

Strategic Plan | Specific Result Report

Goal 2 Action Plan Year 5 Priorities – 2021-2022

Call to Action:

Katy ISD learners, through active engagement, achieve individual success while making positive contributions in an ever-changing world.

Goal 2:

Katy ISD will develop systems where customized resources will ensure equity in response to the needs of a growing district with rapidly changing demographics.

Specific Result:

2.2 Create a district resource allocation system that ensures equity for all students.

Summary Report:

During the 2020-2021 school year, the School Leadership & Support and Operations divisions specifically examined access to select programs and staff that support students' academic and personal success. This included reviewing the Raines High School and Miller Career & Technology Center (MCTC) programs, building out our crisis intervention and mental health team, and developing a high-quality Aspiring Principals Academy designed to cultivate candidates for future leadership positions.

This process began with identifying potential barriers to accessing specialized programs that provide students greater flexibility and options than the traditional school day. Due to increased interest and enrollment in the program previously known as Raines High School, as well as MCTC, staff looked at ways to improve upon accessibility. They examined and updated application processes for these programs to make them more easily accessible to students; re-evaluated and revised the program acceptance criteria to establish consistency and equity; and developed plans to renovate the two campuses to allow for greater enrollment capacity. The structure of the former Raines High School was re-worked to accommodate expanded programs and enrollment. As a result, the high school was rebranded to Raines Academy. Raines Academy is now located in a completely new building that opened in January 2022. This facility allows for increased student enrollment for those seeking non-traditional education tracks. The program offers flexible school day options, a school to work program, and additional structures to support students who struggle in a comprehensive high school. Simon Youth Academy, a former Katy ISD program that served as an alternative flexible school day option for students at risk of dropping out of high school, was also re-developed and is now called the Katy Flexible Day program — one of multiple programs now offered at Raines Academy. Staffing numbers were also increased ahead of the planned renovation of MCTC to support growth in student enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Miller Career & Technology Center underwent a renovation to expand programs for Culinary, Veterinary Medicine, Cosmetology, Health Science, EMT, and Dental. In addition, Miller is expanding to include classes and training in construction

trades. The renovation will improve overall access to these programs by expanding learning spaces, with a long-term goal of adding new programs in the future.

In alignment with Goal 8, regarding student well-being, the District also built out a program around crisis intervention and mental health support. In review of campus, department and police data on student safety and mental health, we found that while some Katy ISD families had the means and resources to support students' mental health needs outside of the regular school day, many did not. The development of the District's crisis intervention team was the result of the continued need to support students' mental health outside of the school day, as well as the need to coordinate with community resources beyond what the District could provide. Additional licensed mental health professionals were hired by the District to support this effort, and a number of police officers were trained in mental health intervention to work collaboratively with the crisis team.

Recognizing the correlation between experienced, committed school principals and student academic success, the District has also placed a heightened focus on developing and training a pipeline of highly qualified principal candidates for potential future campus and district leadership roles. Katy ISD successfully developed an Aspiring Principals Academy, with the completion of its first cohort in June 2021. The second cohort will begin summer 2021, with the addition of two retired and highly qualified coach mentors to support first year principals.