



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HATTIE MAE WHITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
4400 WEST 18th STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092-8501

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Dear Community Leader,

I hope this message finds you well. As part of our ongoing efforts to better serve our students and adapt to the evolving needs of our district, we are writing to inform you of an important change regarding HISD's wraparound services.

After careful consideration, HISD has made the decision to sunset the wraparound specialist model and eliminate the department. This decision was made to maximize scarce resources and is part of HISD's broader strategy to provide services that both meet the needs of our most vulnerable students and families and ensure we are responsible stewards of public funds.

While we recognize that this is a significant change, we want to reassure you that this shift in how we deliver services will create a more effective and more complete continuum of care for the students and families who need it most. We are realigning our systems to ensure that students receive the support they need, with a focus on coordination and integration that meets the realities of today's HISD.

Why the Wraparound Model No Longer Fits

The wraparound specialist model was designed for a very different version of HISD. For decades, HISD operated with 273 autonomous campuses, lacking the level of coordination and integration that we have today. Additionally, the model relied heavily on one-time federal funding that is no longer available. Finally, the wraparound model was a one-size-fits-all strategy to address student and family needs. That simply does not reflect the reality of our District. Some of our campuses do not require full-time staff support to meet the needs in their communities, while many more of our school communities need much more support than they were given to meet the complex needs of more vulnerable populations.

Over time, we've found that while wraparound specialists did important work in identifying student needs, the consistent gaps in service delivery made it impossible to ensure those needs were met. In fact, many specialists were often asked to fill other roles, such as lunchroom or car line duty, rather than being able to focus exclusively on supporting students.

Despite renewed efforts in the past year to prioritize at-risk students, we've found that the connection between needs identified and student outcomes was not strong enough to justify continuing the model. In light of this, we are transitioning to a system that will provide more immediate, consistent, and integrated support.

How Students Will Continue to Be Served

While we are eliminating the wraparound model, we are not cutting services to students. Instead, we are changing how those services are delivered. Many of the supports that were previously provided by wraparound specialists will now be managed by existing campus and district teams, including nurses, office managers, counselors, at-risk coordinators, and parent liaisons. Access to basic supplies like uniforms and school supplies will continue to be provided for students in need at all 273 campuses.

Additionally, the 130 NES (New Education System) campuses, which serve the majority of HISD's most at-risk students, will maintain robust staffing structures designed to ensure students' needs are met. These campuses have extended operating hours and will continue to serve as a critical point of support.

We are also expanding our capacity to serve students at Sunrise Centers. Next year, there will be a total of eight Sunrise Centers. These centers are strategically located across the district to support the long-term, foundational needs of our students, providing a hub for ongoing care and resources.

Finally, the Student Assistance Form (SAF) will continue to be available for all stakeholders. Students, parents, teachers, staff, and community members can all request services as needed.



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HATTIE MAE WHITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
4400 WEST 18th STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092-8501

How You Can Continue to Partner with HISD

While we are making significant changes, we are still committed to collaborating with you on various initiatives moving forward. We believe this transition will create opportunities for more integrated and effective partnerships, and we want to ensure that we remain connected as we navigate this change. Please feel free to reach out to John Meade, Director of Community Partnerships at partner@houstonisd.org to discuss how we can continue to work together in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and your ongoing commitment to supporting HISD students. We look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring that every student has access to the resources they need to thrive.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Najah Callander", written over a horizontal line.

Najah Callander
Deputy Chief of Family and Community Partnerships