



Education Council focuses on career and technical education in HISD

The Partnership held our Education Council meeting on May 5 in the Partnership board room. Partnership Public Policy Manager Jesse Ayala welcomed Council speakers Adam Stephens, Assistant Superintendent of Linked Learning, and Michael Webster, Assistant Superintendent of Career Readiness, both with the Houston Independent School District.

With 215,000 students, HISD is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States. 33,000 of these students are enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE), a program which focuses on academic, employable and technical skills.

According to analysis from the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, current CTE programs were not preparing students for high-growth, high-demand jobs. Many high schools were offering the same CTE career pathways, causing redundancy in low-demand fields. And finally, the instructional models were not innovative in providing students opportunities for internships, student-run businesses or student organizations to support the career pathways.

New, high-demand CTE programs have been added across the Houston Independent School District in several areas of focus including architecture and construction, health science, manufacturing and information technology. These areas of focus connect with the key positions and industries that are driving Houston's economy.

HISD has partnerships with a variety of local and national companies including Kroger, Shell, Firestone and Memorial Hermann.