

TOWN HALLS ON THE DROPOUT RATE

To focus citywide attention on finding ways to lower the student dropout rate, Houston A+ Challenge convened parents, students, educators and community members for town hall forums at Aldine, Austin and Wheatley high schools in February and March 2007. Through moderated panel discussions, facilitated small group meetings and videotaped interviews, more than 400 individuals shared their ideas with district officials and made commitments to staying involved with their campuses and students.

Improving communication - between schools and families, and between students and adults - was a main theme at all three events. The Metropolitan Organization has held follow-up meetings with parents, districts and school officials, through support from Houston A+ Challenge and the United Way of Greater Houston.



GIVE KIDS GOOD SCHOOLS CAMPUS VISITS

During national Give Kids Good Schools Week (Oct. 15-21, 2007), Houston A+ Challenge and partner schools hosted campus visits to showcase some of the elements of high-quality public schools. More than 160 business leaders, parents, community members and educators participated in the events, which included classroom visits and student demonstrations.

Literacy Across the Curriculum	Milby High School, Houston ISD
The Power of Small Learning Communities	Atascocita High School, Humble ISD
Personalizing Middle Schools to Reach Students	McReynolds Middle School, Houston ISD
Transformation Through Shared Leadership	Stovall Academy, Aldine ISD
Integrating Fine Arts Across the Curriculum	Pine Shadows Elementary, Spring Branch ISD
Anatomy of a High-Performing High School	Eastwood Academy, Houston ISD

Learn more at <http://www.houstonaplus.org/givekidsgoodschools>

