



NEWS RELEASE

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H.P.A.R.D., H.I.S.D. and the Houston Dynamo Team Up to Combat Childhood Obesity

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.), Houston Dynamo, and the Houston Independent School District (H.I.S.D.) are kicking up some fun to fight childhood obesity by launching its second year of Soccer for Success at Houston area schools, thanks to a U.S. Soccer Foundation Impact Grant. Houston is just one of five U.S. cities to receive a grant from the U.S. Soccer Foundation to help combat childhood obesity in underprivileged communities.

The Dynamo, U.S. Soccer Foundation, H.P.A.R.D., and H.I.S.D. representatives will launch the year's program with the help of Patrick Henry School students at 11:15 a.m. with an opening day press conference. The fun kicks up a notch at 3:30 p.m. when Dynamo Midfielder Corey Ashe and the Dynamo Street Team show kids some cool soccer moves during their first Soccer for Success after-school practice. The day's events aim to recognize September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, keep kids engaged in positive after school activities, raise awareness of the problem of childhood obesity and showcase the part youth sports programs can play in the fight against childhood obesity.

Soccer for Success launches the week of September 27 at 19 middle and elementary school sites in the Houston area. The program is open to students in grades 3 – 8 and will be offered twice a week for eight weeks in the fall, and then again for a second eight weeks in the spring. Registration is still available to interested students who should contact their school for registration information.

The program's goal is to offer children the opportunity to play FREE, organized soccer in a safe environment after school. The after-school concept keeps students engaged in positive, healthy activities during the crucial 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. hours.

The Soccer for Success program is made possible through a partnership between H.P.A.R.D., H.I.S.D., Houston Dynamo and Dynamo Charities, U.S. Soccer Foundation, and area sponsors. Sponsors include: the U.S. Soccer Foundation; HEB; The Garth Brooks Teammates for Kids Foundation; Yellow Cab/Taxis Fiesta; Minute Maid; and ChocoMilk.

Participating schools include:

Participating H.I.S.D. Elementary Schools Participating H.I.S.D. Middle Schools

1) Bruce

1) McReynolds

- 2) DeZavala
- 3) Raul Martinez
- 4) Nat Q. Henderson
- 5) Scott
- 6) Scroggins
- 7) Jefferson
- 8) Valley West
- 9) Holland
- 10) Ridgecrest
- 11) Westwood
- 12) Patterson
- 13) Doggan

- 2) Fleming
- 3) Holland
- 4) Marshall
- 5) Patrick Henry

Participating N.F.I.S.D. Elementary Schools

- 14) Shady Dale
- 15) Fonwood

Last school year, Soccer for Success served 1,416 students in 21 H.I.S.D. schools. Soccer for Success is offered FREE of charge and all equipment, instructors, and program incentives, like the Soccer for Success Day with Dynamo Midfielder Corey Ashe, are provided through the generous support of our collaborators and sponsors.