1975, and is committed to continuing to provide parents and students with the maximum amount of choice in making student assignment decisions;

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District has adopted and revised as appropriate key policies to implement the Consent Decree requirements and other voluntary desegregation measures;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 1981, the federal district court for Harris County declared the Houston Independent School District unitary and released the Houston Independent School District from its jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District is seeking funding pursuant to the federal Magnet School Assistance Program (“MSAP”) for the 2024–2025 through 2028–2029 school years through the submission of a MSAP grant application;

WHEREAS, as part of the MSAP grant application, the Houston Independent School District is required to submit a voluntary plan that complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and that includes the magnet programs for which the Houston Independent School District is seeking funding in its MSAP grant application for 2024–2025 through 2028–2029;

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District still faces significant enrollment and demographic challenges;

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District’s enrollment in the 2023–2024 school year was 176,727 (White 10.0%, African American 20.8%, Hispanic 61.7%, Asian 5.2%, and Native American 00.2%);

WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District’s enrollment in the 2024–2025 school year was 168,531 (White 10.1%, African American 18.0%, Hispanic 51.1%, Asian 4.4 %, and Native American 00.3%).

WHEREAS, 77.8% of Houston Independent School District students qualified for free and reduced meals in 2023–2024, and 248 of its 273 schools are Title I schools;

WHEREAS, changing demographics and residential housing patterns in the Houston Independent School District have made it challenging for the Houston Independent School District to provide students with the educational benefits of attending schools with students from diverse backgrounds and to avoid the educational harms of racial/ethnic and socio-economic isolation;

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WHEREAS, to address these changes and to be eligible for MSAP funding, the Houston Independent School District has developed a voluntary desegregation plan;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the attached voluntary plan, the Houston Independent School District will continue to implement a randomized lottery and will implement other policies and procedures provided for in the voluntary plan;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the attached voluntary plan, the Houston Independent School District proposes to adopt new or significantly revised whole-school magnet programs at six schools: Attucks Middle School, which will implement a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) magnet program; Fonville Middle School, which will implement a STEM magnet program; the school originally named McReynolds Middle School but known as Mickey Leland Academy beginning in school year 2026–2027, which will implement a STEM magnet program; Hartman Middle School, which will implement a medical STEM (STEM + M) magnet program; Henry Middle School, which will implement a STEM + M magnet program; and Jane Long Academy, which will implement a STEM + M magnet program;

WHEREAS, additional resources are necessary to implement the new or revised magnet programs at the six schools;

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in the MSAP statute has recognized the importance of eliminating, reducing, and preventing minority group isolation in this country’s schools and has provided federal funding to address this important interest;

WHEREAS, in the MSAP, the Congress also has recognized that the development of magnet schools will assist school districts in achieving systemic reform, providing all students the opportunity to meet challenging state academic content standards, developing innovative educational methods and practices that promote diversity and increase choices in public schools, strengthening the knowledge of academic subjects and the attainment of tangible and marketable technological and vocational skills of students attending magnet schools, improving the capacity to continue to operate magnet schools at a high performance level after federal funding is terminated, and ensuring that all students enrolled in magnet schools have equitable access to high quality education that will enable them to succeed academically and to continue with postsecondary education or productive employment;

WHEREAS, the proposed whole-school magnet programs at Attucks Middle School, Fonville Middle School, Hartman Middle School, Henry Middle School, Jane Long Academy, and Mickey Leland Academy (formerly McReynolds Middle School) address all of the goals of the MSAP, and the Houston Independent School District has developed a grant application requesting federal funding to assist with providing the resources necessary for new or significantly revised magnet programs to be implemented;

WHEREAS, as required by the MSAP, the Houston Independent School District has designed its strategies to recruit students from diverse backgrounds, to assign students by lottery based on student choice without using academic admission criteria, and to give a preference in the selection process to siblings of students currently enrolled at each magnet school;

WHEREAS, the MSAP grant application of the Houston Independent School District is consistent with the goals, definitions, and eligibility requirements of the MSAP; and

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WHEREAS, the Houston Independent School District will continue to operate its schools in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of the Houston Independent School District authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to submit a grant application under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program in the amount of approximately \$15 million to support a five-year effort to develop and implement magnet programs at Attucks Middle School, Fonville Middle School, Hartman Middle School, Henry Middle School, Jane Long Academy, and Mickey Leland Academy.

REGULARLY PASSED AND ADOPTED on this ____ day of ____, 2026.

F. Mike Miles
Supt of Schools, Superintendent
Houston Independent School District

Paula Mendoza
School Board, Secretary
Houston Independent School District

Ric Campo
School Board, President
Houston Independent School District