

# Houston Independent School District (HISD) District V Candidate Forum

October 18, 2017



Sean Cheben



Sue Deigaard



Kara DeRocha



Susan Shafer



RICE®



GENERAL ACADEMIC



Civic Duty  
engaging tomorrow's leaders

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in  
American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice

# Forum Structure

Candidate Opening Statements

10 Moderated Questions

Pre-Selected Questions from Audience

Candidate Closing Statements

Informal Mingling and Refreshments

Each candidate will have up to 1 minute for opening statements, closing statements, and for responses to the questions.

Moderated questions were crafted after consulting with current and former trustees, parents, educators, journalists, and professors.

**Audience members may submit questions on the provided index cards; we will collect these by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> moderated question.**



## HISD District V Candidate Forum

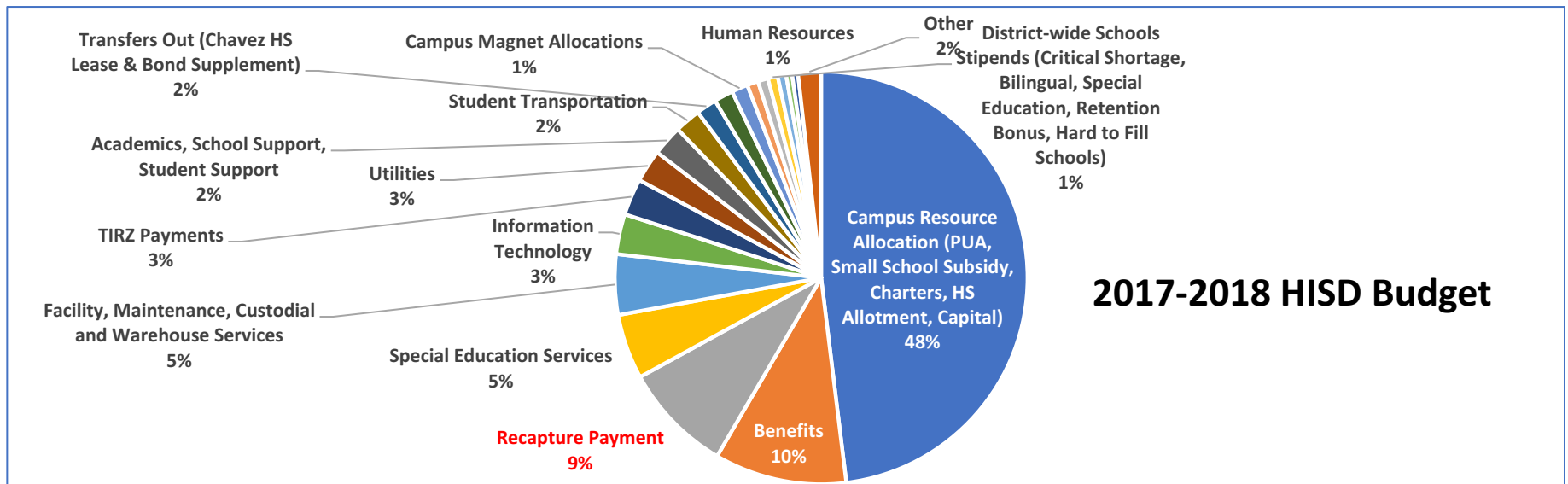
Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice



Shelby Joe is the President of General Academic, a tutoring, test prep, and consulting company in the Rice Village.

In June, the HISD Board approved a \$2 billion budget for the 2017-18 school year. Staff and teachers received 2-4% salary increases, magnet funding remained unchanged, \$162m is earmarked for “Recapture,” and the district is left with a \$106m deficit, which it is paying for from the rainy day fund.

**Do you think that this is a good budget, and what would be your plan for reducing the shortfall to ensure that the district doesn’t run out of cash as soon as next year?**



Sources – HISD 2017-2018 Budget Planning Meeting and Houston Chronicle

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice



Shelby Joe is the President of General Academic, a tutoring, test prep, and consulting company in the Rice Village.

In February, the district eliminated the 30% weight of student performance criteria (testing) on teacher evaluations. However, the district is expected to adopt Texas state evaluations methods (T-TESS) for 2017—2018, which will likely include student standardized test results.

**Compared to factors outside of the classroom like family, society, district & school regulations, what role do you think teachers play in education, and how would you hold them accountable?**



Sources – HISD and Texas Education Agency (TEA)

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

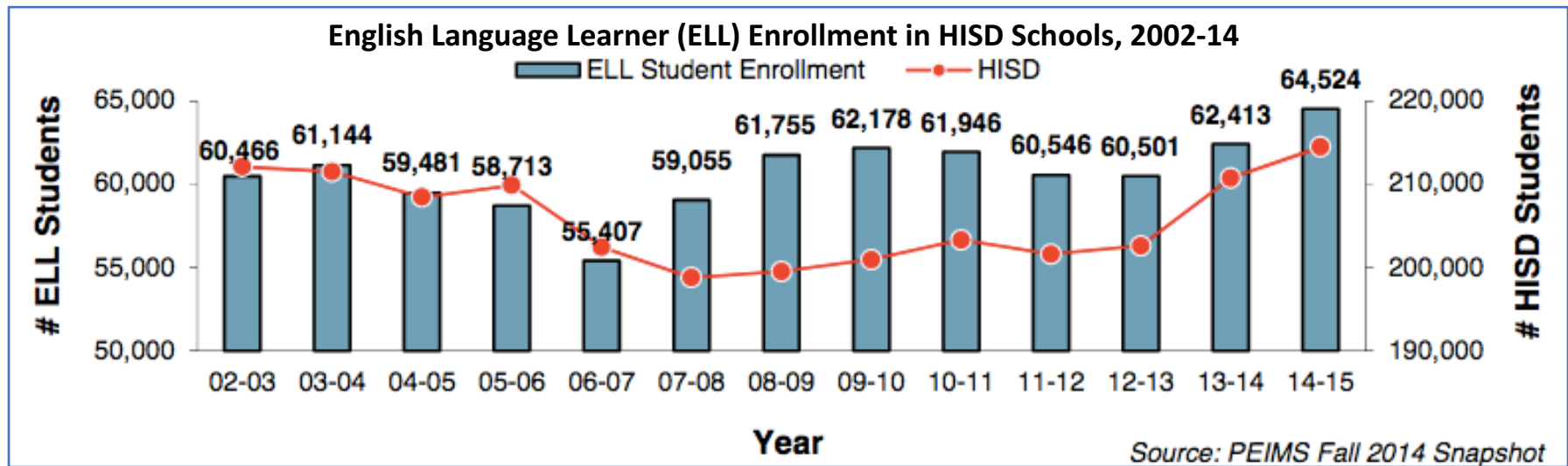
Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice



Melissa Marschall is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Local Elections in American Politics

The Texas Education Code requires school districts to provide every language minority student with the opportunity to participate in either a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program. Roughly 27% of HISD students participated in these programs in 2015-16. A recent report highlighted concerns about the academic performance of these students, specifically: the low performance STAAR End of Course assessments and a decline in the number of students who exited ELL status.

**What would you do to improve the performance of ELL students and ensure that they acquire English language proficiency as expeditiously as possible?**



Source – [2015 BILINGUAL & ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT](#)

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice





Melissa Marshall is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Local Elections in American Politics

Below is a snapshot of the HISD Critical Dates Testing Calendar v3.

**Do you think HISD students take too many tests, too few tests, or about the right amount of tests? Explain.**

#### OCTOBER 2017

- **September 20 - October 13:**
  - (BOY) Benchmark Running Record (grades 1-5)
- **September 20 - October 13:**
  - (BOY) Universal Screener for Reading (grades K-12) & Math (grades 1-12)
- September 25 – October 13:
  - (BOY) CIRCLE PK
- October 11:
  - PSAT/NMSQT
- October 11:
  - PSAT 8/9
- October 30 – November 10:
  - G/T Universal CogAT (grades K & 5)
    - *All HISD Kindergarten & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students not previously identified as GT*

#### NOVEMBER 2017

- October 30 – November 10:
  - G/T Universal CogAT (grades K & 5)
    - *All HISD Kindergarten & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students not previously identified as GT*
- November 1 – December 1:
  - G/T Universal IOWA/Logramos (grades K & 5)
    - *All HISD Kindergarten & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students not previously identified as GT*
- November 6-10:
  - Credit-By-Exam (CBE) #2
- November 6-17:
  - (BOY) High Frequency Word Exam (HFWE: grades 1-2)
- November 30 – December 15:
  - (FALL COURSES) TADS Pre-Approved Assessments

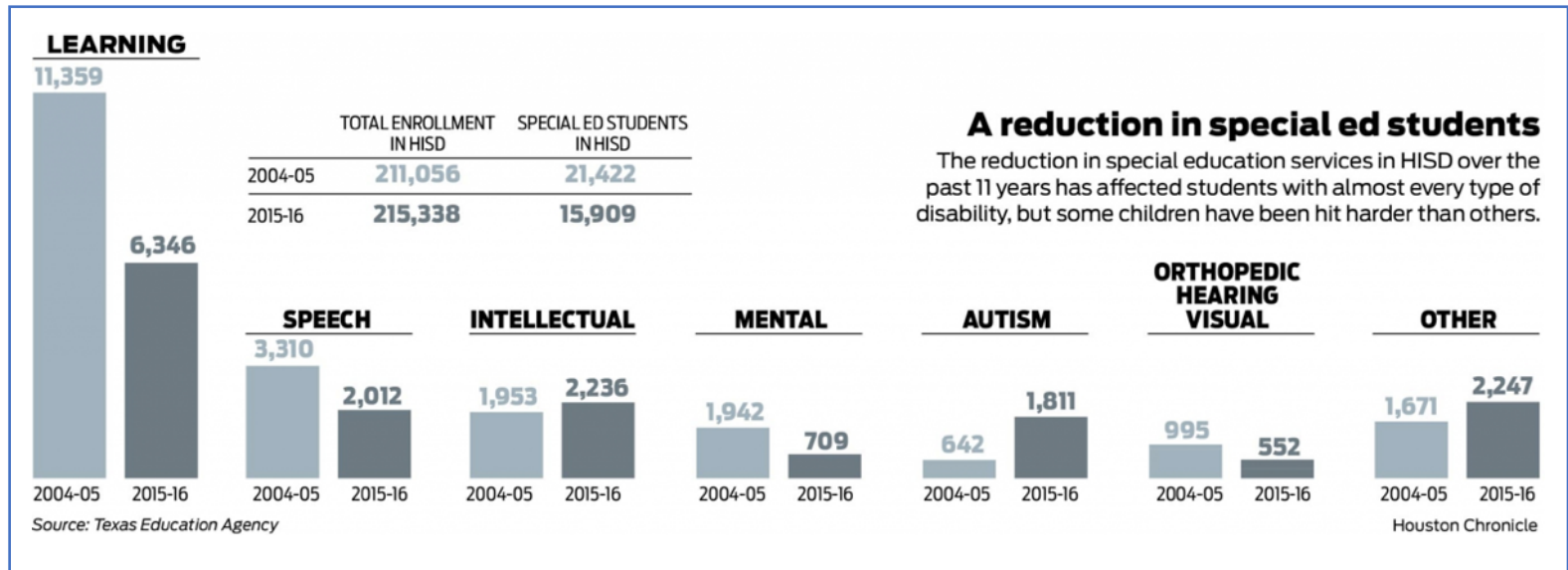
Source – [2017-2018 HISD Critical Dates Testing Calendar V3](#)



Avesh Krishna  
is a Political  
Science Major  
at Rice  
University and  
President of  
the Political  
Science Honor  
Society

“Houston schools provide special education services to a lower percentage of students than schools in virtually any other big city in America. Only Dallas serves fewer than Houston's 7.26 percent. The national average is 13 percent.”<sup>1</sup> The number of special education students has dropped by 25.7% since 2005.

## What do you think the role of special education is?



1. Rosenthal, Brian, and St. John Barned-Smith. “Denied: Houston Schools Block Disabled Kids from Special Education.” *Houston Chronicle* 27 Dec. 2016, [www.houstonchronicle.com/denied/6/](http://www.houstonchronicle.com/denied/6/).

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice



Avesh Krishna is a Political Science Major at Rice University and President of the Political Science Honor Society

Community Schools include dedicated librarians, counselors, nurses, and social workers and are said to increase parental involvement and better address the needs of all students. However, that money could otherwise be used at a principal's discretion. The HISD Trustees recently approved Community Schools and wraparound services in vague language.

**Do you believe that every school should have a certified librarian, counselor, nurse, and social worker provided for by HISD central office?**



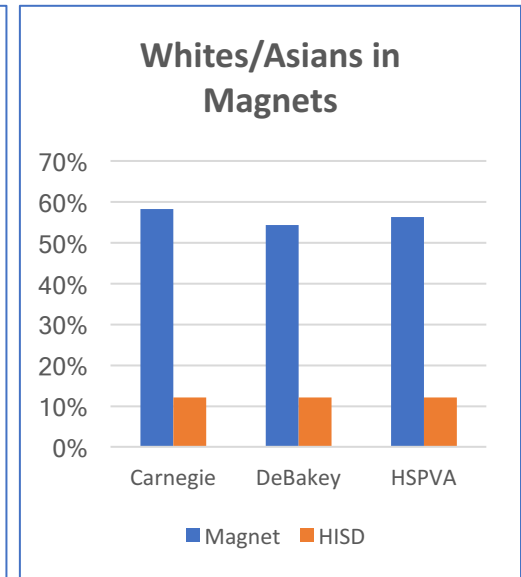
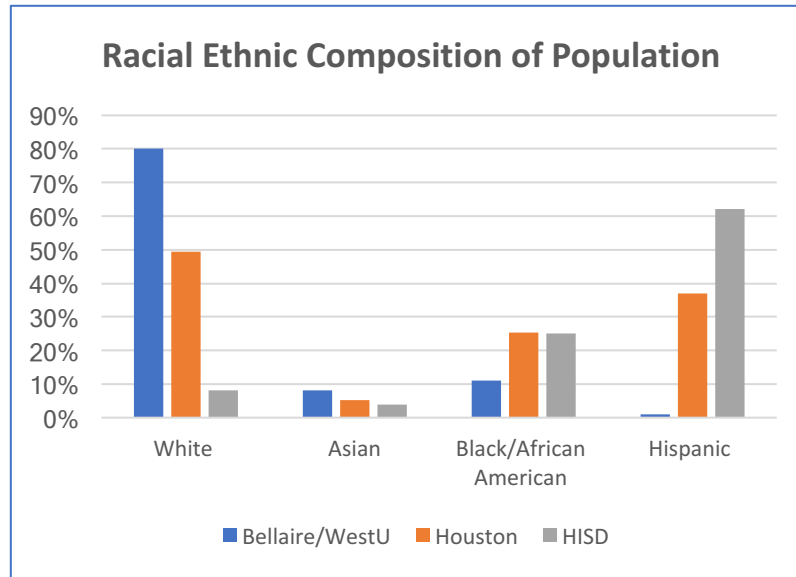
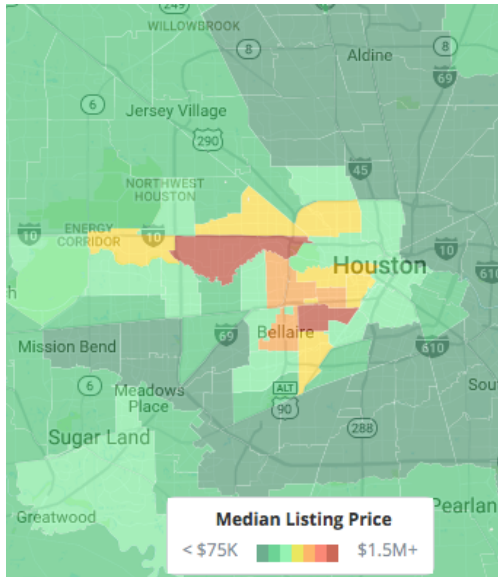




Shelby Joe is the President of General Academic, a tutoring, test prep, and consulting company in the Rice Village.

The average Bellaire / West U. family pays ~\$9k in property taxes to HISD annually but is not proportionally represented in the student body. They largely favor HISD magnet & neighborhood campuses only or choose to pay ~\$18k per year per child for private schools.

**Should HISD strive to increase enrollment among affluent, white, and Asian families? If so, what would you advocate for without hurting other demographic groups?**



Sources – Harris County Appraisal District, General Academic, Trulia, 2010 US Census, HISD, and Natl. Center for Education Statistics

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice



Melissa Marschall is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Local Elections in American Politics

Enrollments are on the rise in many District V schools. To accommodate these increases, some schools have eliminated pre-K classes, added temporary classroom trailers, and increased class sizes.

## What would you do to relieve overcrowding?

	<b>Total Enrollment</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>West U</b>	1,052	1,202	1,252	19.01
<b>Condit</b>	609	646	686	12.64
<b>Kolter</b>	572	580	614	7.34
<b>River Oaks</b>	674	717	705	4.60
<b>Roberts</b>	697	755	762	9.33
<b>Twain</b>	771	798	923	19.71
<b>Poe</b>	704	750	771	9.52

Source – Children at Risk School Rankings

## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice



Civic Duty Rice strives to engage Rice students and Houston area youth in civic education and community outreach initiatives.

When outlining priorities for the 2017-18 school year, superintendent Richard Carranza focused on wraparound services, the Achieve 180 program, and restorative justice practices. He has focused on the district's commitment to diversity and equity, and has been a strong supporter of undocumented students and students requiring special education services.

**How do you think Superintendent Carranza is doing, and do you support his efforts? Do you think you will be working in lockstep with him or as a check and balance?**



***Superintendent Carranza***



Civic Duty Rice strives to engage Rice students and Houston area youth in civic education and community outreach initiatives.

Being an HISD Trustee is a very time-consuming role that can take 20-40 hours per week, and the board frequently struggles to form a quorum of five attendees for many issues. On top of this, the role is unpaid.

**Do you have the time and mental fortitude to take on this oftentimes thankless volunteer role?**



## HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice

# Pre-Selected Questions from the Audience



# Thank You!



Sean Cheben



Sue Deigaard



Kara DeRocha



Susan Shafer



## Refreshments & Mingling

### HISD District V Candidate Forum

Hosted by General Academic and Rice University's: Center for Local Elections in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha & Civic Duty Rice