

## Elementary and Primary Education



### Harris County Department of Education

News Release  
Thursday, March 24, 2016

#### Houston families to benefit from \$498,592 in Houston City Council funding for out-of-school time programs through CASE for Kids City Connections

Houston children benefit from \$498,592 in funding for out-of-school time programs through the end of the school year through a collaborative called CASE for Kids City Connections. The partnership between the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, and the City of Houston supplies funding to all 11 city council districts A-K through nonprofit organizations and schools.



The spring afterschool funding award is part of a \$700,000 city ordinance passed earlier this year and amended and expanded by \$200,000 in February 2016. The first phase of the grant awarded \$280,000 to 81 afterschool locations from October through December 2015. The \$900,000 continues to equip Houston communities with out-of-school time programs in fine arts, academic enrichment, college exploration and fitness classes.

Council members choose the 84 organizations to be funded in their districts based on requests for proposals provided through CASE for Kids, a division of Harris County Department of Education.

Spring semester funding ranges from \$2,000 to \$18,000 per nonprofit organization and includes 101 locations throughout the city. The funding is administered to the organizations through CASE for Kids. Funding from the second grant term continues through May 31 and will supply much needed afterschool opportunities for about 4,000 children and their families.

“Communities need afterschool programs to keep their children safe and to provide enriching activities during out-of-school time,” said Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director of CASE for Kids. “We remain grateful to our city leaders for their commitment to better the lives of Houston children and families.”

CASE for Kids is an afterschool intermediary which provides funding, professional development and networking for the local out-of-school time community. Funds support students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities and community centers.

City Connections is an innovative program initiated by former Houston City Councilmember C.O. Bradford during the summer of 2014. The out-of-school time funding is intended to help fight juvenile crime and to promote child safety during the hours of 3-6 p.m. when parents are working.

“This funding is critically needed to keep Houston communities safe as state and federal funding decreases,” said Thompson-Caruthers.

A full list of organizations in each Houston City Council district receiving funding is available through the CASE for Kids website at [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org) or

[http://www.afterschoolzone.org/default.aspx?name=City\\_Connections](http://www.afterschoolzone.org/default.aspx?name=City_Connections) .

**About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids):** CASE for Kids, formerly the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, was launched by Harris County Department of Education in 1999. CASE for Kids is an after-school intermediary which leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit approximately 12,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Go to [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org) for information.

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**About Harris County Department of Education (HCDE):** Serving students, teachers, schools and communities throughout Harris County, HCDE is a local governmental organization providing value for school districts while supporting educational opportunity. Partnering with Harris County school districts, HCDE maximizes local resources and respond to the needs of locally elected school boards and education leaders. HCDE services include school-based therapy for students, afterschool programs, Head Start, educator training, adult education and programs to promote safe schools. To learn more about how your county department of education can help you: [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) .

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