



Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON**

Welcome

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston is conducting this survey to learn about your opinions on public education in Houston, Texas. The survey should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is completely voluntary, and all surveys and answers will be anonymous.

All survey participants must be over the age of 18 and reside in Texas. Individuals who do not meet these requirements will not be allowed to participate and will not receive compensation.

After verifying that you meet the age and residency requirements for the survey and report the type of device you are using to take the survey (we recommend using a computer or tablet rather than a mobile phone), you may skip any question you do not want to answer and discontinue your participation at any time without penalty. Your participation ends when you click submit. When the research is completed, we will save deidentified data for possible use in future research done by the research team or others, including posting participant responses or a subset of responses to public repositories for replication.

Before beginning the survey, please click on the link to review the online consent form to participate in a human subject study. If you have questions about this survey, please contact Dr. Sara Sands at ssands2@central.uh.edu.

[Consent to Participate in a Human Subject Research Study](#)

By clicking the AGREE button, you acknowledge you have read the consider form and are able to take the survey.

- AGREE
- I do NOT agree.

Thank you for your interest in this survey. Unfortunately, you do not meet the requirements to participate. If you have questions about the consent process for this survey, please contact Dr. Sara Sands at ssands2@central.uh.edu.

- END SURVEY

Residence & relationship to schools

How old are you?

- Under 18 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 25-34 years old
- 35-44 years old
- 45-54 years old
- 55-64 years old
- 65-74 years old
- 75 years old or above

Do you currently live in Texas?

- Yes

No

Which of the following best describes the device you are using to take this survey?

- Desktop computer
- Laptop computer
- Tablet (e.g., iPad, Amazon Fire, Microsoft Surface, Samsung Galaxy Tab, etc.)
- Mobile/Cell Phone
- VR Headset (e.g., Apple Vision Pro, Meta Quest, etc.)

Thank you for your interest in this survey. Unfortunately, you do not meet the requirements to participate. If you have questions about your eligibility to participate in this survey, please contact Dr. Sara Sands at ssands2@central.uh.edu.

END SURVEY

Do you live in the boundaries of Houston Independent School District (HISD)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Are you the parent or legal guardian of one or more children? From the following options, please select all that apply to you.

- Yes, I have at least one child under age 5
- Yes, I have at least one child between the ages of 5 and 17

- Yes, I have at least one adult child aged 18 or older
- No, I am not the parent or legal guardian of any children

Do you currently have one or more children enrolled in grades K-12 for the 2024-25 school year in any school or a home-school setting?

- Yes
- No

Do you currently have one or more children enrolled in grades K-12 in a public school in Houston Independent School District for the 2024-25 school year?

- Yes, my child or children currently attend an HISD school or plan to attend during the 2024-25 school year
- No

Do you plan to vote in the November 2024 U.S. Presidential Election?

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure
- Prefer not to answer

Instructions

On the next page, you will see some information about ongoing changes in the governance structure of Houston Independent School District (HISD) that began during the 2023-24 school year.

After you read the information, you will be asked to evaluate the changes based on the information presented, as well as anything else you know about HISD.

Information Treatment

Under a 2015 Texas law, if a public school fails state standards for five years in a row, the state is obligated to either close the school or assume responsibility for the operation of the school district.

In 2023, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced that it would assume control of all schools in Houston Independent School District (HISD) on behalf of the state. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, TEA relieved the locally elected HISD school board of its governing responsibilities and replaced it with an appointed Board of Managers.

TEA also appointed Superintendent Mike Miles to lead the district. As a part of the change in governance, Superintendent Miles implemented a program he calls the "New Education System" (NES) in schools with below-average performance on standardized tests. Within HISD, NES schools were the schools most directly affected by reforms implemented by the state-appointed district leadership. Non-NES HISD schools experienced some changes (e.g., district-wide changes to the school calendar, school visits from state administrators), and schools elsewhere in the state of Texas were largely unaffected by the state's role in HISD.

After one year of state governance, HISD schools test performance has improved, with NES schools showing the largest increases in the share of students meeting or exceeding expectations in reading and math (see figures below).

For example, **in HISD's non-NES elementary schools**, the share of 5th grade students meeting or exceeding expectations in **reading (52%) or math (49%) did not change** between the 2023 and 2024 school years.

In contrast, **in HISD's NES elementary schools**, the share of 5th grade students meeting or exceeding expectations in **reading went up by 8 percentage points** (from 34% to 42%), and the share of students meeting or exceeding expectations in **math went up by 11 percentage points** (from 29% to 40%).

Similar patterns hold in other subjects and grades. While the share of students meeting or exceeding expectations increased in some grades and subjects in HISD's non-NES schools on average, **the increases were much larger in HISD's NES schools, which were the schools most affected by state governance of HISD** (see figures below).

[This is an attention check.] What organization announced they would assume control of all schools in HISD on behalf of the state of Texas in 2023?

- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Workforce Commission
- None of the Above

Here is a graphic comparing changes in student performance in HISD NES schools, in HISD Non-NES schools, and in the state of Texas as a whole. The table reports the share of students whose scores met or exceeded expectations by

grade and subject in each type of school, as measured by state tests conducted at the end of the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, followed by how much that share changed between spring 2023 and spring 2024. Green cells mean that more students met or exceeded expectations in that grade, subject, and set of schools. Grey cells mean the share went down, and white cells mean that it stayed the same.

Note that within HISD, NES schools were the schools most directly affected by reforms implemented by the state-appointed district leadership. Non-NES HISD schools experienced some changes (e.g., district wide changes to the school calendar, school visits from state administrators), and schools elsewhere in the state of Texas were largely unaffected by the state's role in HISD.

2023-2024 STAAR GROWTH | NES SCHOOLS vs. NON-NES SCHOOLS

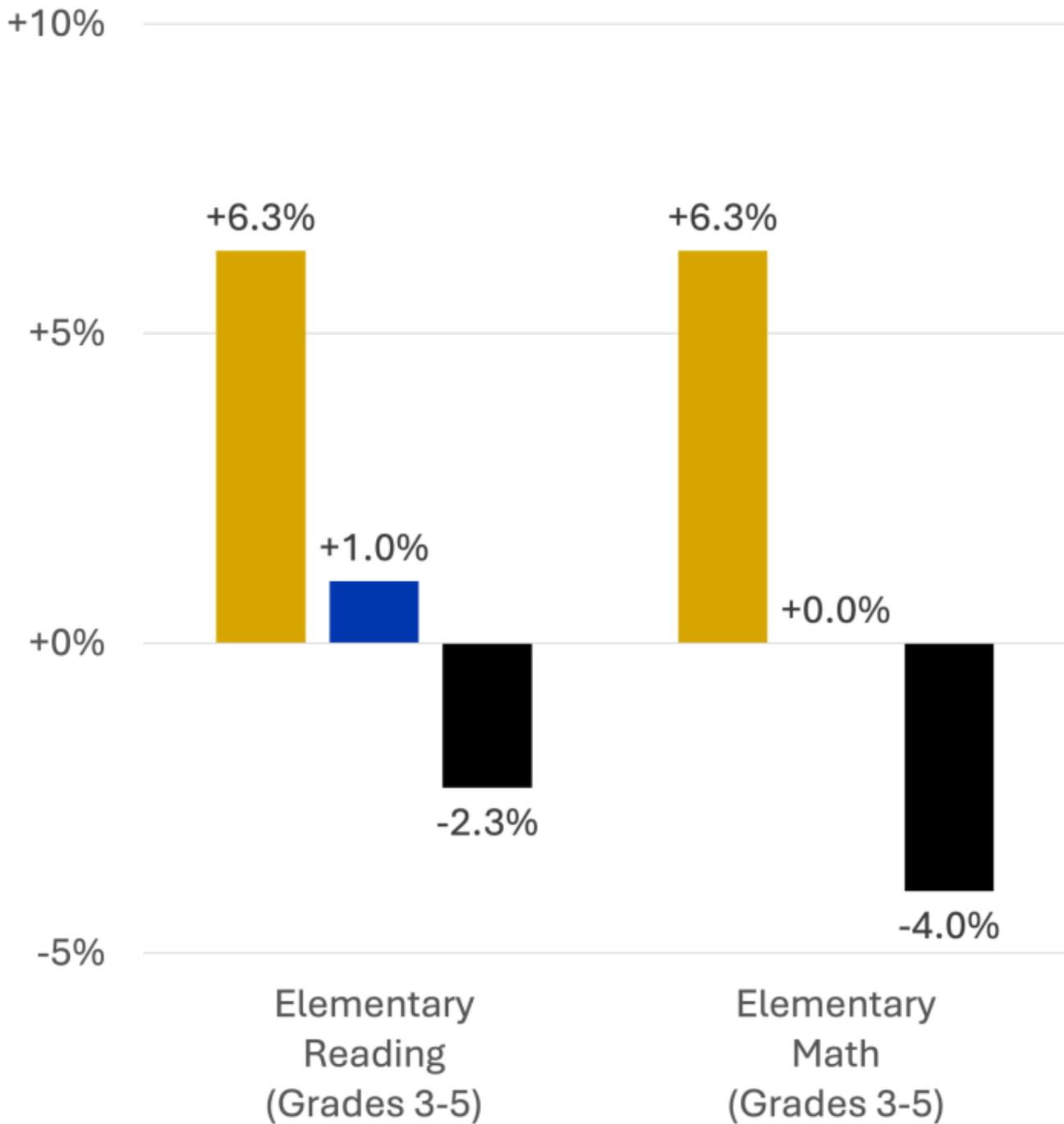
Percent of students who met or exceeded expectations by grade and subject:

Subject		NES (HISD)			NON-NES (HISD)			STATE OF TEXAS		
		2023	2024	+/-	2023	2024	+/-	2023	2024	+/-
GRD 3	Reading	31	34	3	45	42	-3	50	46	-4
	Math	28	35	7	42	41	-1	45	40	-5
GRD 4	Reading	27	35	8	42	48	6	48	49	1
	Math	31	32	1	45	46	1	48	44	-4
GRD 5	Reading	34	42	8	52	52	0	57	53	-4
	Math	29	40	11	49	49	0	51	48	-3
	Science	15	11	-4	31	26	-5	36	26	-10
GRD 6	Reading	23	33	10	49	55	6	52	55	3
	Math	14	22	8	35	36	1	40	37	-3
GRD 7	Reading	26	32	6	52	53	1	55	52	-3
	Math	15	23	8	34	32	-2	37	32	-5
GRD 8	Reading	28	33	5	54	56	2	58	54	-4
	Math	17	31	14	34	36	2	46	41	-5
	Science	21	20	-1	39	42	3	47	42	-5
	Social Studies	10	8	-2	28	30	2	31	31	0
HIGH SCHOOL	Algebra I	19	29	10	40	43	3	45	45	0
	English I	21	26	5	51	52	1	54	54	0
	English II	23	32	9	54	56	2	56	60	4
	Biology	22	40	18	49	56	7	57	58	1
	U.S. History	43	48	5	71	69	-2	71	69	-2

Most affected by state governance of HISD Least affected by state governance of HISD

Here is a graph showing the same changes, but just for elementary school students. This graph compares changes in the share of students whose scores met or exceeded expectations by subject in HISD NES elementary schools, in HISD Non-NES elementary schools, and in the state of Texas elementary schools as a whole:

Change in the share of students meeting or exceeding expectations from 2022-23 to 2023-24 by school category



- NES HISD Schools (Most affected by state governance of HISD)
- Non-NES HISD Schools
- State of Texas (Least affected by state governance of HISD)

This is an attention check. What color is the bar that reports the change in the share of elementary school students who met or exceeded expectations in math in the **NES HISD Schools**, the subset of HISD schools that were most affected by state governance of the district?

- Red
- Black
- Blue
- Yellow/Gold

Control Treatment

Under a 2015 Texas law, if a public school fails state standards for five years in a row, the state is obligated to either close the school or assume responsibility for the operation of the school district.

In 2023, the Texas Education Agency announced that it would assume control of all schools in Houston Independent School District (HISD) on behalf of the state. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, TEA relieved the locally elected HISD school board of its governing responsibilities and replaced it with an appointed Board of Managers.

TEA also appointed Superintendent Mike Miles to lead the district. As a part of the change in governance, Superintendent Miles implemented a program he calls the "New Education System" (NES) in schools with below-average performance on standardized tests. Within HISD, NES schools were the schools most directly affected by reforms implemented by the state-appointed district leadership. Non-NES HISD schools experienced some changes (e.g., district-wide changes to the school calendar, school visits from state administrators), and schools elsewhere in the state of Texas were largely unaffected by the state's role in HISD.

Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree

Decisions about whether a school principal should be retained or removed should be partially determined by their students' performance on state tests, district administrators' evaluation of their leadership, and their teachers' evaluation of their leadership.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding classroom instruction, which are related to policies that have been proposed, discussed, or implemented in HISD?

Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Somewhat agree Agree Strongly agree

Teachers should primarily focus on instruction, and support staff should handle administrative duties like making copies and completing paperwork.

All teachers should be provided with daily lesson plans, so they do not have to spend a great deal of time outside school hours building lessons from scratch.

In low-performing schools, all teachers should be required to base their lessons on lesson plans provided by the district.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding school culture and staffing, which are related to policies that have been proposed, discussed, or implemented in HISD?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
Students who are disruptive should be sent out of the classroom to take a time out, get counseled, or access other services and support.	<input type="radio"/>					
Most students who are removed from class for minor infractions should rejoin their class remotely via Zoom until the next class period.	<input type="radio"/>					
In low-performing schools, library space should be converted to support individualized or small-group instruction.	<input type="radio"/>					
In low-performing schools, library space should be converted to support enhanced behavior management and student discipline.	<input type="radio"/>					
In low-performing schools, librarians and library staff should be removed, and their salary should be used to hire more teachers or other instructional staff.	<input type="radio"/>					

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding school operations, which are related to policies that have been proposed, discussed, or implemented in HISD?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
In low-performing schools, the instructional day should be longer (e.g., 8am-4pm instead of 8am-3:30pm)	<input type="radio"/>					
The HISD school year should be longer. (e.g., 180 instructional days instead of 172).	<input type="radio"/>					
HISD school buildings should be open for at least 90 minutes before school starts and for 60 minutes after school ends.	<input type="radio"/>					

Transition

In your opinion, when should the Texas Education Agency restore governing responsibilities to the elected HISD school board?

- As soon as possible.
- After the 2024-25 school year.
- After the 2025-26 school year.
- After the 2026-27 school year.
- When the state believes the job is done.
- Never—the state should not return control to an elected school board.

In your opinion, under what conditions should the Texas Education Agency restore governing responsibilities to the elected HISD school board?

- There should be no conditions. TEA should restore the elected HISD school board regardless of school performance and administrative compliance.

HISD Bond

In November 2024, Houston voters who live within the district boundaries of HISD will vote on a ballot question asking if they approve the funding of a \$4.4 billion bond to finance improvements to school buildings, infrastructure, and technology in HISD schools. The bond is anticipated to be funded by increased revenue from projected increases in property values within the district boundaries, but could eventually require a modest property tax increase to cover the cost of the bond and interest on its debt.

Consider the statement below and select the response that best reflects your attitude toward the bond proposal.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
I believe Houston voters should approve the bond measure.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Demographics

Since May 2023, have you ever attended (in person or online) any of the following?
Check all that apply.

- A community meeting led by Superintendent Mike Miles
- A community meeting led by members of the Board of Managers
- An HISD school board meeting
- A meeting about HISD schools led by a community organization
- A meeting at the Texas State Board of Education
- None - I did not know about any meetings.
- None - I was unable to attend.

None - I did not want to attend.

Other

The next questions are for statistical purposes only.

Which best describes your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Genderqueer/gender non-conforming
- Prefer not to say

Do you identify as a person of color?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your race or origin? (Check all that apply.)

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Asian or Asian American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or North African
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

Some other race or origin, please state:

Which best describes your highest level of educational attainment?

- Did not finish high school
- Graduated high school or earned a high school equivalency credential
- Some college
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate degree

With which political party do you affiliate?

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent
- Third Party Liberal (e.g., Green, Democratic Socialists, etc.)
- Third Party Conservative (e.g., Libertarian, Constitution Party)
- Unaffiliated
- Other

In terms of political views, people often classify themselves as "liberal" or "conservative." Where would you place yourself on this scale?

- Extremely liberal
- Liberal

- Slightly liberal
- Moderate
- Slightly conservative
- Conservative
- Extremely conservative

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