

## Houston ISD



The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States. It serves approximately 215,000 students at 283 campuses and is one of the largest employers in Houston, with about 29,000 team members. The district is the two-time winner of the prestigious Broad Prize for Urban Education.

HISD is a district of choice, meaning that it offers a robust portfolio of schools that allows families to choose the school that best meets their child's academic needs and interests. Families can choose from strong neighborhood schools, magnet and specialized programs, Montessori, early college high schools, gifted and talented programs, and career and technical academies.

Houston ISD's vision includes the Global Graduate profile, which places an emphasis on ensuring our students graduate ready for the world — possessing the characteristics they need to be successful in college and to compete in today's global workforce.

Richard A. Carranza was named superintendent of the Houston Independent School District on August 18, 2016.

Carranza previously served as superintendent of the 58,000-student San Francisco Unified School District. He is a fluent Spanish-speaker and lifelong educator, having served as a bilingual classroom teacher, a campus principal, and a senior-level administrator in Las Vegas and Tucson. *Education Week* profiled Carranza as a national 2015 Leader to Learn From.

In San Francisco, Carranza championed many equity-focused strategies for driving student academic achievement that also have been a priority in HISD – preparing graduates who are globally aware, culturally competent and multilingual. Further, Carranza worked at San Francisco USD to reduce student disciplinary suspensions while emphasizing practices that help students remain in their classrooms, a practice that HISD is embracing.

Carranza, 49, was San Francisco USD's deputy superintendent of Instruction, Innovation, and Social Justice for three years before being named superintendent. Before moving to San Francisco, Carranza served as Northwest Region superintendent for the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, where he oversaw 66 schools with more than 66,000 students. He was a high school principal in Tucson, Ariz., and Las Vegas. Carranza also has worked as an assistant principal and teacher of bilingual social studies and music.

Carranza chairs the Board of Directors for the Council of the Great City Schools, serving as a national spokesperson on significant issues facing urban school districts. Carranza also has served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the

American Association of School Administrators Executive Committee, the San Francisco Symphony Board of Governors, the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco Board of Trustees, and the K to College Advisory Board.

Carranza earned a bachelor of arts in Secondary Education from the University of Arizona and a master of education with distinction in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He has completed his doctoral coursework through Northern Arizona University and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education through Nova Southeastern University in Educational Leadership.

A statement from Mr. Carranza regarding the Texas Urban Council:

*“HISD is honored to be part of the Texas Urban Council of Superintendents, which will play a vital role in ensuring that Texas school districts with the largest number of high-needs students are on the same page with how best to serve those students – both academically and addressing the whole child.”*