



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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## Of Note...

This week marks the third week of school for HCDE and many of our client school districts. I have made several visits to our campuses, locations, and centers, and I am pleased to report that I have observed our processes and standard operating procedures to be in effect. Our campus administrators are ensuring school environments that are ripe for excellence, and both our teachers and students are engaged in the teaching and learning process. HCDE is off to a great year.

As always, I commenced the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team. I conducted intermittent meetings with staff around the regularly-scheduled September Board Meeting this past Wednesday. Thanks to each of you for your attendance and participation at this week's meeting as you passed the tax rate for the current fiscal year. HCDE is a prudent steward of taxpayer dollars, and for that we are proud to have a tax rate below the effective tax rate. I have enclosed a copy of the press release to media outlets related to the passage of the tax rate. (See page 2.)

I also had the opportunity to visit several of our Head Start locations. To that end, early in the week, I visited Head Start locations in the Crosby and Baytown areas: Barrett Station, J.D. Walker, and Coolwood. Later this week, I visited Fifth Ward, Dogan, and Pugh Head Start center locations. I found our youngest learners inquisitive and eager to learn.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE either facilitated or hosted the following workshops and training sessions: DBQ Overview- Literature and Social Studies; Meeting the Challenges of Long-Term ELLs; Afterschool and Summer Provider Fair; NIMS/ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 (a two-day training); Getting Started with Guided Reading: Grades 3-6; College, Career and Military Readiness Symposium; Trauma and Mindfulness for OST Professionals; Integers and Algebraic Reasoning in Grades 6-8; and School Finance Council. HCDE remains a resource for educators, students, and the community. Support starts HERE!

Looking ahead into next week, upon completion of my meeting with the Executive Leadership Team, I will travel to Austin to fulfill my responsibilities as a member of the UIL Board. I will attend to UIL business through Tuesday, followed by other meetings in the vicinity Wednesday, before attending the TASA/TASBE conference through Sunday, returning to the office the following Monday.

In closing, again, thank you for your ongoing support of HCDE. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**, and I hope you have a relaxing weekend!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**October Board Meeting—Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### HCDE Board Approves Tax Rate Lower than Effective Tax Rate for 2018

This week, the Board adopted a lower tax rate in a move to conserve tax dollars. For the fourth consecutive year, the Board voted to approve a proposed rate of \$.005190 for HCDE, significantly lower than the effective tax rate for 2018 of \$0.005279, and also lower than last year's HCDE tax rate of \$.005195.

#### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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#### HCDE Board Adopts Lower Tax Rate in Move to Conserve Tax Dollars

Sept. 20, 2018 - In a move to continue its fiscal accountability, Harris County Department of Education's Board of Trustees voted for a fourth consecutive year to adopt a tax rate below the effective tax rate.

HCDE trustees adopted the proposed rate of \$.005190 in a vote of six to one. The rate is significantly lower than the 2018 effective tax rate of \$0.005279 and lower than last year's (2017) tax rate of \$.005195.

"We continue to be below the effective tax rate," said HCDE Board President Louis D. Evans III. "We are going to go back and take a look at everything to make sure there is no waste. We will make sure that we can still provide our current services, expand the number of students that need to be served, and still represent the taxpayers."

With an average Harris County residence valued at \$169,843 in August 2018, the adopted rate of \$.005190 per \$100 assessed property value will mean the average homeowner will pay \$8.81, less than \$9 a year for HCDE services.

Services from HCDE benefit school districts and the community at large and include adult education, special schools, school-based therapy services and afterschool programming.

**About Harris County Department of Education:** HCDE provides special education, therapy services, early education, adult education and after-school programming. Services are funded by government grants, fees and a local property tax of less than \$9 per homeowner. For every dollar in local property tax collected, HCDE provides \$4.70 in services to the 25 Harris County school districts. We operate four campuses for students with profound special education needs and adjudicated or recovering youth who require a low, student-teacher ratio and highly structured environment. One-hundred percent of students served on HCDE campuses are at-risk. We are governed by an elected board of seven trustees and have 1,076 employees and 33 facilities, including 15 Head Start centers. More info at [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org).

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# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### HCDE Head Start Recruits Students for Immediate Openings in 4 Communities



Four Harris County Department of Education Head Start centers (Baytown, Humble, La Porte and Tidwell) are recruiting students ages 3-5 for preschool for the 2018-19 school year. In addition, Early Head Start services to children 6 weeks to 3 years of age are available at the Baytown Head Start Center.

Head Start ensures future success for students both academically and socially and provides comprehensive health, education, nutrition and financial services to the families. Healthy meals and snacks are provided for students during the day.

Parent involvement opportunities are provided along with service referrals to meet family needs. Family engagement activities are hallmark to the program.

Eligible children are those from low-income families and with disabilities between ages 3-5.

Applicants should present the following at registration:

- Proof of age- child's state birth certificate, state birth facts or passport
- Proof of address- lease contract, current utility bill, state ID, benefits letter or paycheck stub
- Proof of income- current tax form (W-2 or 1040), 12 months of check stubs, child support payment record, verification of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income

The centers are located at 1725 N. Pruett St. in Baytown, 130 Atascocita Rd. in Humble, 927 South 1st St. in La Porte and 8302 John Ralston Rd. in Houston (Tidwell). The Baytown Early Head Start center is located at 1319 N. Pruett St.

Other openings may become available at the 15 centers HCDE operates in northeast Houston. For more information about registration, call 713-672-9343 or visit [www.hcde-texas.org/headstart](http://www.hcde-texas.org/headstart).

### ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

#### SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

DBQ Overview - Literature and Social Studies

Meeting the Challenges of Long-Term ELLs

#### SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Afterschool and Summer Provider Fair

(NIMS) ICS 100,200,700,800 (2 Day Training)

#### SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

Getting Started with Guided Reading: Grades 3-6

#### SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

College, Career and Military Readiness Symposium

#### SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

Trauma and Mindfulness for OST Professionals

Integers and Algebraic Reasoning in Grades 6-8

School Finance Council

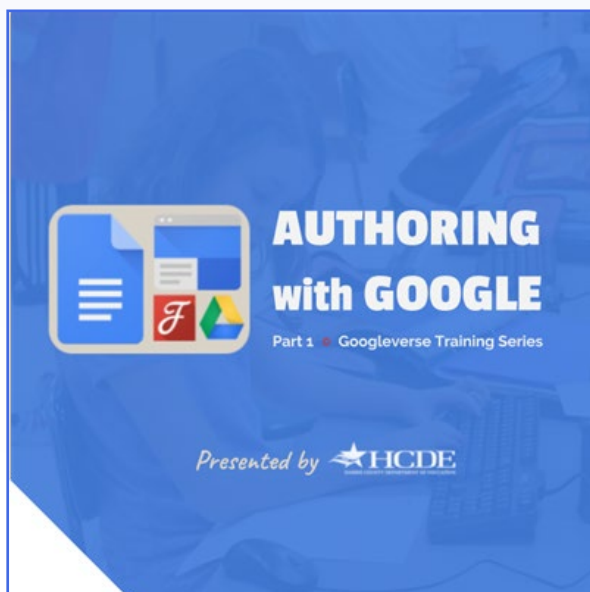
# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS



### Choice Partners Hosts Vendor Exhibit Oct. 26 at Norris Center in West Houston

Whether you're looking for new vendors for supplies, technology, or facility building or renovation, the Choice Partners Vendor Exhibit provides a one-stop-shop for tried-and-true or new services and products. Choice Partners helps governments and nonprofits by providing quality services, legal procurement and contract solutions. The show is set for Friday, Oct. 26 at the Norris Conference Center located at 816 Town & Country Blvd, Houston, Texas, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP is required as lunch is provided: <https://bit.ly/2OkGvjT>



### HCDE Gets Google Good with the start of a new training series from DEI

This week marks the beginning of Teaching and Learning Center's Digital Education and Innovation's new Get Good with Google training series. Over the next four months, 14 educators from six area districts will participate in online Google training to help guide them to be better consumers of online information, create new learning experiences and earn Google certifications. In part one of this series, participants learn about Google docs, fonts and drive.



# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### SCENES FROM HEAD START SCHOOL YEAR KICKOFF 2018





# Opportunity

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### SCENES FROM HEAD START SCHOOL YEAR KICKOFF 2018





# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Afterschool Vendors Showcase Services at CASE for Kids Providers Fair



About 100 afterschool programs from around the Houston area attended the

Sept. 18 annual Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment, or CASE for Kids, Providers Fair to explore additional services to offer their students.



Fifty-five providers networked with schools ranging from fencing, art, STEM and character education.

The Healing Species came out to the fair to let schools know how they use rescue dogs to build a bridge between students and their hearts. They follow an 11-week violence

intervention/ character and compassion education outreach. Students hear

the rescue dog's story then they get to read a book that corresponds to the dog.



Louise Lepie with Interactive S.T.E.M. Robotics demonstrated the Poi balls, which are balls with LED lights that change patterns and lights as you spin them.



“These are used to teach motion and flow for children of all ages,” she said.

For a copy of the 2018-19 vendor guide and vendor resources, visit <https://bit.ly/2xnEOM0>.

# Opportunity

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Shift Your School Culture: Results of Study Revealed at Free Event at HCDE Oct. 23



Education researchers share lessons learned from a case study using Restorative Practices at a free

panel discussion on Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at Harris County Department of Education, 6300 Irvington Blvd. Chauncy Glover, three-time Emmy award-winning news anchor and reporter from KTRK-Channel 13 is the moderator for “Restoring School Culture.”

Harris County Department of Education’s Research and Evaluation Institute staff provide findings from the one-year, ongoing study about a Spring Independent School District, Title 1 middle school which uses Restorative Practices. Restorative Practices is an emerging, social science practice and philosophy that improves and repairs relationships within the school community.

Principal La’Quesha Grigsby from Spring ISD is a panelist and will share her insights. Additional panelists

include Jim Christensen, 33-year visionary educator and superintendent, who led the charge on implementing cultural change in his district. Charles Rotramel, CEO of nonprofit Houston reVison will discuss what it takes to work with students who are often labeled “the toughest kids.” Julia Andrews, school culture and climate specialist for HCDE’s Center for Safe and Secure Schools, provides insight on the implementation and training.

“We are inspired by the results of this study,” said Darlene Breaux, director for the Research and Evaluation Institute. “We are ready to share this with area educators so that they can begin to initiate the type of positive change that truly impacts school culture.”

Parking is free at the event, and a light breakfast is provided courtesy of La Madeleine at Sawyer Heights.

To register, go to [www.hcde-texas.org/register](http://www.hcde-texas.org/register) and enter workshop number 12218 or the workshop date.



### TLC Gears Up for Student Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day

More than 250 students and chaperones and 50 industry volunteers are expected at the annual Houston Area GIS Day hosted by Harris County Department of Education. Final preparations were made this week by coordinator of the event, Lisa Felske. Felske helps coordinate the event, including finding the keynote for GIS Day.



# Systemic Achievement

*...with purposeful intent*

## Management of Administrative, Fiscal, and Facilities Functions

In accordance with the Board's expectations of me to:

- **Oversee a budget development process that results in recommendations based on Department priorities and available resources;**
- **Oversee budget implementation in a way that ensures appropriate expenditure of budgeted funds, and provides for clear and timely budget reports; and**
- **Implement and oversee a planning process that results in goals, targets, or priorities for major areas of operations**



For the past several months, the Department has been thoroughly engaged in preparations, hearings, analysis, and review in preparation to present the 2018-2019 budget, and leading to the passage of the Department's tax rate, to ensure seamless implementation of the same. Countless meetings have been held on various levels throughout the Department in preparation for this week's Board of Trustees vote.

I have been fully-engaged throughout the process with the Assistant Superintendent of Business, as well as with Executive Leadership Team members, and other personnel at varying levels within the Department, regarding this budget cycle.

While the budget had already been passed, this week, the Board adopted a lower tax rate in a move to conserve tax dollars. For the fourth consecutive year, the Board voted to approve a proposed rate of \$.005190, significantly lower than the effective tax rate for 2018 of \$.005279, and also lower than last year's HCDE tax rate of \$.005195.

Having arrived at this week's critical point is the result of having executed and managed a planning process that resulted in goals, targets, and/or priorities for major operations.

**By having successfully completed this process, I am meeting the Board's expectations of me as a conservative financial leader**

- **To look for ways to improve programs and services without greater expenditures and with concern for cutting expenses and costs to public schools for service without sacrifice to high quality services; and**
- **To recommend the annual budget to maximize resources and manage the budget while exercising prudent judgment.**

## HCDE BOARD

### **Board President**

Louis Evans, III

**Position 4, Precinct 3**

### **Vice President**

Eric Dick

**Position 2, Precinct 4**

Erica Lee Carter

**Position 6, Precinct 1**

George Moore

**Position 1, Precinct 2**

Don Summers

**Position 7, At Large**

Diane Trautman

**Position 3, At Large**

Michael Wolfe

**Position 5, At Large**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **October Board Meeting**

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

