**Summary of Impact on CVHS Specifically**

* Loss of 30% of our teachers under proposed FTE funding model
* Loss of several AP courses and many electives as a result
* Loss of $350,000 in magnet funds ($410/student) due to proposed changes to magnet program (confirmed by Mark Smith at 2/6 District V Leadership meeting)
* Reduction of GT funds from $422/student to $81/student (true for all HISD GT students)
* Potential loss of transportation
* All of these factors will most certainly impact the national rankings for highest-ranking HISD school, as well as others. How will HISD compete nationally under such a model?
* Many parents who can afford to take their kids to private schools may be inclined to do so, which will result in reduced enrollment

**Timeline**

* Decision about funding model (changing per-pupil allocation (PUA) to a centralized funding model (FTE)) could come in the next month
* Changes to magnet program are likely to be on agenda for April Board Meeting.

**General Talking Points**

* “Recapture” and “FTE Centralization” do not go hand in hand.
  + The $200 Million budgetary shortfall can be addressed in the current PUA funding model.
* The proposed FTE Centralization structure and funding model is in direct contradiction to the HISD Board of Directors Policy Manual that was approved on Nov 9, 2017 and issued on Dec 19, 2017: <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/592?filename=AE(LOCAL).pdf>
  + The District shall decentralize. Effectiveness requires that decision making be placed as close as possible to the teacher and the student. Decisions should be made in schools; accordingly, principals shall be the leaders of that decision making process.
* The proposed FTE Centralized staffing model ratio of 33:1 will eliminate 30% of teachers at CVHS, and will result in similar reductions at almost all other high schools.
* Under FTE, allocation for supplies and smaller material items would be done annually. Capital allocation for larger requirements would be made every 3 years.
* Chief Financial Officer, Rene Barajas admits that, “"I don't know much about the PUA," he said, "because as soon as I came on board, we started looking at another model."
  + **The system of weighted student funding that Houston helped pioneer is now used in some of the biggest urban districts in the country. Those include New York City, Hartford, Denver, Chicago, Cleveland and Boston.**
  + One reason given by his chief financial officer, Rene Barajas, is that it's [FTE is] the way other districts do it in Texas. But every district in Texas is far smaller than Houston.
  + <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/columnists/falkenberg/article/Houston-ISD-administrators-should-do-their-12538289.php>
* $200 Million is approximately 10% of the HISD Annual Budget. 44% of the cuts will come from schools. That $88 Million dollars should be equally divided by schools and the decision about how to implement the budget reduction should be decided by each school as is best for their students.
  + Based on the School Board’s Policy Manual’s statement that “the District shall decentralize” and “decisions should be made in schools; accordingly, principals shall be the leaders of that decision making process.”
  + <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/592?filename=AE(LOCAL).pdf>
* The budget shortfall, equal access across all ethnicities and socio-economic divides, and “failing” schools should be addressed separately.
  + These proposed changes will not save our failing schools, but they will gravely injure our thriving programs. HISD is combining three different agendas into one proposal: budget cuts, saving our struggling schools and drastically changing our school funding model.
* More effort should be made to create a plan that implements the cuts but does not destroy our thriving programs, nor limit our administrators’ and teachers’ abilities to lead these programs.
* Each student deserves access to an effective and personalized education in a nurturing and safe environment. Our current model was implemented to facilitate this belief for our students and is still the best approach to meet this standard.
  + HISD should do the research necessary to design a plan that will facilitate the needed changes in schools where students as less likely to meet state requirements and excel. As per our Board Policy Manual - struggling schools should have an increased involvement and oversight by the Board.
  + This does not require the loss of autonomy and funding that has allowed schools to achieve the HISD vision for students.
* If parents, teachers, principals and trustees believe that each campus should have specific, standard offerings, e.g. a library with librarian, this can be proposed and voted on within the existing structure. Then principals can be held accountable to this new standard.
  + We have given each principal at each school the autonomy to decide what is best for their campus. We are now suggesting that there are standard programs we feel should be offered. We do not need to take away the autonomy that is working at a majority of our schools. We simply need to amend the guidelines and allow principals to implement the new required standards as they see fit for their campuses.
* We do not want more for our students than for other students. We want the effective and personalized program in which our students are currently enrolled.
  + We want to continue the current PUA funding model. We believe the current Magnet status of Carnegie is valid. We recognize that there will budgetary changes based on the shortfall. We want our principal to maintain the decision making capabilities that has allowed our school to achieve a top 10 national ranking.
  + We believe the admissions matrix, the lottery system and the transportation creates an opportunity for every GT student in HISD to have equal access to the Carnegie program. We do understand that changes are required to support students and parents in struggling schools. We do believe the communication and application process for magnet programs needs to be addressed.
* Houston should celebrate our academic successes and use exemplary programs as the examples of what to implement in struggling programs.
  + **More HISD students than ever before took and passed AP exams in 2016 - a 76 percent increase from 2009.**
    - More HISD Students Than Ever Before Taking AP Exams, Earning College Credit HISD students are earning significantly more college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) exams now than they have in the past 7 years, according to 2015-2016 data released by the College Board. For the 2015-2016 school year, 8,649 exams given to HISD high school students were scored high enough to qualify — a 3 or higher on a 5-point scale — for college credit through the program. That’s a 76 percent increase from 2009.
    - <http://www.houstonisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=213604&dataid=189613&FileName=Adopted%20Budget%20Book%20with%20Bookmarks2016-17.pdf> - page 38
  + **Class of 2016 Beats Previous Year’s Scholarship Offers by $50 million.**
    - The numbers are in, and HISD’s Class of 2016 has received over $314 million in scholarship and grant offers. At $50 million more than the Class of 2015
    - <http://www.houstonisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=213604&dataid=189613&FileName=Adopted%20Budget%20Book%20with%20Bookmarks2016-17.pdf>
  + **HISD Boasts Half of Eight - County Region’s Top Elementary, Middle and High Schools**
    - Houston Independent School District campuses occupy half of the top 10 slots on the 2016 Children at Risk public school rankings of the region’s best public schools.
    - Additionally, HISD schools took the statewide Number 1 ranking in every category, with River Oaks; Number 1 among elementary schools, T.H. Rogers; Number 1 in the middle school category, and DeBakey High School for Health Professions Number 1 at the High school level.
    - HISD’s Top 10-rated high schools
      * DeBakey High School for Health Professions (1)
      * Carnegie Vanguard (2)
      * Eastwood Academy (3)
      * Challenge Early College (5)
      * HS for the Performing and Visual Arts (6)
    - HISD’s Top 10-rated middle schools
      * T.H. Rogers (1)
      * Lanier (3)
      * Pin Oak (8)
      * Project Chrysalis (9)
      * Wharton Dual Language (10)
    - HISD’s Top 10-rated elementary schools
      * River Oaks (1)
      * T.H. Rogers (3)
      * Horn (4)
      * West University (5)
      * Bush (9)
  + HISD schools also received half of the 10 Gold Ribbon recognitions from Children at Risk. HISD’s high-performing, high-poverty schools are: De Chaumes ES, Park Place ES, Lyons ES, Ed White ES, Pilgrim Academy, and Sharpstown HS.
* Our district is not failing. Our current model is not broken. There are clear opportunities for improvement. The current proposal will dismantle what is working - what is helping a majority of Houston students thrive.
  + In 2016 - HISD had 275 schools:
  + 235 out of 275 (85%) earned a “met standard” rating for the 2015-2016 school year, a 6-point increase from the previous year.
  + At the same time, 18 fewer schools received an “improvement required” rating. Overall, HISD earned a “met standard” district rating.
  + More than half (31 out of 58) of the HISD schools that were considered “improvement required” last year have now met the state standard. Those schools are Halpin Early Childhood Center; Alcott, Bastian, Berry, Burrus, Codwell, Elmore, Foster, Garcia, Hartsfield, Helms, N.Q. Henderson, Jefferson, Martinez, Milne, Montgomery, Peterson, Ross, Stevens, Thompson, Tinsley and Wainwright elementary schools; Deady, Fondren, Fonville, McReynolds, Sugar Grove and Thomas middle schools; Kandy Stripe Academy; and Scarborough and Yates high schools
  + <http://www.houstonisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=213604&dataid=189613&FileName=Adopted%20Budget%20Book%20with%20Bookmarks2016-17.pdf> - page 41
  + 15 Houston schools (5.4%) are “chronically failing”
  + 22 Houston schools (8%) are award winning
  + **1 school in the district is ranked in the top 10 nationally (23rd in 2014 and 2015, 10th in 2016, 8th in 2017) - Carnegie Vanguard High School has some of the most fundamentally destructive proposed changes.**
  + <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/texas/districts/houston-independent-school-district/carnegie-vanguard-high-school-19262>

Per Student / Per School Budget





