

For Immediate Release

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KIPP HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REOPEN ON SEPTEMBER 7

Support from community helps students and families in need following Hurricane Harvey

HOUSTON, TX – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – KIPP Houston Public Schools will welcome students back to campus at all of their 28 public charter schools on Thursday, September 7. KIPP Houston will provide on-campus counseling to meet the emotional needs of students and staff as needed.

“We have inspected all of our school buildings, and they are safe and ready to receive students,” explains KIPP Houston Superintendent Sehba Ali. “Re-opening schools means that we can offer our students—many of whom have experienced incredible trauma over the past two weeks—a structured and caring environment to help them recover and regain a sense of normalcy.”

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, KIPP Houston created a [Family Emergency Fund](#) to provide direct aid to students and families, both on an emergency basis and in the long term. To distribute needed supplies, KIPP Houston will also run and staff free pantries on each campus to distribute donated food, clothing and supplies to families, staff, and community members in need.

People in Houston and across the country are stepping up to support KIPP Houston’s recovery. Last weekend, members of the Houston Police Department and St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska delivered truckloads full of useful items for families in need. Faculty members from KIPP schools in New York, New Jersey, Austin, San Antonio, and other cities across the KIPP national network will travel to Houston for the opening days of school. The volunteers will include school counselors, teachers, and school leaders who will support the efforts in the schools and pantries. The Relay Graduate School of Education is also supplying extra staff to help re-open schools.

“We are grateful to all those who have given money and time to help get Houston back on its feet – both locally and nationwide,” said KIPP Co-Founder Mike Feinberg. “We are committed to assisting our KIPP Houston team and family and the city to rebuild and thrive.”

KIPP Houston Public Schools will control the number of media at its schools to ensure a smooth transition for students and teachers. Journalists interested in visiting a KIPP Houston school on or after September 7 should contact Ieesha Collins at 832-581-7298, icollins@kipphouston.org.

About KIPP Houston Public Schools

KIPP was founded in Houston in 1994 and has since grown to 209 public charter schools in 20 states and D.C. educating 88,000 children. Houston is KIPP’s largest region and educates 14,500 students in 28 schools and serves an additional 2,300 alumni in college and beyond. While only 10.6 percent of students from low-income communities in Houston graduate from college, 50 percent of KIPPsters, tracked from the 8th grade, graduate college. www.kipphouston.org

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