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Gift to KIPP Houston provides funding for UIL upgrade to athletic fields in Southwest and North Houston

HOUSTON, TX – November 15, 2011 – The athletic fields in the KIPP Houston North and Southwest campuses will undergo a \$1 million upgrade this Fall courtesy of a gift from the Kinder Foundation. The upgrade will create more green and play space and bring the fields up to the University Interscholastic League (UIL)-sanctioned specifications, allowing the schools to host official middle and high school athletic contests for both boys and girls. Beyond laying sod and new irrigation, the fields will also finally have a scoreboard, bleachers, and lights. With the looming time change, field lights mean that students are able to practice and compete after 5:45 p.m., which is critical for a school that ends the school day at 5:00 p.m.

KIPP sophomore and student athlete Faith Allen appreciates the new field, lights, bleachers, and scoreboard as affirmation that hard work pays off. “We’ve been training and playing on a second-class field. The Kinders recognize that KIPPsters work hard and have earned a field that exemplifies their hard work.”

KIPP Houston Athletic Director Jason Jones points out that, “since KIPP joined UIL, it has become even more critical that we have our own field to allow us to host other high schools and showcase our talents and hospitality on and off the field.”

Mike Feinberg, KIPP’s Co-founder and the Superintendent of KIPP Houston, met Nancy and Rich 10 years ago and remembers “how their commitment to children and passion for Houston’s future shined in the questions they asked about KIPP’s work. Their support over the past decade has helped us be part of the transformative work to ensure all children and families in Houston have the opportunity to choose a terrific public school.”

The Kinder Foundation’s mission is to enrich the lives of people in the Greater Houston area through transformational grants that impact urban green space, education and quality of life. Through the years, the Foundation has supported KIPP primarily through its cornerstone [Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards](#).

About KIPP/KIPP Houston

KIPP, or Knowledge Is Power Program, was co-founded by Teach For America alumni Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin in Houston in 1994. KIPP has grown to a national network of 109 public schools in 20 states and the

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District of Columbia, serving more than 32,000 students. KIPP schools are recognized for narrowing the achievement gap in public education and putting underserved students on the path to college.

KIPP Houston currently operates 20 schools and serves nearly 8,000 students in the city's high-need communities. Ninety-eight percent of KIPP Houston students are African-American or Latino/Hispanic, and 90 percent qualify for the free or reduced price meals program. Since the first KIPP school opened in Houston in 1995, 90 percent of KIPP students, tracked from the 8th grade, have matriculated to college. To learn more, visit www.kiphouston.org.

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