

# The CONNECTOR

A weekly publication of Harris County Department of Education  
for the HCDE Board of Trustees



WEEK OF JULY 10, 2017

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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

## Of Note...

As mentioned in last week's issue of **The Connector**, I spent this week attending both the 8th National Collegiate Recovery Conference and the 16th National Association of Recovery Schools Conference. Both conferences were held concurrently at The George Washington University.

The conferences focused on seven tracks associated with operating a successful recovery high school program. The tracks were identified as follows: collegiate, high school, research, treatment, family, student, and diversity. The plethora of sessions surrounding these topics were facilitated by experts hailing from notable think tanks, universities, and medical institutions, and other related entities. All presenters were subject matter experts in their respective areas, and each area is essential in productive recovery environments.

My staff and I are committed to ensuring that the first public recovery school environment in Harris County provides an exceptional environment, grooming each student for academic successes.

This week, in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following trainings and workshops: Online Course GTech-Challenging; Primary Gifted Learners; Digital Citizenship and Safety; Test Prep Series for TExES Core Subjects (two sessions); HCDE Principal Certification Academy; Restorative Discipline Practices for Schools; Educator Certification and Professional Development; and The Importance of Social and Emotional Development/Teachers Impact on Brain Development. These sessions prove to serve educators and other professionals well over the summer months (and throughout the year) as they seek effective professional development opportunities in education.

Next week, I will return to the office conducting my usual weekly meetings, starting with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team Monday morning, followed by a Development Committee Meeting for one of our campuses.

Please be reminded that the regularly-scheduled July Board Meeting is Tuesday, July 18, with a Board Budget Workshop taking place at 8:30 a.m., immediately prior to the Board Meeting. A Policy Committee Meeting is being held immediately after the Board Meeting.

Later next week, I look forward to a meeting with officials at the Kingwood location of Lonestar College. I continue to build and maintain relationships with education leaders in Harris County.

I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend our committee meetings, Board Budget Workshop, and the July Board Meeting next week.

As indicated in last week's newsletter, please be reminded that the Department returned to its Summer Flex Schedule this week.

Again, thanks for your service to Harris County Department of Education. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**, and I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

### Upcoming Events:

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**

- Board Budget Workshop - 8:30 a.m.
- Board Meeting - 9:00 a.m.
- Policy Committee Meeting - Immediately following the Board Meeting

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### CASE for Kids Provides Tips to Prevent “Summer Slide”



HCDE’s Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, offers tips to parents to prevent the “summer slide,” or the loss of academic skills and knowledge over the summer.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, most youth lose approximately two months of math skills and two to three months of reading during the summer. This loss is one of the most significant causes of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth and one of the strongest contributors to the high school dropout rate.

CASE for Kids offers parents the following tips to keep kids learning during the summer and close the achievement gap:

1. Dust off the library card. Reading is the best and often cheapest way to keep kids’ minds engaged during the summer.
2. Hit the “off” button. Screen time (phone, television, etc.) should be limited during the summer. Otherwise, kids may find little motivation to get much-needed exercise or participate in other summer learning activities.
3. Get creative. Kids love painting, drawing, and constructing when they’re at school, so encourage them to do the same at home.
4. Leave the house. Going to a park or riding a bike may not sound like “summer learning,” but studies show healthy bodies and healthy minds are linked.
5. Don’t forget two plus two. Keep kids’ STEM brains in gear by doing small things like measuring flour and sugar for baking, calculating the grocery bill, or using flash cards or free online worksheets.

View more tips and a list of summer learning resources here:

<http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/4705/use-it-or-lose-it-flyer-2017.pdf>

### ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

*Trainings hosted at HCDE this week*

**JULY 10, 2017**

Online Course: GTech-Challenging

Primary Gifted Learners

Digital Citizenship and Safety

Test Prep Series for TEXES Core Subjects 7-10-17

**JULY 12, 2017**

HCDE Principal Certification Academy

Restorative Discipline Practices for Schools

Test Prep Series for TEXES Core Subjects

**JULY 13, 2017**

Educator Certification and Professional Development

**JULY 14, 2017**

The Importance of Social and Emotional Development/Teachers Impact on Brain Development

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Announcing Choice Partners Fall 2017 Nutrition Show and Vendor Fair

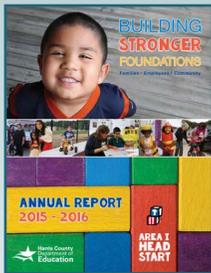


Each year, the Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) program publishes a calendar featuring photos from ACE afterschool programs across the state. The 2017-2018 calendar was recently distributed to afterschool programs and included two photos from the

HCDE CASE for Kids' Tamalada event that was held in December 2016.

The Texas ACE program is one of the largest statewide afterschool programs in the country, serving more than 180,000 students at nearly 1,000 sites. The ACE program is administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and is funded through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative of the U.S. Department of Education.

### Area I Head Start Publishes Annual Report Highlighting Support from Families, Community



The HCDE Head Start division recently published their 2015-2016 Annual Report for Area I, highlighting the strong foundations built for students by Head Start families, employees and the community.

Included in the annual report are stories

that put a spotlight on the community support Head Start families receive, demographics and funding reports, and more.

View the 2015-2016 Head Start Annual Report here: [http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/4688/hs\\_2015-16annualrpt\\_website.pdf](http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/4688/hs_2015-16annualrpt_website.pdf).

### The Center for Safe and Secure Schools Presents on Restorative Discipline Practices



at the annual Summer Leadership Institute (SLI).

The School-Based Law Enforcement Conference held in Corpus Christi, Texas was customized to equip school-based law enforcement officers and administrators with evidence-based practices, resources and information on current trends in violence prevention, emergency management strategies and various campus safety issues.

HCDE's Center for Safe and Secure Schools staff recently attended the 2017 Texas School-Based Law Enforcement Conference and presented on Restorative Discipline Practices

During the SLI, a flagship training conference for the Texas Association of School Boards, the Center for Safe and Secure Schools staff presented on Restorative Discipline Practices and how they can proactively reduce violence and the use of exclusionary practices such as in-school and out-of-school suspensions.



# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### ECPA Staff Engaged in Multiple Summer Teacher Training Sessions



Fifteen aspiring teachers successfully completed the Educator Certification and Professional Advancement Summer Curriculum and Instruction Institute this summer. The nine-week course combined evening,

Saturday and online courses for teachers participating in pre-service to prepare for the upcoming school year. Topics covered include ethics and professional responsibilities,

organization and management, standards and alignment, lesson plan, content methods, working with diverse populations, analyzing data and assessment, and field observations.

Last month ECPA early career teachers completed a five-day facilitator institute led by manager Jonett Edwards Miniell. The teachers practiced community building skills and learned how to use protocols to examine texts, student work, classroom dilemmas and data.

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### Research and Evaluation Institute Staff Upload Data to TEA for Over 3,000 Students Served by CASE for Kids



Research from over 3,000 students enrolled in afterschool in the Houston area through the Texas Education Agency's Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) program was uploaded by Research and Evaluation Institute staff on behalf of CASE for Kids. The info from 20 school campuses included spring grades, promotion, graduation, school activities and school day attendance. Staff member Likita Holmes led the research project.

# Service

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Area School Leaders Learn to Implement Restorative Discipline Practices

Area school leaders attended the Center for Safe and Secure Schools workshop on July 12 to learn to implement Restorative Discipline Practices and restore a sense of community on their campuses.

Built specifically for administrators, this one-day session provided an overview to support teachers and students as

they implement the practices. For an increasing number of districts around the county, the use of restorative practices has helped learning communities prevent bullying, decrease suspension and expulsion rates and reduce student discipline.

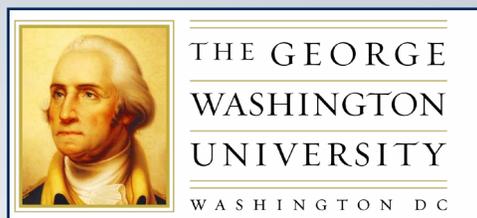
# Systemic Achievement

*...with purposeful intent*

## Professional Growth and Development

In an effort to meet the Board's expectations of me to achieve the element of performance related to this goal to:

- Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration



This past week, I attended the both the 8th National Collegiate Recovery Conference and the 16th National Association of Recovery Schools Conference. Both conferences were held concurrently at The George Washington University.

The conferences focused on seven tracks associated with operating a successful recovery high school

program. The tracks were identified as follows: collegiate, high school, research, treatment, family, student, and diversity.



There were a plethora of sessions surrounding these topics, facilitated by experts hailing from notable think tanks, universities, medical institutions, and other entities. All presenters were subject matter experts in their respective areas, and each area has been identified as a required focal point in productive recovery environments—according to years of research in this area of specialized education.



**Having attended both the 8th National Collegiate Recovery Conference and the 16th National Association of Recovery Schools Conference, I am striving to meet the Board's expectation of me to assess development tools available and apply the various leadership tools in my daily leadership of HCDE.**

## HCDE BOARD

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

- Board Meeting

