

OnTrack

HISD'S STUDENT ASSESSMENT PLATFORM

What is OnTrack?

- OnTrack, which replaces EdPlan, is a new assessment platform campuses will use to track student progress through TEKS-aligned assessments
- The platform allows for a more comprehensive student learning profile through a variety of assessment options
- The platform utilizes the same assessment creation and delivery processes as EdPlan, but in an easier-to-use, intuitive format for teachers
- Unlike any system HISD has had, OnTrack features a student dashboard, giving students the ability to monitor their own progress and take increasing ownership of their learning

Why are we making the change?

- HISD is making the change in response to requests from students, teachers, schools, and district administrators for a user-friendly and dynamic student assessment platform
- As data-driven instruction (DDI) has become a more critical piece for teaching and the learning process, students and teachers must understand what students know and what they still need to learn, based upon that data. OnTrack is one option for teachers to more easily personalize their instruction for specific students and groups of students.

How is OnTrack better than EdPlan?

- Teachers and school administrators asked for a dynamic student assessment platform with more intuitive navigation and quick access to the most frequently used reports
- Teachers can customize their system settings to fit their instructional needs
- Teachers and students will have immediate access to online data to learn about their students' learning progress, rather than printing/sifting through pages of reports
- Use of student assessment data allows teachers to make instructional decisions to inform the development of academic growth plans for both advanced students and groups of students who have not met learning expectations

When is OnTrack being launched?

- OnTrack will be used district-wide in the 2017-2018 school year with early-adopter testing taking place in the spring of 2017

To learn more about OnTrack, visit HoustonISD.org/OnTrackInfo

OnTrack vs. EdPlan

Functionality/Features

OnTrack

EdPlan™

Measure student learning competencies using multiple types of assessments that are aligned to learning standards

Yes
(In three steps)

Limited

(Takes five steps and metrics aren't aligned with learning standards)

Incorporate universal design standards (accommodations), online assessments, technology-enhanced items

Yes

Limited

Support personalized learning by connecting student learning outcomes to relevant resources

Yes

Limited

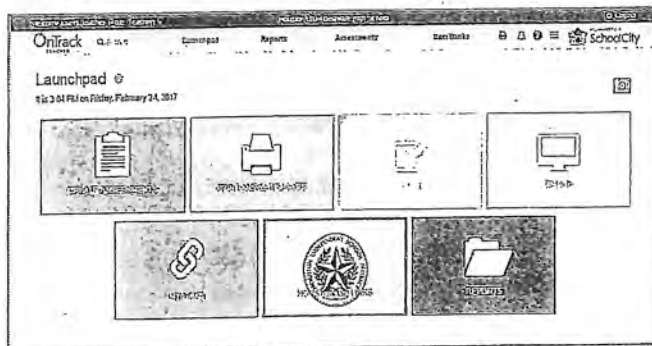
Promote assessment literacy among HISD stakeholders

Yes

Limited

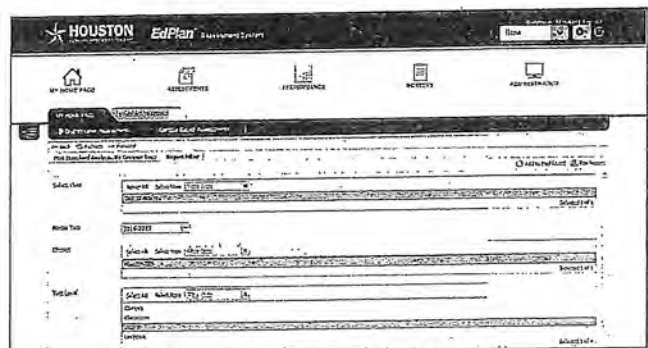
OnTrack Layout:

User-friendly, streamlined



EdPlan Layout:

Unintuitive, cumbersome



Want to try OnTrack? Go to <http://hisdtrain.schoolcity.com>

- District Access — Username: HoustonISD_District; Password: Houston1 (case-sensitive)
- School Access — Username: HoustonISD_School; Password: Houston1 (case-sensitive)
- Teacher Access — Username: HoustonISD_Teacher; Password: Houston1 (case-sensitive)

We want your feedback: <http://bit.ly/OTfeedback>

RECAPTURE ON MAY 6 BALLOT

HOW DO YOU WANT HISD TO PAY?

HISD voters will be asked on **MAY 6** how the district should pay its Recapture obligation to the state of Texas: by **PURCHASING ATTENDANCE CREDITS** or through **DETACHMENT OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**. Here's the language that will appear on the ballot:

★ BALLOT ★

*Authorizing the board of trustees of
Houston Independent School District to
PURCHASE ATTENDANCE CREDITS
from the state with local tax revenues.*

FOR **AGAINST**



A vote **FOR** means **Purchasing Attendance Credits** by writing a check to the state comprised of local property taxes. It also means:

- The district will continue to make annual recapture payments as long as property wealth grows.
- Our total tax collections will continue to grow to offset these payments as property values rise.
- The district will have more capacity in the future to fund schools.



A vote **AGAINST** **Purchasing Attendance Credits** means **Detachment** of the most valuable non-residential, commercial properties from the district's tax roll. The properties will be reassigned to other school districts for taxing purposes. It also means:

- Under current law, those commercial properties will be permanently detached, and the district will permanently lose those tax collections for district operations.
- The district will lose debt service tax collections used to pay back bonds, which is debt used to build schools.
- The district will face budget cuts and have less capacity to fund schools.

Visit HoustonISD.org/Recapture to learn more.

HISD BUDGET IMPACTED BY MAY 6 RECAPTURE VOTE

→ **DIDN'T WE ALREADY VOTE ON THIS?**

Yes, in November 2016, HISD voters rejected Proposition 1 and purchasing attendance credits, making HISD subject to Detachment to pay its Recapture obligation. Since then, action by the Texas Education Agency and other factors have reduced HISD's Recapture obligation from about \$162 million to about \$77 million. Future payments have been reduced as well.

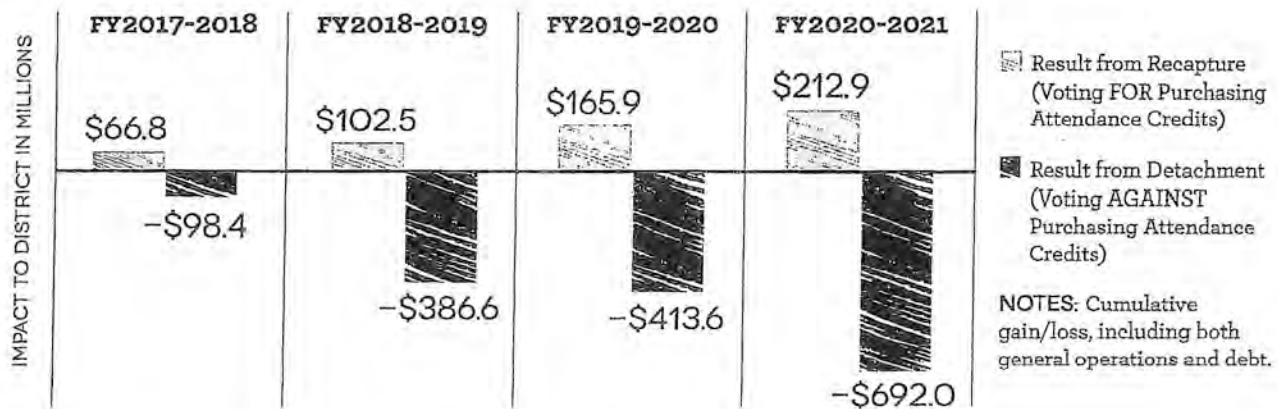
The vote has also started a conversation among legislators in Austin about changing the state's outdated school finance system. In response, the HISD Board of Education called a new election for May 6, 2017, giving voters another opportunity to decide how HISD will pay its Recapture obligation.

→ **THE MAJORITY OF HISD'S STUDENTS ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED. WHY IS THE DISTRICT SUBJECT TO RECAPTURE?**

Due to rising property values, HISD's wealth level per student exceeded the level set by the Legislature in the 1993 "Robin Hood" school finance law. Under the current law, even a school district like HISD with almost 80% economically disadvantaged students and over 30% English language learners is considered wealthy and therefore subject to recapture. As long as property wealth grows in Houston, and the state's school finance system remains the same, HISD will continue to remain in Recapture.

→ **HOW WILL THE MAY 6 VOTE AFFECT HISD FINANCIALLY IN THE LONG TERM?**

A vote FOR purchasing attendance credits will allow HISD to make Recapture payments to the State, but the district's local tax collections will continue to grow to offset these payments as property values rise. A vote AGAINST purchasing attendance credits will allow commercial properties to be detached from HISD, and the district will lose those tax collections from district operations. As more and more commercial properties are detached, a larger percentage of the responsibility to fund public education would shift to homeowners and remaining business owners. In addition, the district will lose future tax collections on the detached property used to pay back the district's debt for building schools. These tax collections are not lost under the Purchase of Attendance Credits.



Non-renewal of Aramark Contract

What will change for schools?

No major changes for schools. Continue to contact:

- 1st line of contact is your school Kitchen Team Lead
- 2nd line of contact is your Nutrition Services Operations Manager
- 3rd line of contact Operations main line 713-491-5723 or FSRESPONSELINE@houstonisd.org
(see At Your Service Quick Guide for Principals)

Why the change after 20 years with Aramark?

As part of a natural growth and progression of any organization, HISD Nutrition Services has decided to move in a different direction with their food service program. Just as schools and the District strive to retain and increase student enrollment and membership, the Food and Nutrition Division has struggled for a number of years to keep students engaged and to keep them coming back to the cafeteria to participate in the meal programs.

What's next for school food and nutrition at HISD?

HISD Nutrition Services wants to have full transparency and begin a grassroots program that capitalizes and is driven by student feedback and student voices on what they want to eat. We will still maintain and exceed federal guidelines. There are highly skilled professionals including chefs and dietitians on board at the HISD Nutrition Services Division. They are committed to hearing the feedback from HISD constituents and putting that feedback into flavorful and tasty meals student customers will choose to eat every school day.

School Funding and Meal Benefits

HISD offers free lunch for students at 186 schools in the district for the 2016- 2017 school year through Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). HISD would like to embark on offering free lunch to all students in the 2017-2018 school year.

Without the traditional school lunch application, how will districts gather important socioeconomic data used for other sources of funding?

- Principals at all schools will still need to send home an income application with every student in order to collect the economic data required for compensatory education funding
- Online applications will be available by August 1, 2017.

We encourage you to direct parents to the Nutrition Services web page or directly to <https://mealapps.houstonisd.org/Register.aspx> to submit online before school starts. Online processing is 80% faster than paper.

Budget Report

- Preliminary Budget Meeting in late March/early April
- Technology upgrades - \$75,000 (\$45K from Fund 101; \$30,000 from Magnet)
 - ✓ 60 Chromebooks (\$19,000)
 - ✓ 50 desktops (\$35,350)
 - ✓ 2-3D printers (\$3,000)
 - ✓ 8 mounted projectors (\$6,000)
 - ✓ NJHS start-up (\$1,200)
 - ✓ Apple iPad project (\$10,000)
- Summer professional development opportunities - \$30,000
 - ✓ Rice AP Institute
 - ✓ Rice University School Mathematics Project
 - ✓ Harvard Project Zero Classroom
 - ✓ Teach On! Conference
- Homerun Hitters International \$4,000
 - ✓ Homerun Hitters games and Switch-a-Thon (\$6,000)
 - ✓ Camp MI Way (\$8,000)
- Instructional and office furniture - \$ 10,000
- Summer Leadership Retreat - \$6,500 (approximate)

Elementary Report

- Master Scheduling –The Master Schedule team met Tuesday to plan for next year’s schedule. Very few major changes were proposed. The elementary offerings will remain the same, including music/orchestra, PE, art, computer, and ASL. The students will also attend the library once a week as well as WITS writing.
- UIL Academics - HISD UIL Elementary team attended its first competition last weekend at Pershing MS. There are two remaining competitions, one in April and one in May.

- Upcoming Events & Activities

- Spring Break – March 13-17
- SDMC Safety Walkthrough – March 21, 3:30 PM
- 4th Grade STAAR Writing – March 28
- 5th Grade STAAR Math – March 28
- 5th Grade STAAR Reading – March 29
- Spring Pictures – March 30
- PSI MATP Field Day – April 7

Submitted by: Christian S. Winn, Elementary AP

Technology Report

- New Chrome Books are being purchased for 3rd grade and 8th grade
- One 3-D printer is up and running.
- Cafeteria screen has been replaced.
- Exploring the possibility of one to one Chromebook

Middle School Report

- High School Visit – The social studies and math team has an opportunity to visit both Carnegie and Bellaire to observe and get feedback from the high school teachers. Below are the big takeaway.
 - Overall, Rogers's students are still most prepared for high school
 - Math department chair at Carnegie and Bellaire strongly recommend against having Algebra I in 7th grade and Geometry in 8th Grade.
 - All students; Rogers's students included need to learn how to read and take notes
 - Human Geography is a challenge for our students at Carnegie because the level of the textbook (college level) and the amount of reading.
 - At Bellaire, 70% of student's six weeks grade in the AP math classes come from tests.
- Ready, Set, Go Presentation High School Readiness- It was a big success. Got some great feedback from parents last night. It was wonderful hearing from former students sharing their high school experiences.
- Weekly Ram Communicaiton – Finally... going paperless! Make sure to check online for the latest communication on our website. <http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/135012>
- Course Selection for Next Year – Course selections will be distributed sometime in early to mid-April
- 8th Grade End of Year Trip Permission Form – The 8th end of the year trip permission will be given out this afternoon. Destination: Fiesta Texas, San Antonio.
- Upcoming Events & Activities
 - March 13-17** Spring Break
 - March 10** End of 3rd Nine Week Grading Period
 - March 28** STAAR Writing (Grade 4&7) and Math (Grade 5&8)
 - March 29** STAAR Reading (Grade 5&8)
 - March 30** School Spring Picture
 - March 31** PTO Movie Night