



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Lorena Cozzari, Manager of Communications
O: 713-696-0756 / C: 713-885-5085
E: LCozzari@hcde-texas.org

HCDE Board approves \$154 million 2021-2022 budget

July 22, 2021 — Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustees unanimously approved a \$154 million budget for the 2021-2022 school year Wednesday, which includes a minimum wage increase from \$13.50 to \$15 for all hourly workers.

With this budget, HCDE maintains its business model, which preserves the integrity of its services to school districts. The budget also provides for ongoing support for Department employees through competitive compensation and benefits.

“We’re looking forward to a great year,” said HCDE Board President Danny Norris. “The approved budget gives the Department room to continue a number of great initiatives and increase the number of services that benefit the school districts we serve. It’s also a budget that is responsible and beneficial to the taxpayer.”

As one of the first local education agencies to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, HCDE strives to provide all HCDE hourly workers with what is widely considered a living wage. The budget also features a 2% salary increase for full-time staff and raises the starting teacher salary to \$62,800—the highest starting teacher salary in Harris County.

The wage and salary increase combined with the continued expansion of programs and services that effectively support students, educators, and school districts in Harris County do not require a tax increase. The budget was developed with the assumption that the property tax rate in HCDE will remain at .004993 per \$100 of taxable property value. The Department has lowered the tax rate every year since 2015.

Property tax revenue, which amounts to less than \$9 for the average Harris County homeowner annually, makes up \$26.5 million of the overall budget. The rest of the budget is funded by grants, fees, and revenues from HCDE’s business endeavors, including its purchasing cooperative.

The HCDE budget, which is adopted yearly in July, is designed to allow the agency to be responsive to the needs of area school districts and the communities it serves.

HCDE provides four special schools for students with emotional and intellectual disabilities through contracts with area school districts and serves troubled youth and students recovering from addictions. Other educational services include school-based therapy for students in area school districts, afterschool services, adult education, and Head Start programs for infants

through age 4. The organization also provides services for educators, schools and government entities, including professional development, school safety audits, teacher certification, records management and a national purchasing cooperative.

HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | hcde-texas.org | communications@hcde-texas.org

MAIN OFFICE

6300 Irvington Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77022
713-694-6300

NORTH POST OAK

6005 Westview
Houston, Texas 77055
713-681-6051

CONNECT WITH US

[facebook.com/HCDEx](https://www.facebook.com/HCDEx)
[@HCDEx](https://www.instagram.com/HCDEx)
[youtube.com/HCDEx](https://www.youtube.com/HCDEx)