



## Special Back to School Edition

FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

### Of Note...

Almost from the moment I dismissed staff to wish them well this academic year, Houston was forever changed. As you probably already know, many entities either canceled work or dismissed employees early on the day of our Annual Staff Meeting so they could prepare for Hurricane Harvey.

Instead of our staff having an opportunity to absorb the Annual Staff Meeting experience, they were immediately thrown into the flurry of Houstonians scrambling to protect their families, homes, pets, and cherished possessions. Unfortunately, many of our staff were affected by this devastating disaster that has changed our city. But even with that, our campus and program employees eagerly welcomed our students back for the first day of school this academic year, at nearly all of our locations earlier today.

Today's issue of **The Connector** is a very special abbreviated edition. The actual newsletter will return to its regular schedule on Friday of this week.

Two of our facilities sustained damaged as a result of Harvey: Fortis Academy and the Baytown Early Head Start Center. As you know, Fortis Academy was already undergoing renovations in preparation to receive students this academic year who are struggling with substance abuse and addictions. The damage from Harvey will obviously impact our timeline for events previously scheduled for this campus.

Baytown Early Head Start, on the other hand, was an “up and running” operation. As a result of its damage, we must delay the return date for our youngest clients to ensure that they are

in a clean, safe, and healthy environment. Four rooms were damaged at that location.

Due to HISD's rolling start dates for many of the schools within its district, some of our school-based therapists have not yet begun their work this academic year. They will return to work as their assigned campuses are either relocated or re-opened.

This special edition of **The Connector** shows first day of school scenes from our Head Start division (Channelview location) and from our Schools division (Academic and Behavior School-East location). Please see the photos in the subsequent pages.

I know each of us was affected by Harvey in some way—through a personal experience, through the experience of friends or family members, or just by seeing the devastation of property and homes of our fellow Houstonians as we go about our daily business within the city of Houston and Harris County and outlying counties. I know we all look forward to working together to rebuild our city, county, and various communities, therein.

That said, I hope you enjoy this special issue of **The Connector** as we try hard to instill a sense of normalcy and extend a helping hand to the students we serve in Harris County.

#### Upcoming Events:

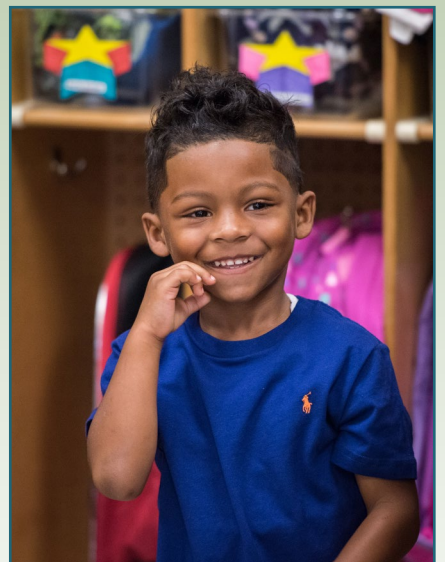
**Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

- Board Meeting

# Opportunity

SPECIAL PROGRAM AND CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Head Start - Channelview Location





# Opportunity

SPECIAL PROGRAM A ND CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Academic and Behavior Schools - East Location

