



# 101 Workshop: How to Start a CHURCH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



# Loving Houston



***[lovinghouston.net/getinvolved](https://lovinghouston.net/getinvolved)***

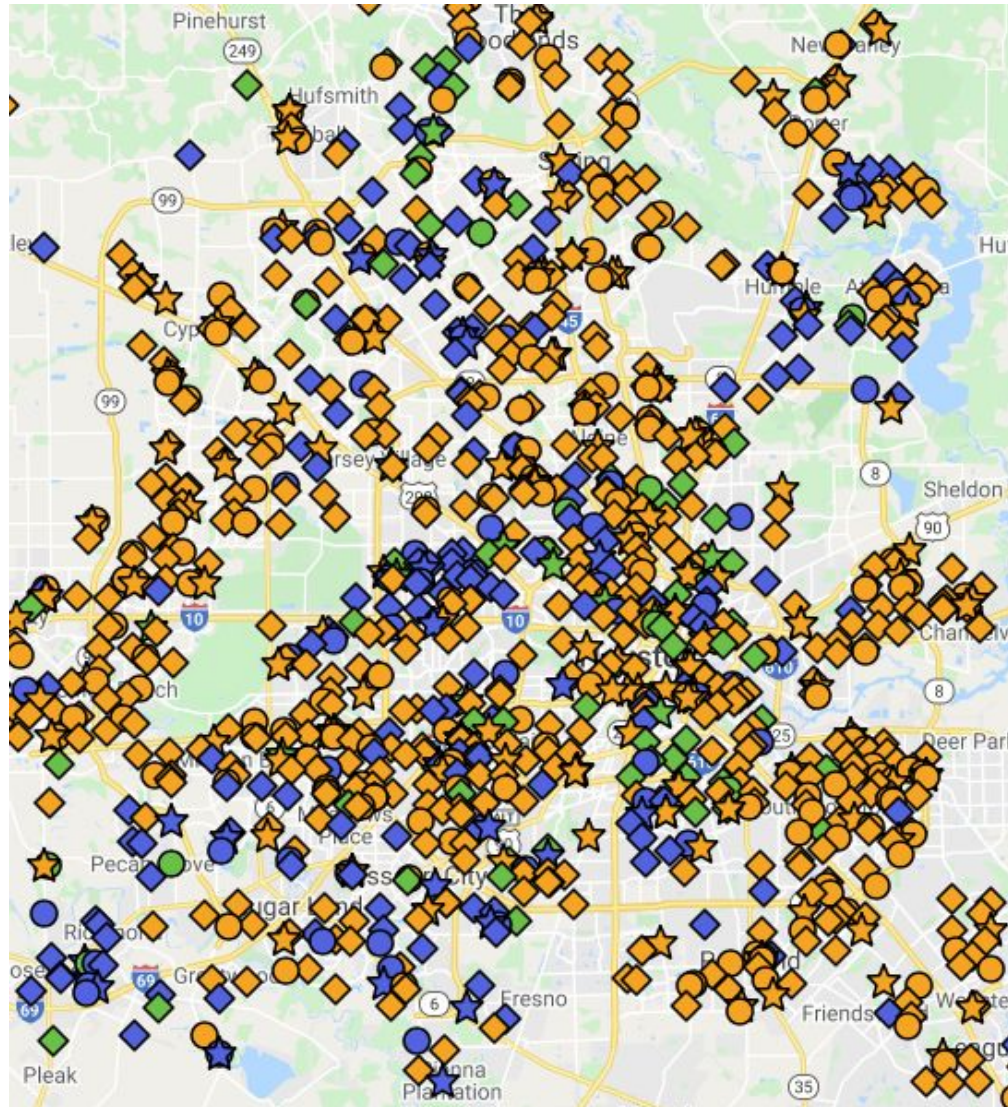
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**LOVING**  
**HOUSTON**



# Loving Houston







**OUR VISION IS TO SEE EVERY SCHOOL IN GREATER  
HOUSTON WITH A COMMITTED CHURCH PARTNER**

# Loving Houston



# Loving Houston

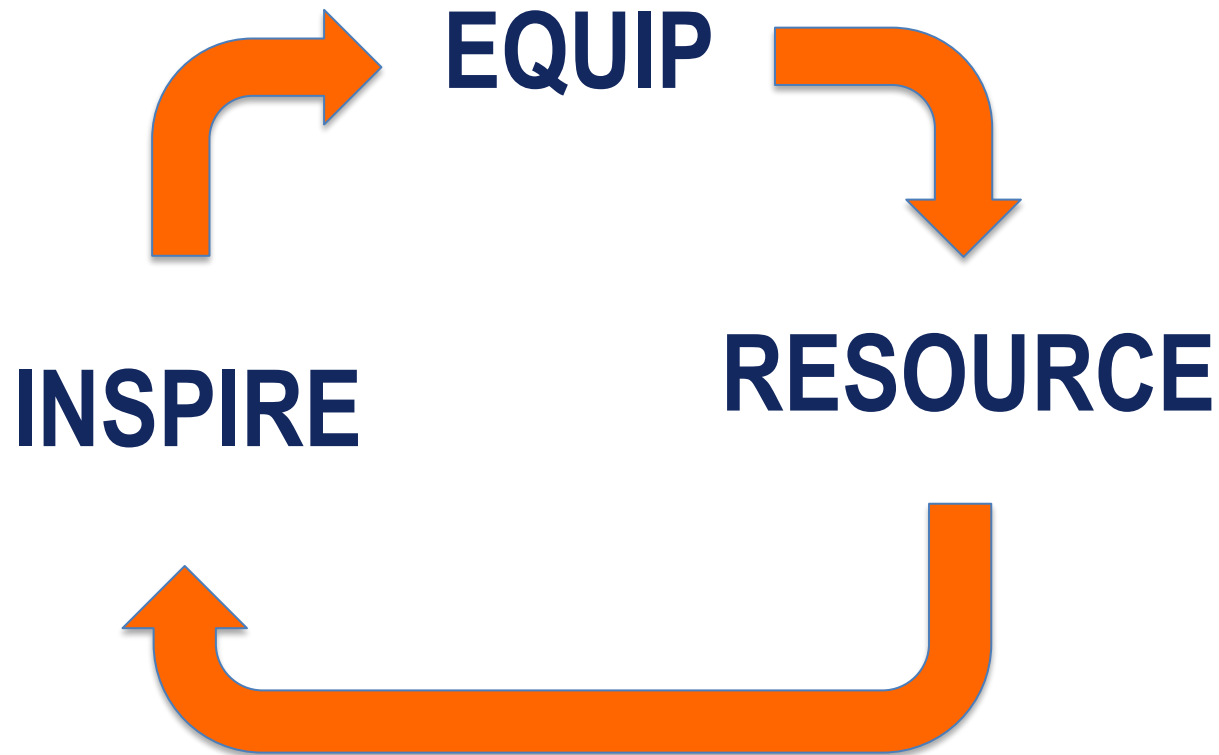






**1500 schools**  
**3500 churches**

***Every*** school in Greater Houston can have  
a committed, caring church partner.

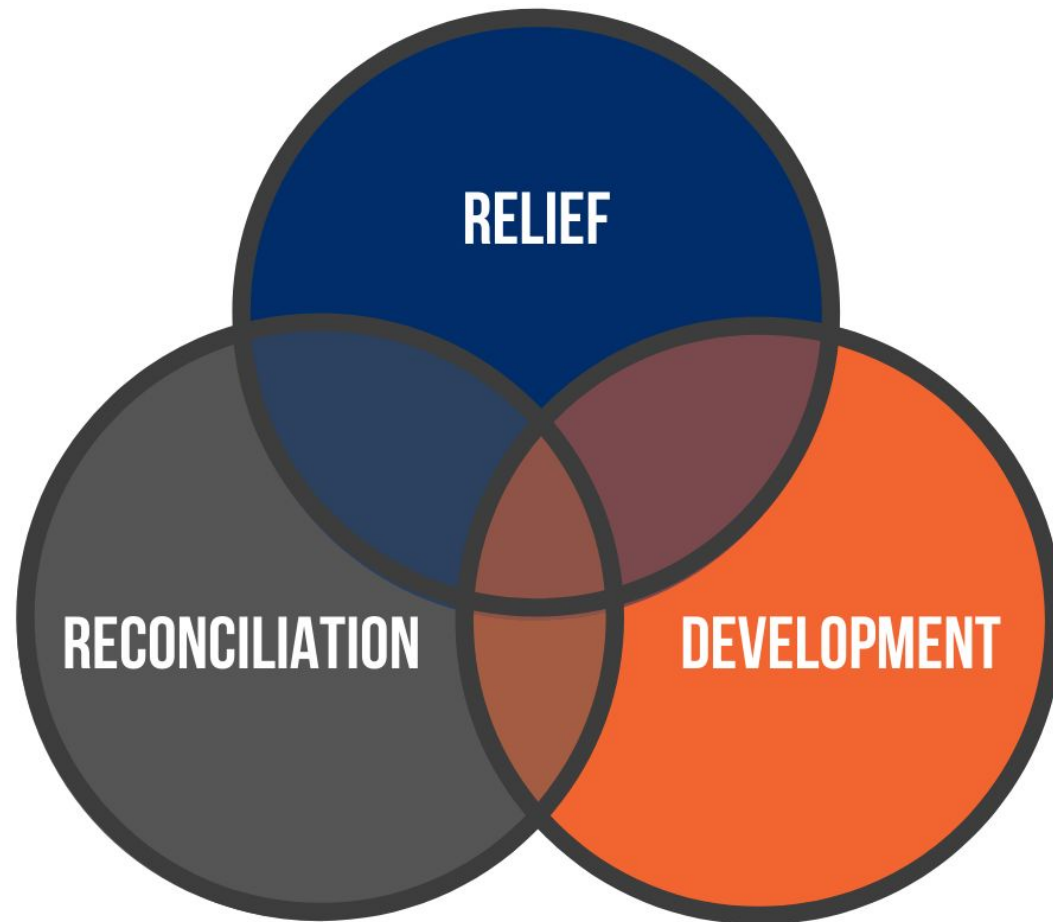


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**ADVANCING COMMUNITY  
TRANSFORMATION  
BY HELPING CHURCHES  
SERVE LOCAL SCHOOLS**





***Community Transformation Model***



## DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What other “fruit” could come from your church partnering with a school?

*(Please type your answers in the chat box)*

# Today's Agenda



## I. Foundational

- 1. Case for Action**
- 2. Community Transformation Model**
- 3. What are Church School Partnerships?**
- 4. Church School Partnership Values**
- 5. Legal Guidelines**



# Today's Agenda



## II. Practical

**6. Partnership Pathways**

**7. Race, Politics, and CSPs**



LET'S PRAY!

# CASE FOR ACTION







## DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Why do you think schools are asking for church partners?

*(Unmute to answer, or type your answers in the chat box)*

# Case for Action



Schools across Greater Houston  
are *asking* for church partners.



# Case for Action



**Dr. Ruth Lopez Turley**

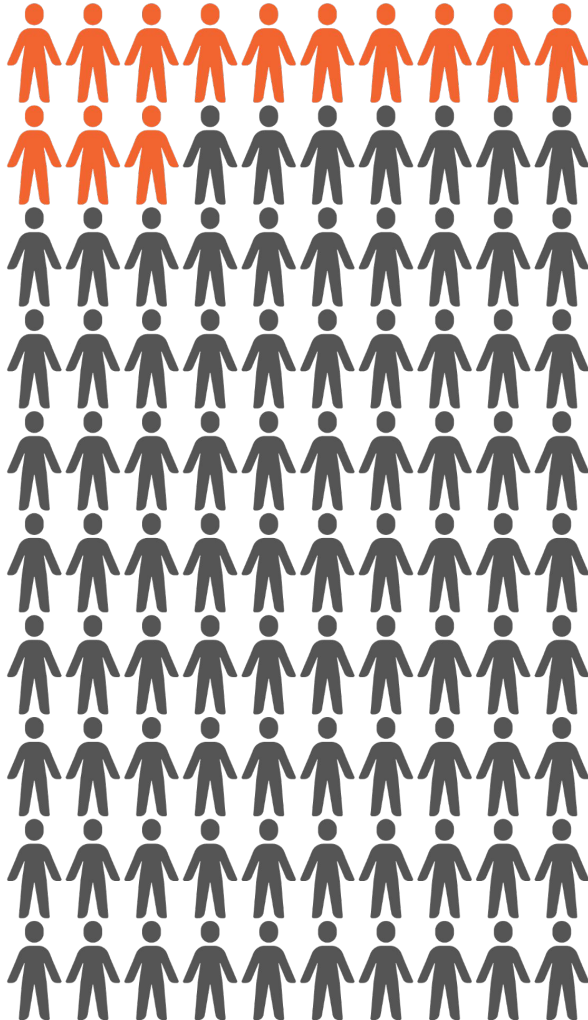
*Rice University Kinder Institute  
of Urban Research*

# Case for Action



## HEALTHCARE

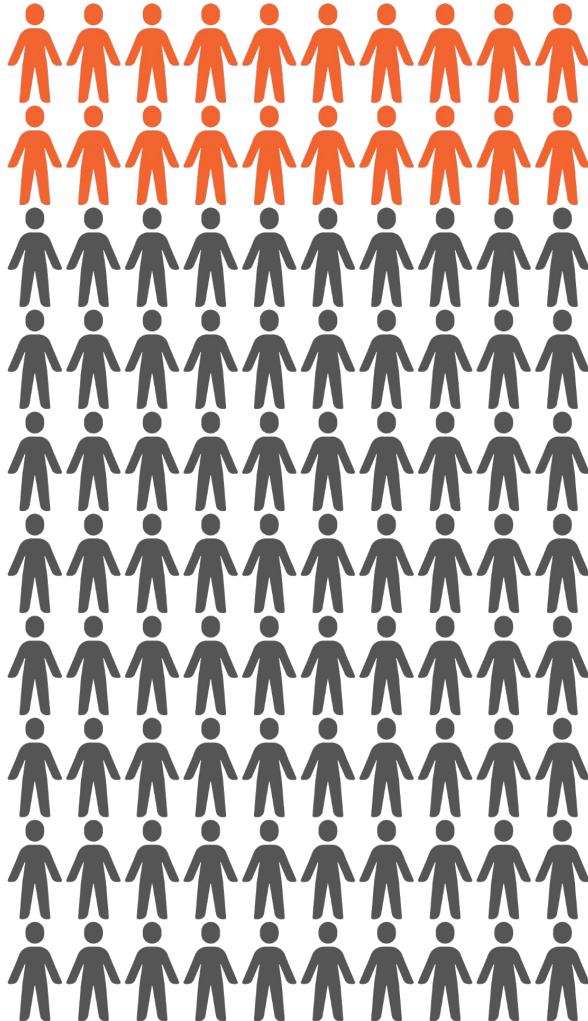
# Case for Action



**13% visit doctor  
when sick**



# Case for Action



**20% visit dentist  
annually**

# Case for Action



**40% visit eye  
doctor annually**

# Case for Action



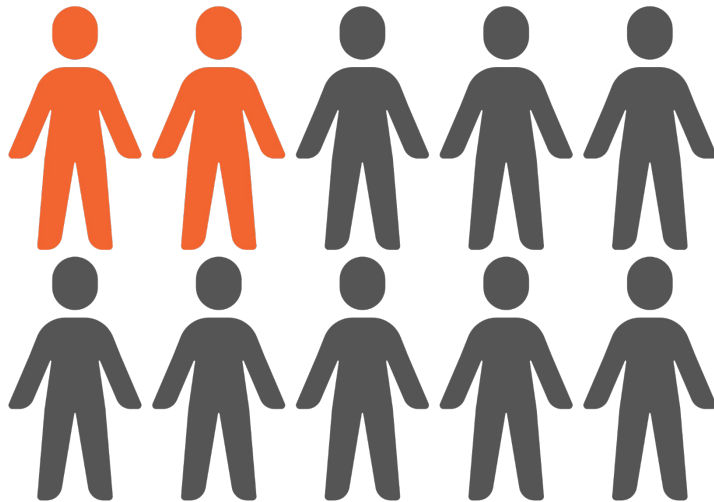
## MENTAL HEALTH

# Case for Action



**30% students  
often feel sad,  
lonely, anxious**

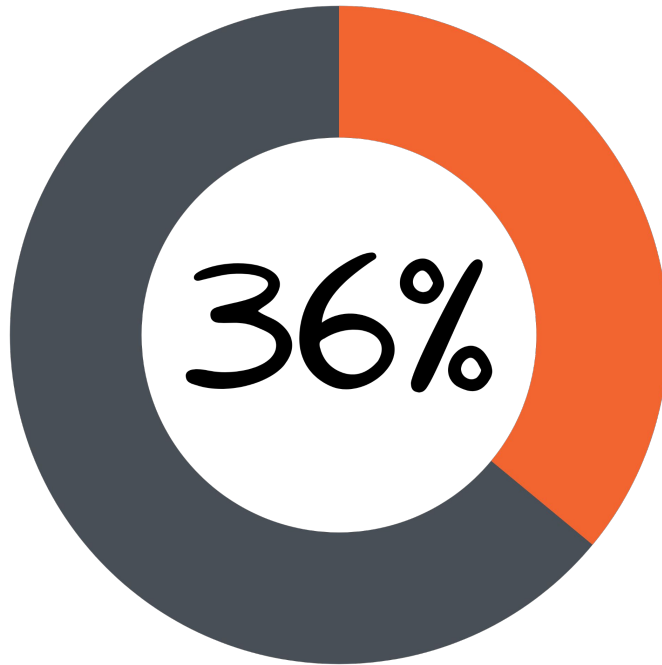
# Case for Action



**20% students  
missed school due  
to mental health**



# Case for Action

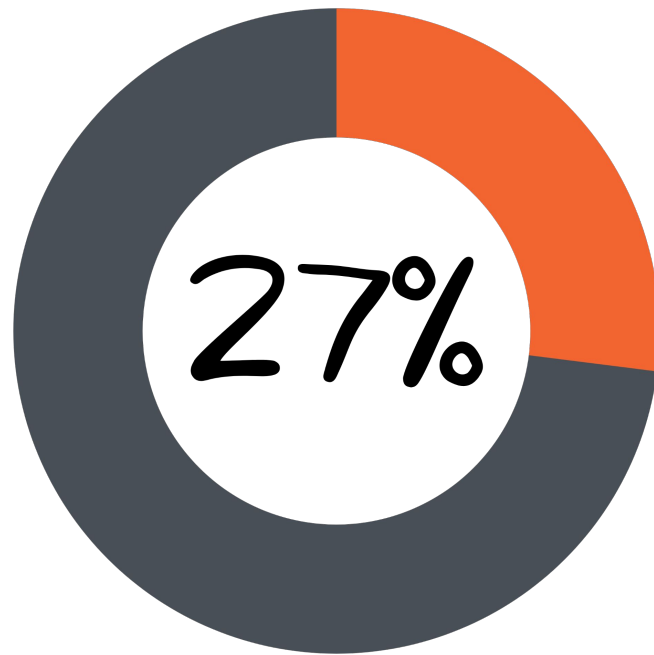


**students  
had trouble  
paying attention**



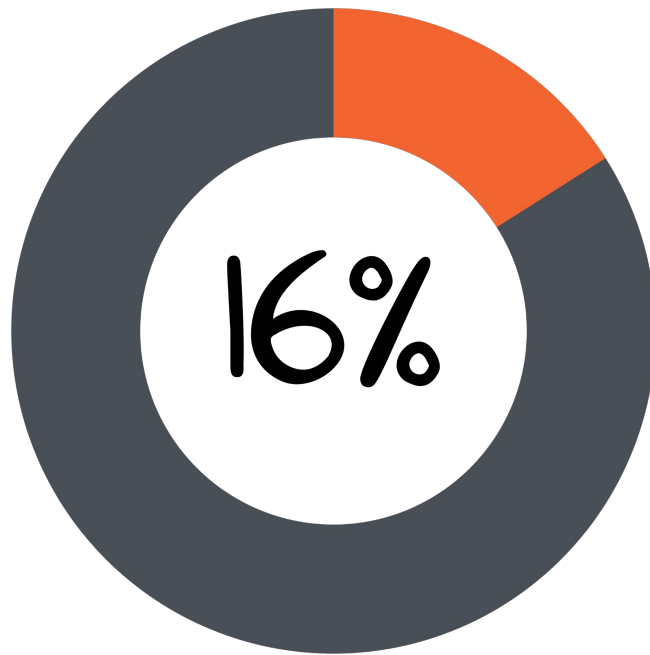
## HOUSING & FOOD INSECURITY

# Case for Action



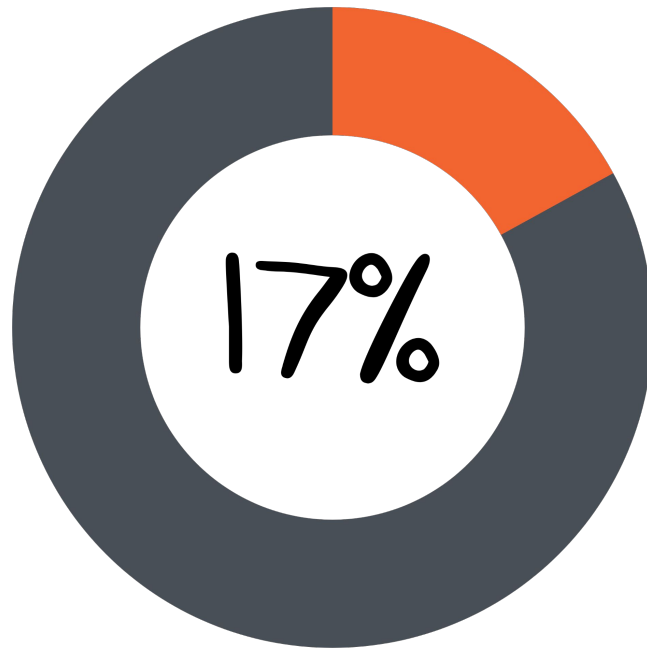
**unable to pay  
mortgage  
sometimes**

# Case for Action



**have had utilities  
turned off**

# Case for Action



**students reported  
being hungry due  
to limited food**



# Case for Action



## TEACHER VACANCIES

# Case for Action



- Houston ISD: 880
- Cy-Fair ISD: 472
- Fort Bend ISD: 275
- Aldine ISD: 409
- Katy ISD: 200



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Were any of the statistics surprising?  
What do you feel inspired to do?

*(Unmute to answer, or type your answers in the chat box)*

# COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



Photo by Omar Lopez on Unsplash



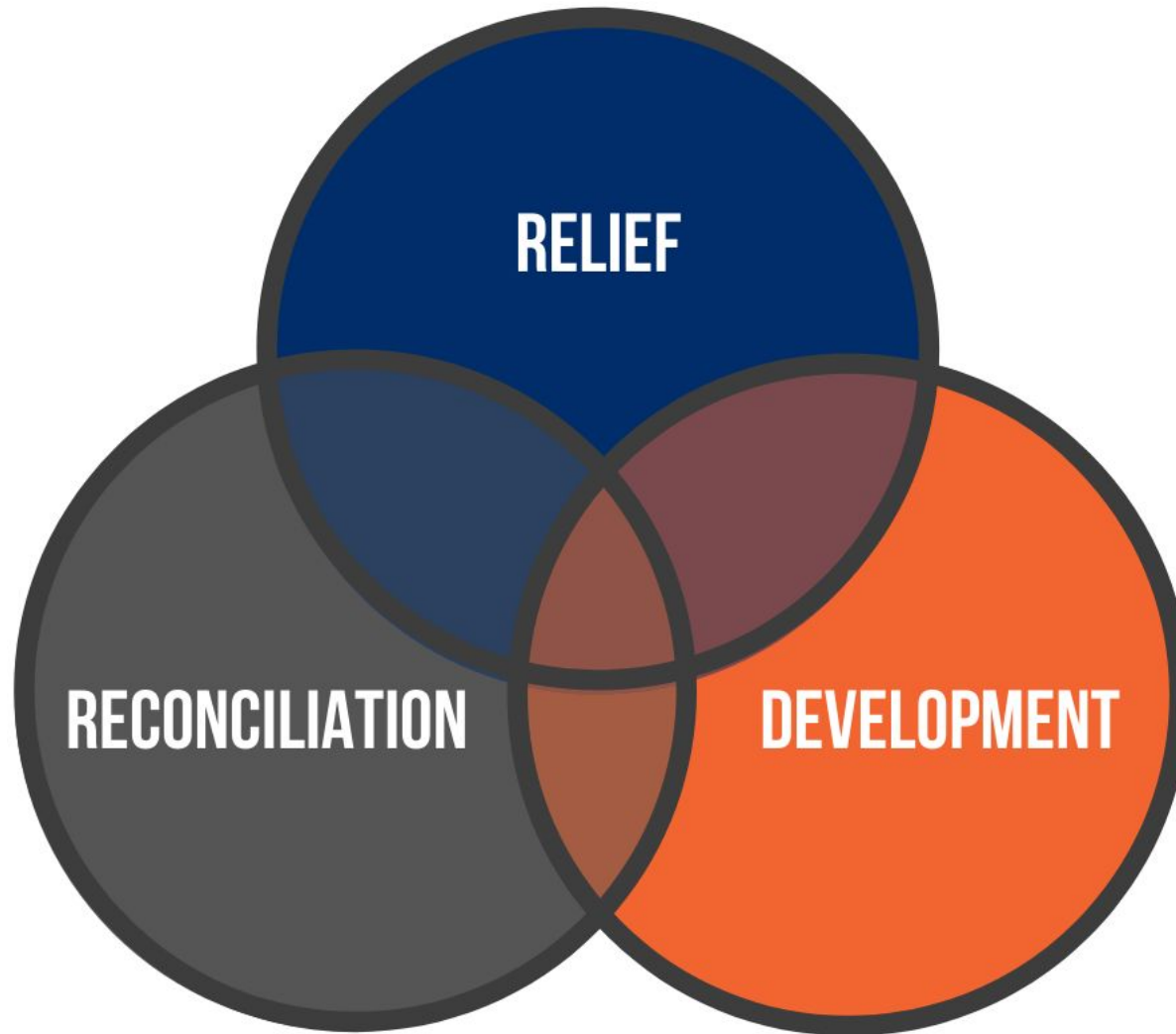
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**ADVANCING COMMUNITY  
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SERVE LOCAL SCHOOLS**



# Community Transformation Model



# Community Transformation Model



## RELIEF:

Meeting immediate needs

*“the urgent, temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering from a natural or man-made crisis”*

*“stopping the bleeding”*

# Community Transformation Model



## RELIEF:

Meeting immediate needs

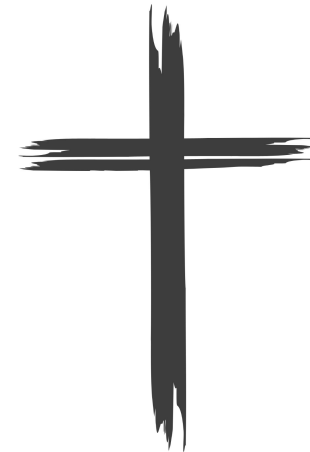
- Food pantry
- Clothes closet
- Address homelessness
- Donate supplies
- Support families in crisis financially



## RECONCILIATION:

### Restoring Relationships

- Reconciled to God through the Gospel
- Reconciled to one another





## RECONCILIATION:

### Restoring Relationships

- Hosting Bible Studies
- Mentoring
- Being an advocate of justice

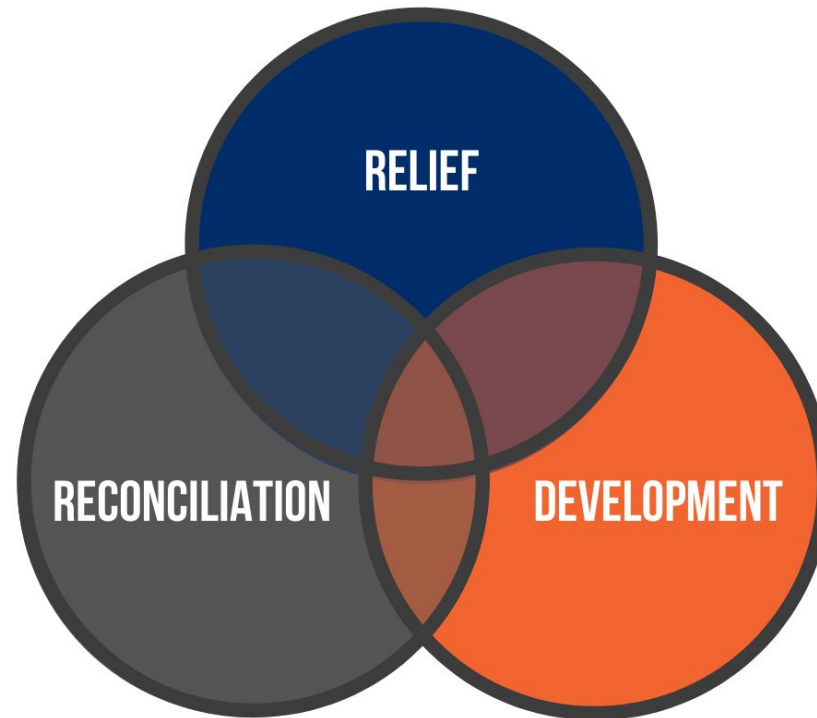


## DEVELOPMENT:

Those you've impacted become those who impact others

- Engage with local businesses to:
  - Start enterprises
  - Train students on marketable skills
  - Employ community members

# Community Transformation Model



*“Providing RELIEF  
gives opportunity for your voice to be heard.”*





## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING:

A family talks to the school counselor about their son needing a mentor. Since the loss of his grandfather, the student has become withdrawn and is failing class and acting out. One of the men from the partner church decides to have lunch with this student twice a month. During their time together, the student begins to open up and see his mentor as more of a listening ear. Over the course of a few months, this student begins to do better in class and seems to be cheering up.

**Which part of the Community Transformation Model is on display here?**

- A. Relief**
- B. Reconciliation**
- C. Development**

*Please type your answers in the chat box.*

# CHURCH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



# Church School Partnerships



A committed relationship between a church and a school in which both parties work together for the well-being and academic success of the students.

# Church School Partnerships



**James Furr**

*Houston Graduate  
School of Theology*

# Church School Partnership Values



# Church School Partnership Values



## HUMILITY:

### Open Arms, No Agenda

- Unconditional love of Jesus
- Respectful of governing authorities  
(*Romans 13*)

# Church School Partnership Values



## EXCELLENCE:

“Do everything with excellence, working with all of our hearts, as working for the Lord, not for man.”

Colossians 3:23



# Church School Partnership Values



## COMMITMENT:

*Strong foundation for a long-term relationship*

- Follow through on commitments
- Build sustainable relationships



## **ASSET-BASED COLLABORATION:**

Recognize and affirm existing assets

- School stakeholders are the experts
- Value parent, educator, and student contributions

# LEGAL GUIDELINES



Church and State © Dan Klein | Flickr

# Legal Guidelines

“Public schools and religious institutions have different missions, but they share many of the same civic and moral values... and each is committed to the well-being of children.

By working together in ways that are permissible under the First Amendment... schools and religious communities can do much to enhance the mission of public education.”

— **First Amendment Center, Vanderbilt University**

## What to do in your partnership:

- Serve as any other community partner would
  - Presence
  - Prayer
  - Participation
  - Promotion

# Legal Guidelines

## What to do in your partnership:

- Advertise church-sponsored activities
- Offer optional faith-based programs outside of school hours

*With permission!*

# Legal Guidelines

## What not to do in your partnership:

- Proselytize or evangelize
- Initiate conversations on religion
- Directly invite children, families, or staff to church



# LEGAL GUIDELINES



Church and State © Dan Klein | Flickr



THE RISK

THE SAFETY SYSTEM ▾

SERVICES ▾

WHO WE SERVE ▾




PRICING

EXPERT LEADERSHIP ▾

LIVE TRAINING


RESOURCES ▾

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\*Though Gregory Love and Kimberlee Norris are both attorneys, the information and training provided by MinistrySafe is not intended to be legal advice and should not be relied upon as legal counsel.

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# CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING:

A retiree from the church commits to serving as a teacher's aid once a week. She floats around to different classrooms helping where needed. She's become close with one of the teachers who is in the process of getting a divorce. They often eat lunch together in the teacher's classroom. During one of their lunches, the teacher breaks down in tears as she shares her struggles with the divorce. The retiree from the church offers her encouragement and asks if the teacher is okay with her praying. They pray together and the aid remains in her class for the rest of the school day.

**True or False: Praying with a teacher during the school day is allowable.**

*Please type your answers in the chat box.*



# PARTNERSHIP PATHWAYS





## DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What are the biggest needs of schools in your district right now?

*(Please type your answers in the chat box.)*

# Partnership Pathways



**HUMILITY  
LISTEN**

# Partnership Pathways



- **Students & Families**
- **Teachers & Students**
- **Goods & Services**

***...start small!***





## Students & Families:

### High Level Commitment

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Christian Clubs
- Praying
- Hosting monthly parenting classes



## Students & Families:

### Occasional Commitment

- Read Aloud classroom guest
- Career Day speaker
- Watch Dogs (opportunity for dads)
- Fill in for Grandparents Day



## Teachers & Staff:

### High Level Commitment

- Weekly prayer support
- Monthly teacher treats
- “Adopt a Classroom”
- Volunteer as a Teacher’s Assistant
- Weekly/monthly word of encouragement



## Teachers & Staff:

### Occasional Commitment

- Substitute teach
- Volunteer for a field trip / special event
- Create “zen dens” for teachers



## Goods & Services:

### High Level Commitment

- Support monthly school initiatives
- Initiate or participate in PTO / PTA
- Update bulletin boards monthly
- Pay musical instrument rental fees
- Pay outstanding lunch balances



## Goods & Services: Occasional Commitment

- Facilities work
- Donations
- Tech Support
- Christmas gifts
- Holiday meals
- Crisis support
- Disaster assistance
- Job support for parents

# Partnership Ideas



***Doing for***  
**to**  
***Being with***

# Race, Politics, and CSPs

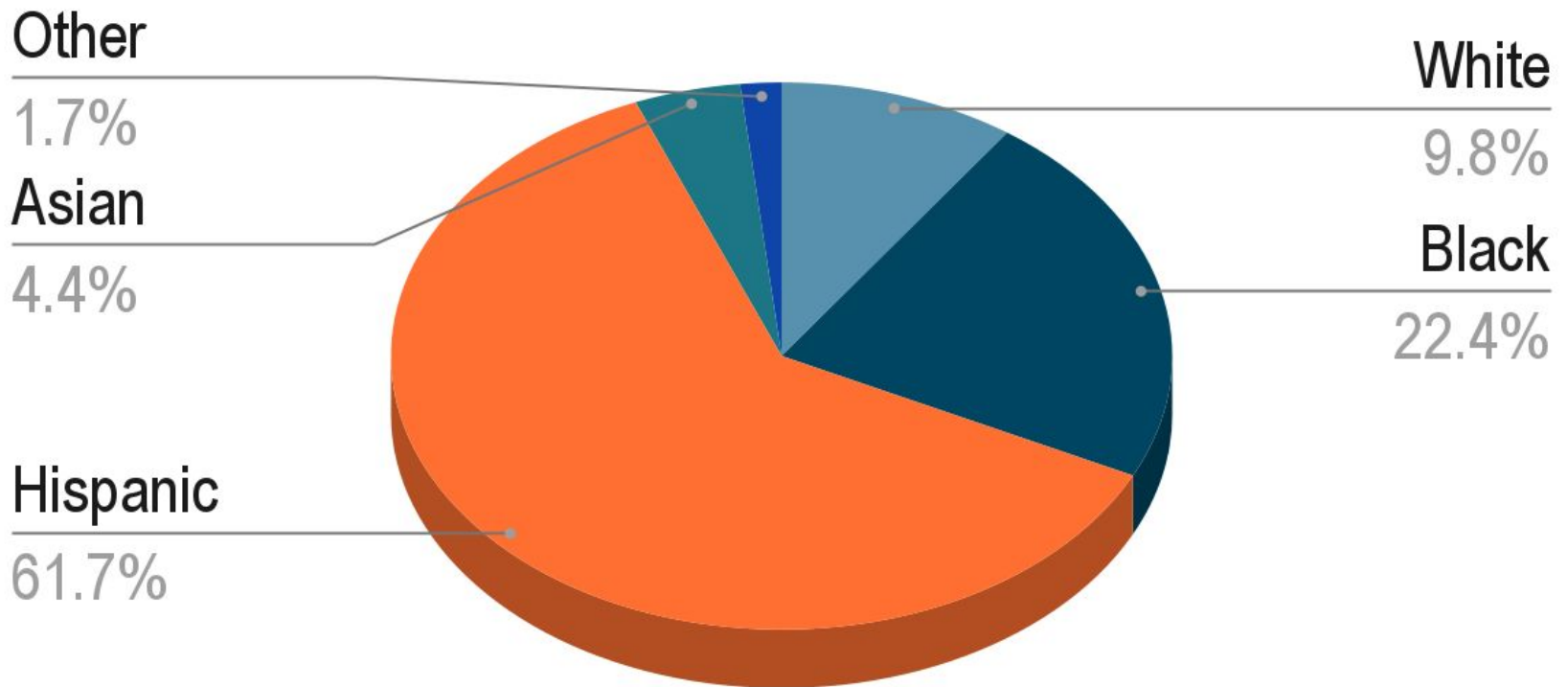




# Race, Politics, and CSPs



## Houston ISD

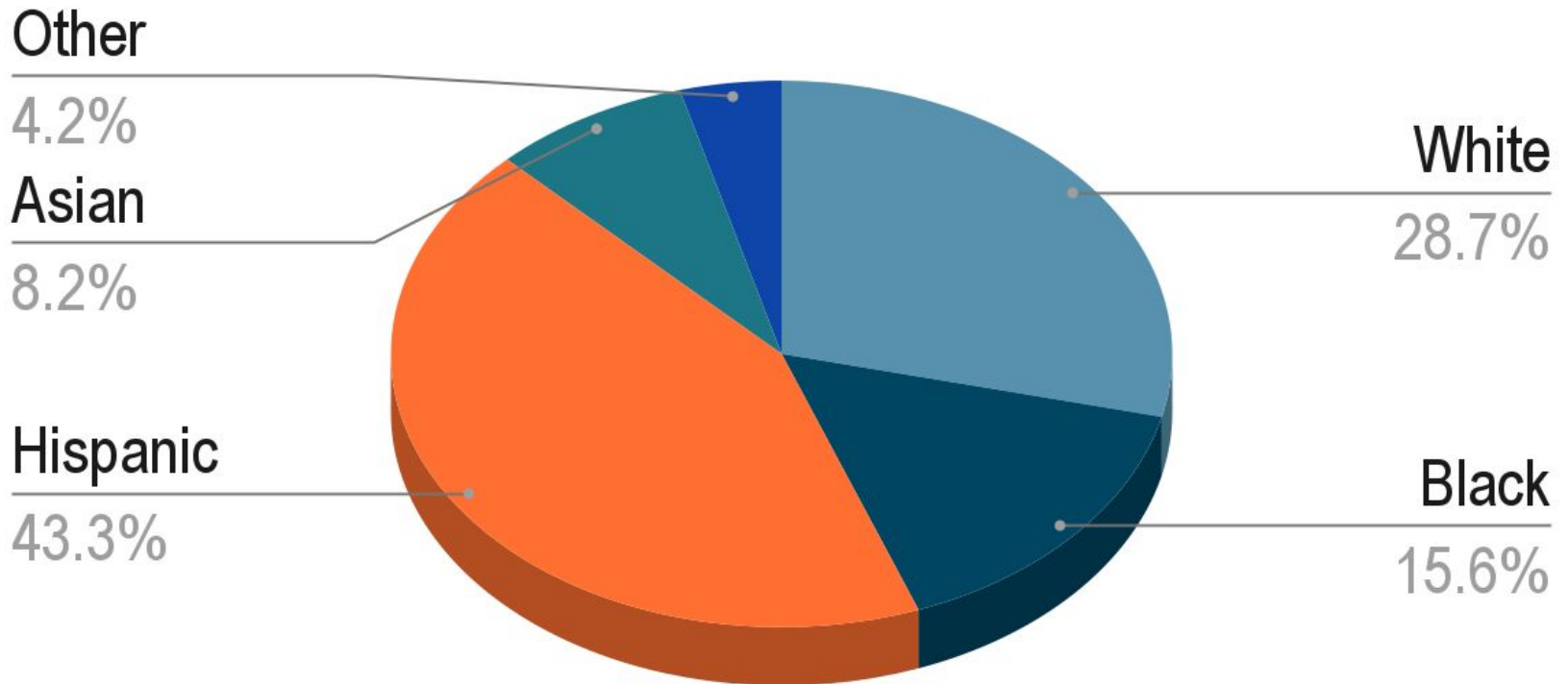


Source: The Texas Tribune

# Race, Politics, and CSPs



## Klein ISD

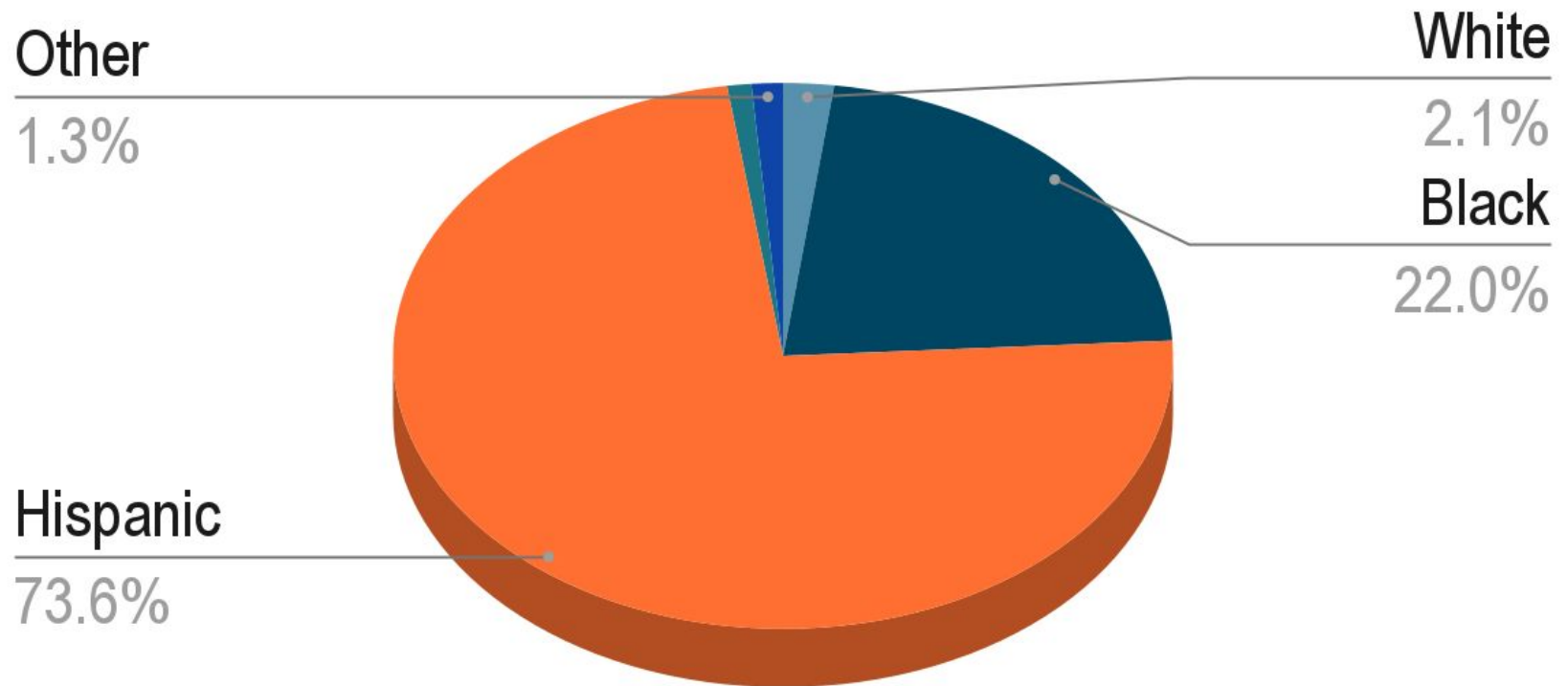


Source: The Texas Tribune

# Race, Politics, and CSPs



## Aldine ISD

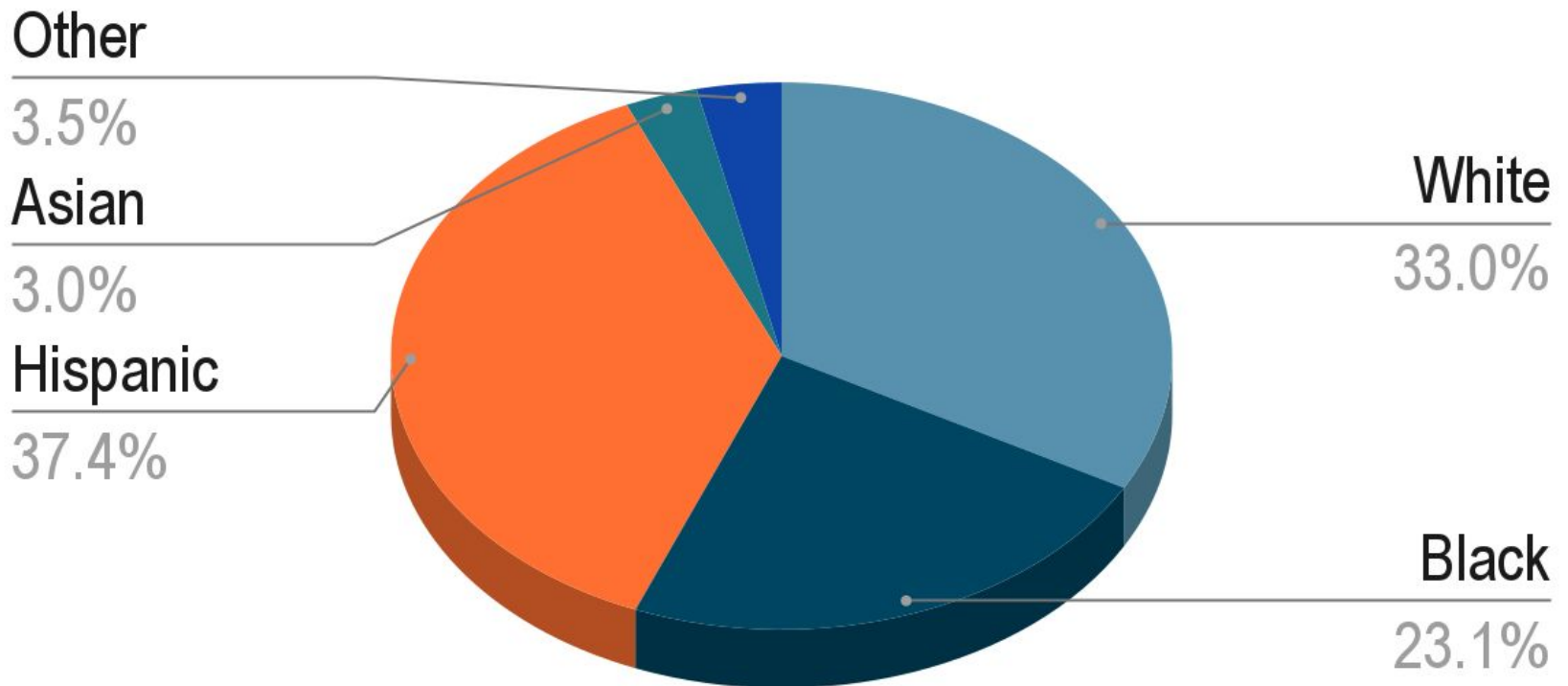


Source: The Texas Tribune

# Race, Politics, and CSPs



## Humble ISD

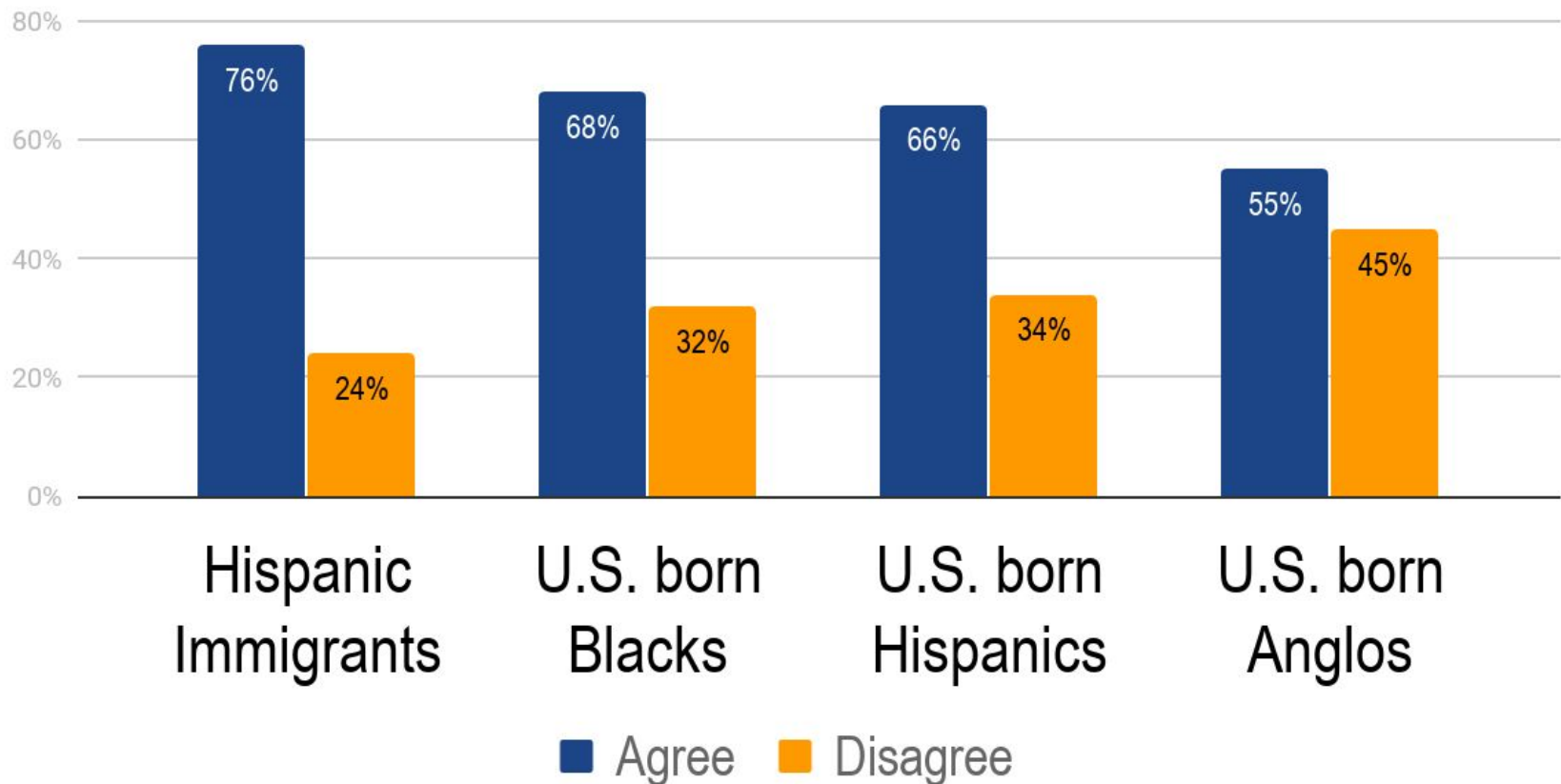


Source: The Texas Tribune

# Case for Action



## Education beyond high school is needed



Source: Kinder Houston Area Survey (2019)

# Race, Politics, and CSPs



## Psalm 133:1-2

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like a precious ointment upon the head, that ran down the beard... down to the skirts of his garments.”





“...and in all thy getting, get an  
**understanding.**”

*Proverbs 4:7*



Misunderstanding  
leads to an inability to see  
true needs.



# NEXT STEPS

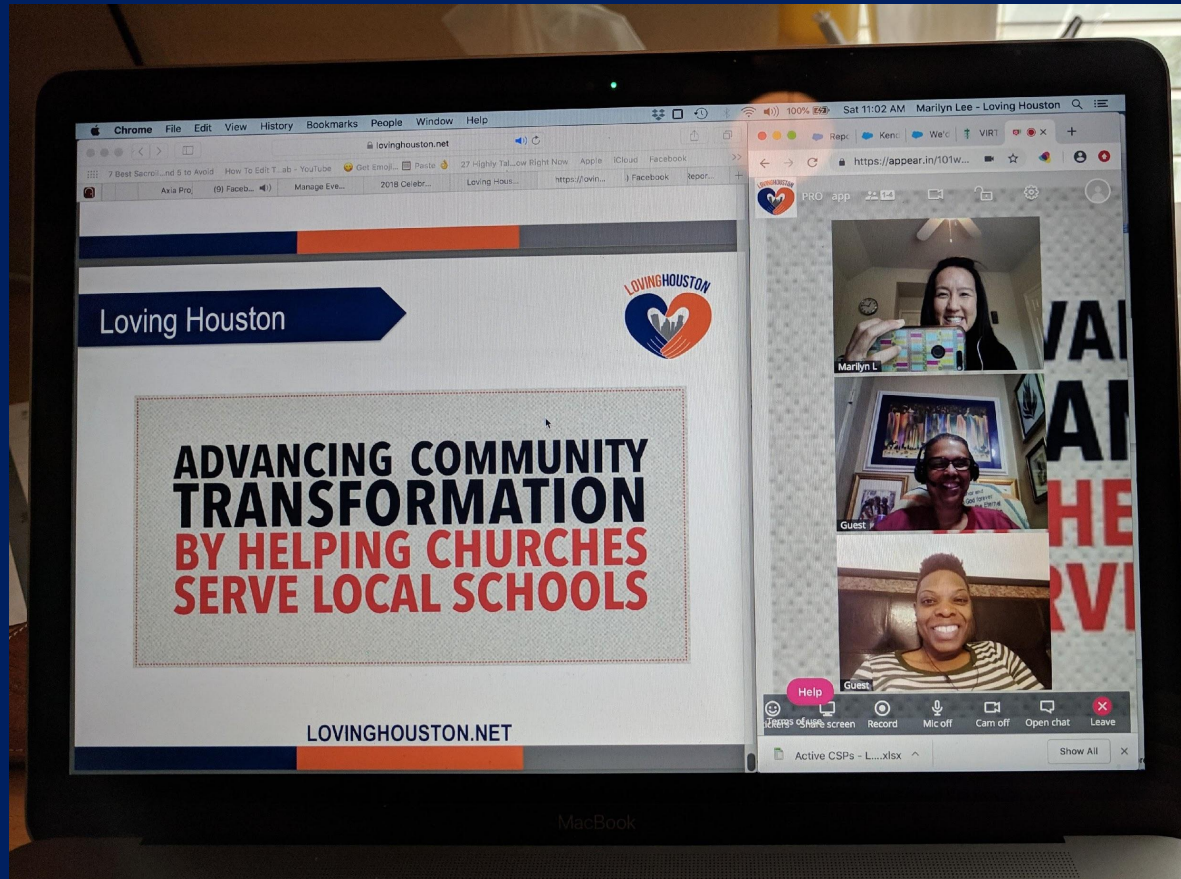


# Next Steps



- ✓ 101 Workshop
- ☐ Action Plan
- ☐ MinistrySafe
- ☐ Partnership Agreement

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



# Additional Resources



## 1. District Coordinators



***[lovinghouston.net/getinvolved](https://lovinghouston.net/getinvolved)***





## 2. Leaders Gatherings



*Dr. Crawford  
Loritts*

THURS 10/27 | 12:00–1:00PM

### CHURCH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP Leaders Gathering

*Pastors and Church Leaders,  
we want to honor you!*

***[lovinghouston.net/calendar](https://lovinghouston.net/calendar)***

# Additional Resources



## 3. Website



Our Mission is to advance community transformation by helping churches serve local schools.

***lovinghouston.net***

# We want to hear from you!



- ☐ Keep us updated so we can celebrate you!
- ☐ Tag us on social media
- ☐ What other churches might be interested?



ANY QUESTIONS?





LET'S PRAY!

Loving Houston



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