
HISD Community Engagement Committee: Fall 2024 - January 2025 Report

Introduction

The HISD Community Engagement Committee has made significant strides in building connections with stakeholders, gathering feedback, and addressing critical areas to support the district's goals. This report outlines the committee's activities, key findings, and areas for improvement, reflecting its ongoing commitment to transparency, collaboration, and student success.

Key Engagement Metrics

- **Total Community Engagements:** 20
 - **Organizations Represented:** 12
 - **Community Members Engaged:** 700 (approx.)
 - **Student Engagements:** 72 students across 45 campuses
-

Activities and Achievements

1. Holiday School Visits

Board members fostered connections with students through visits to Longfellow, Whidby, NQ Henderson, and Shadydale elementary schools, serving breakfast and engaging with the school community.

2. Spring Student Engagement Event

A student feedback session held on May 29, 2024, allowed 72 students to voice their perspectives on HISD's support for their learning and leadership development.

3. Organizational Engagements

Engagements with 12 organizations, including the Houston Urban League, Jewish Federation, and My Brother's Keeper, facilitated valuable discussions on district goals and challenges, such as teacher retention, pre-k enrollment, and social-emotional support.

4. Progress Monitoring and Feedback

Feedback sessions provided insights into the district's progress and challenges, ensuring alignment with community values and transparency.

Key Feedback Themes

- **Strengths:**
 - Development of critical thinking skills through AP/IB courses, internships, and dual-credit programs.
 - Supportive teachers and engaging resources such as libraries and certifications.
 - College and career preparation through specialized programs like EMERGE and magnet schools.
 - **Areas for Improvement:**
 - Addressing resource disparities across campuses.
 - Expanding access to career preparation and guidance resources.
 - Balancing standardized testing with creative and independent learning approaches.
 - Enhancing mental health and well-being support.
-

Post-Meeting Actions and Follow-Ups

- **Pre-K Enrollment Support:** Shared strategies and resources to improve enrollment.
 - **Teacher Retention Data:** Provided insights into teacher retention and certification effectiveness.
 - **Community Partnerships:** Scheduled future partnership discussions to leverage organizational support.
 - **Wraparound Resources:** Disseminated campus-specific resource information, including wraparound specialists and Sunrise Center addresses.
-

Opportunities for Growth

- Strengthening communication regarding district actions and engagement opportunities.
- Increasing survey participation through incentives and simplified access methods.

- Enhancing the depth and breadth of feedback collection via anonymous and alternative input platforms.
-

Next Steps for Spring 2025

- Conduct additional progress monitoring and feedback meetings.
 - Facilitate family and student connection initiatives, including PTO Walk and Talks and feedback sessions.
 - Address identified gaps and sustain improvements in teacher retention, pre-k enrollment, and social-emotional support.
-

Conclusion

The HISD Community Engagement Committee continues to prioritize meaningful dialogue and actionable outcomes to ensure the district aligns with the values and expectations of its diverse community. Through ongoing efforts, the committee aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters success for all students.