

February 5, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you well. In case you missed this notice from us yesterday, we are continuing to assess the phishing incident discovered yesterday morning and have found no evidence that any data other than email addresses were accessed. As a reminder, **we urge everyone to please be extra cautious and not click any links, attachments or zip files if not 100% certain of the email's authenticity, even if they may appear to be from someone you know**, since it may continue the phishing cycle from your own email account. If you do happen to click on a link or download a file from an email and you later question its legitimacy, the FTC provides recommendations on what to do [here](#).

Thank you for reading this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about our Black History Month celebrations, TELPAS testing update, Special Education Survey, Family and Student Survey Results and Highlights, Family focused workshops available, and the upcoming student lottery deadline.

### Celebrating Black History Month at YES Prep

YES Prep will be celebrating Black History Month throughout the month of February. Stay tuned to our social media as we share amazing stories from YES Prep's Black/African American staff members, historical events, the origins of Black History Month, scholarship opportunities for our Black and African American students, and more.

Each week we will be sharing content on the following topics:

#### Celebrating Black Voices at YES Prep

We will be spotlighting members of the YES Prep family. Join us in celebrating Black History Month as we learn more about their identities and how it has shaped their experiences. Jeremy Beard, one of our Head of Schools, is kicking off the month by sharing about his childhood and how it led him to be a champion for all students. See his story [here](#).

#### BHM Spotlights

The YES Prep Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) team, as well as the Brotherhood & Sisterhood Summit co-leads, will be sharing spotlights on Black History Month. The DEI team kicks us off with the origins of Black History Month- how it started and how its changed since the first ever celebration in 1926. We will also be featuring Black Greek organizations and Black inventors. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to learn more!

#### Scholarship Opportunities

We will be sharing scholarship alerts specifically for our Black/African American students/alumni. Make sure to tag families and friends who could benefit from the scholarship alerts in the comment sections. Our first scholarship alert is awarding 27 scholarships totaling \$175,000 to eligible students! Follow us on social to learn how you can apply!

### TELPAS Testing Update for Families

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) fulfills federal requirements for assessing the English language proficiency of English learners (ELs) in K – 12 in four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, writing. TELPAS evaluates the EL performance and progress on proficiency in the use of academic English on tested domains by using the following levels: beginning, intermediate, advanced, and advanced high. Students in grades K-12 who have been identified as ELs are required to take



TELPAS, including ELs whose parents have declined bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program services. This testing is required to take place in-person at your student's campus.

**The testing dates are as follows by date and grade level:**

Testing Dates	Grade Level
Monday, February 22, 2021	Grade 6
Wednesday, February 24, 2021	Grades 10, 11, 12
Friday, February 26, 2021	Grade 7
Monday, March 1, 2021	Grade 8
Friday, March 5, 2021	Grade 9
Week of March 8 – 12, 2021	Grade 2
Week of March 8 – 12, 2021	Make-up for Grades 6 - 12

If your student is virtual, please complete the following transportation and meal [SURVEY LINK](#) so that we can ensure testing runs smoothly. For the full TELPAS update with more details, click [here](#).

**Special Education Survey for Stakeholders**

YES Prep is currently participating in the Special Education Differentiated Monitoring and Support Process with the Texas Education Agency. The monitoring process is intended to help YES Prep continuously improve our services to students and to help us reach our vision for students in Special Education. As a stakeholder involved in Special Education, your feedback is critical to our improvement.

You can read [this letter from TEA](#) describing more about the process. The survey linked takes 10-20 minutes and is available in a variety of languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Filipino, Simplified Chinese, Burmese, and Urdu.

The first question on the survey asks for our ESC Region Number and the name of our district. You can find that information here:

- ESC Region Number: 4
- Name of LEA: YES Prep Public Schools

**Family and Student Survey Results and Highlights**

**Family Pulse Check Survey Highlights:** Thank you for your participation in the recent family and student surveys. Your feedback is invaluable as we continue programming and planning for next quarter. We received over 1300 responses from families and over 10k responses from students. Across the district, there was high satisfaction with our Health and Safety protocols (99% for families, 89% for students) and Communications (95% for families, 90% for students) among both families and students. We also saw a small increase in satisfaction with Engagement among families (up to 89% from 88%) and an exciting increase of 13 percentage points in the area of Community for students since our last administration.

**Student Climate Survey Highlights:** The YES Prep Student Climate Survey is taken twice a year and measures a student's perception of their school experience. We value student voice and utilize their feedback to drive programmatic decisions and adjustments. Below are the latest survey results we received from students.

**Question Category Results:**

- Sense of Belonging: 80%
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion: 91%
- Safety and Behavior: 89%

- Engagement: 80%
- Supportive Relationships: 74%
- Academics: 67%
- Athletics: 73%

#### Highlights:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion results are UP 9% from this time last year
- Safety and Behavior results are up 14% from this time last year
- School/Sense of Belonging results are up 6% from this time last year

We'd like to again thank you for taking the time to submit your feedback to us. Whether students are online or in person, our teachers and staff are working hard to provide a positive experience for students and families.

#### Family Focused Weekly Workshops

In collaboration with ACE, we are hosting a series of family workshops based on needs that have been identified in focus groups and trends from our pulse check survey. They are hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams each week on Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. If that is not convenient for you, a recording will be shared out in the weekly Family Communication email the following week.

Last week, we hosted an introductory pep rally with the **Step Up** team to learn more about what they have to offer. Step Up programming for Black and Brown high school girls provides access to mentoring relationships which enable them to use their voices and skills to address inequities, reject racism and build coalitions that strengthen their abilities to be future leaders in post-secondary pursuits and careers. If you were not able to attend, you can go [HERE](#) to sign up for some incredible upcoming events using the QR codes in the presentation. If you have a high school girl, be sure to check it out!

Our next family workshops are designed to help you use various **Technology Tools** to support your child's learning. The workshop covers Skyward, Microsoft Teams, and the district website. This workshop was held in English on February 4 from 5-6 p.m. and can be accessed [HERE](#). The same Technology workshop will be repeated in Spanish on February 11. Simply click on this link to join the meeting at 5 p.m. on Thursday February 11: [Microsoft Teams Live 2.11](#)

#### Student Lottery deadline approaching

Only 7 more days until the lottery application closes! We invite all families with siblings of current students in grades PK-3rd and 6th -9th to apply for our YES Prep lottery. As a result of the trust you have in YES Prep, all siblings are granted a priority status within our lottery process. While this does not guarantee a seat, it gives your child(ren) the best chance to join one of our YES Prep campuses. Don't miss out on your opportunity to apply! The application closes on Friday, February 12. To apply please visit [www.yesprep.org/enroll](http://www.yesprep.org/enroll)

#### Did you know?

Black students attending public charter schools like YES Prep meet academic standards at higher percentages in every subject and every tested grade level. Public charter schools like YES Prep work hard to make sure students of every demographic succeed. [Learn more about the results of public charters here.](#)

As always, thank you families for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children and for your support and partnership as we continue our commitment to prioritize safety while also working tirelessly to provide the highest quality instruction, online and in-person. Our next Family Update will be until Friday, February 12.

Thank you