



APOLLO 20 PROJECT: *FACT SHEET*

Houston Independent School District (July 2010)

The Apollo 20 project is an initiative designed to accelerate HISD's efforts to improve student performance in every school and close the achievement gap districtwide. This is a partnership between HISD and EdLabs at Harvard University. During the 2010–2011 school year, HISD will implement strategies that EdLabs' research shows can take schools to higher levels. The Apollo 20 schools will incorporate best practices from successful public and charter schools across the nation and will serve as models for the entire district.

FIVE TENETS FOR TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS

1. Human capital

Effective principal and teachers in every school
Performance bonuses and merit pay

2. More instructional time

Longer school year—5 additional days in 2010–2011; 10 additional days in 2011–2012
Longer school day—7:45 a.m.–4:15 p.m. Monday–Thursday; 7:45 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Friday

3. Use of data to drive instruction

New system to give teachers and parents complete information about a child's progress
Standards-based curriculum and assessments
New appraisal systems for teachers and principals

4. High-dosage tutoring

In-school math tutoring for all sixth- and ninth-graders, to help both struggling students and those who are ready to move ahead
For students in grades 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 who are below grade level, a double dose of math OR reading based on the subject in which they are most behind

5. Culture of high expectations for all

100% of students performing on or above grade level
100% of students taking at least one college-level course
100% graduation rate
95% attendance rate for students and staff
100% of students accepted to a four-year college or university
School–parent contract

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

A total of nine secondary schools will participate in the Apollo 20 project in the 2010–2011 school year.

Four high schools:

- Jones High School
- Kashmere High School
- Lee High School
- Sharpstown High School

Five middle schools:

- Attucks Middle School
- Dowling Middle School
- Fondren Middle School
- Key Middle School
- Ryan Middle School

An additional **11 elementary schools** will be identified to participate in the 2011–2012 school year.