E-SPLOST

FOR SCHOOLS

MARCH 1, 2016

HOUSTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

What is an E-SPLOST?

- An Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is a one-cent sales tax that lasts a maximum of five years or until the established cap is reached.
- It is not a tax increase, not an additional tax, and not a property tax.
- It would be a continuation of the current sales tax.
- By law, E-SPLOST funds must be used for capital outlay projects for educational purposes or to make payments on bonds, but not for operating expenses, such as salaries.

What is an E-SPLOST?

- E-SPLOST is an equitable sales tax shared by *all* who purchase in Houston County, including the numerous visitors.
- It is a way to fund educational improvements that everyone contributes to, not just property owners.
- Houston County voters have approved 4 E-SPLOST votes: 1997-2001, 2002-2007, 2007-2012 and 2012-2017.
- The current E-SPLOST expires March 31, 2017.
- The referendum asks to continue the E-SPLOST for 5 years or until a cap of $135 million is reached.

Have other E-SPLOSTs been successful? Yes!

- Since 2002, E-SPLOST funds have added a total of 1,647,965 square feet and 720 classrooms, in addition to renovating more than 1,000,000 square feet of instructional space.

- During the current E-SPLOST, technology was significantly improved, safety and security were enhanced, and facility needs were addressed.

- Every school in the system has been improved in some way.

What has the current E-SPLOST accomplished?

- **Technology:**
  - Added interactive boards, projectors, computers, and document cameras systemwide
  - Replaced obsolete computers and software
  - Added mobile laptop labs to every school
  - Significant upgrade to network infrastructure
  - Purchased student information system, Infinite Campus, and financial system, MUNIS

- **Security upgrades** - secured entrances provided for 22 schools and cameras added to all 39 campuses

What has the current E-SPLOST accomplished?

- **Facilities:**
  - Built CB Watson Primary School
  - Built Langston Road Elementary School
  - Installed new HVAC systems at 16 sites
  - Renovated Pearl Stephens Elementary (formerly Linwood Elementary)
  - Renovated McConnell-Talbert Stadium
  - Removed and replaced ~320,000 sq. ft. of tile and carpet
  - Major renovation underway at Houston County High
  - New stadium is under construction

E-SPLOST Priorities 2017-2022

★Safety and Security

★Facilities

★Technology

★Instructional Materials

★Transportation

Safety & Security

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Safety & Security

All schools would benefit.

- ★ Replace security cameras with better technology at all 39 campuses and support facilities.
- ★ Replace intrusion alarms at all 39 campuses and support facilities.
- ★ Replace obsolete fire protection equipment at 31 schools and other sites.
- ★ Improve parking and traffic flow at 11 schools.

Facilities

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Facilities Today

- 39 campuses with 4,191,578 square feet
- 10 support facilities with 371,020 square feet
- Average building – 30 years old
- Used by more than 28,500 students and ~4,000 employees
- Added 773 classrooms, 1/3 of total classrooms, since 2002
- Extensive use of facilities requires a great amount of maintenance
- As buildings and associated systems age, cost and ability to maintain becomes too costly, resulting in need to renovate

Facilities Plan

- ★ Build and furnish one new elementary school.
- ★ Construct & improve athletic facilities at all 5 high schools.
- ★ Renovate theatres at Northside High, Perry High and Houston County High.
- ★ Add multi-purpose building to Northside High.
- ★ Build classroom addition and multi-purpose gym at Veterans High.
- ★ Re-roof the Houston County Career Academy.
- ★ Upgrade HVAC at 8 schools.

Technology

World-Class Tools for World-Class Teachers

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Technology

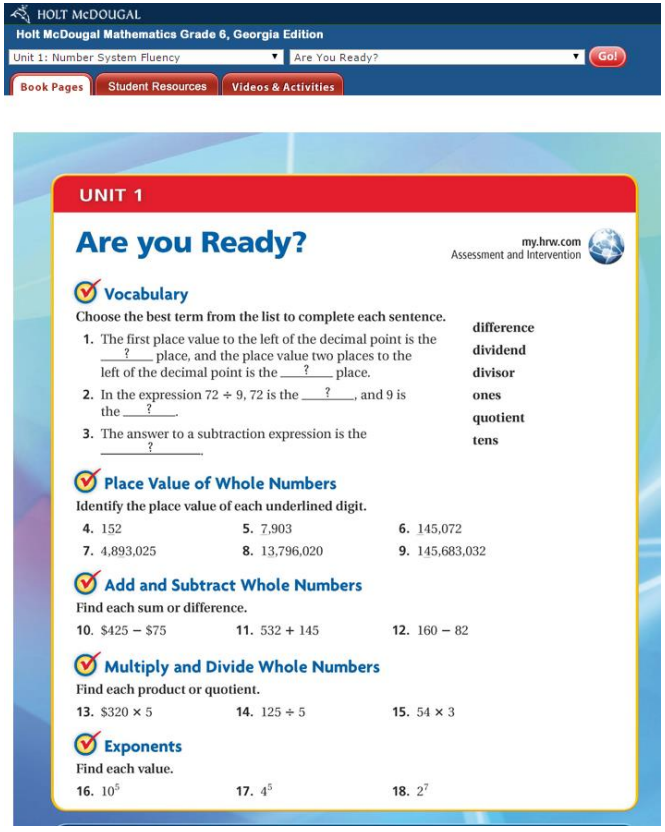
All schools would benefit.

- Support teaching and learning by providing quality digital resources.

- Continuously refresh, replace and upgrade existing classroom technology to include hardware and software.

Technology

★ Electronic materials, such as interactive digital textbooks, would be developed in line with standards and posted on our website.



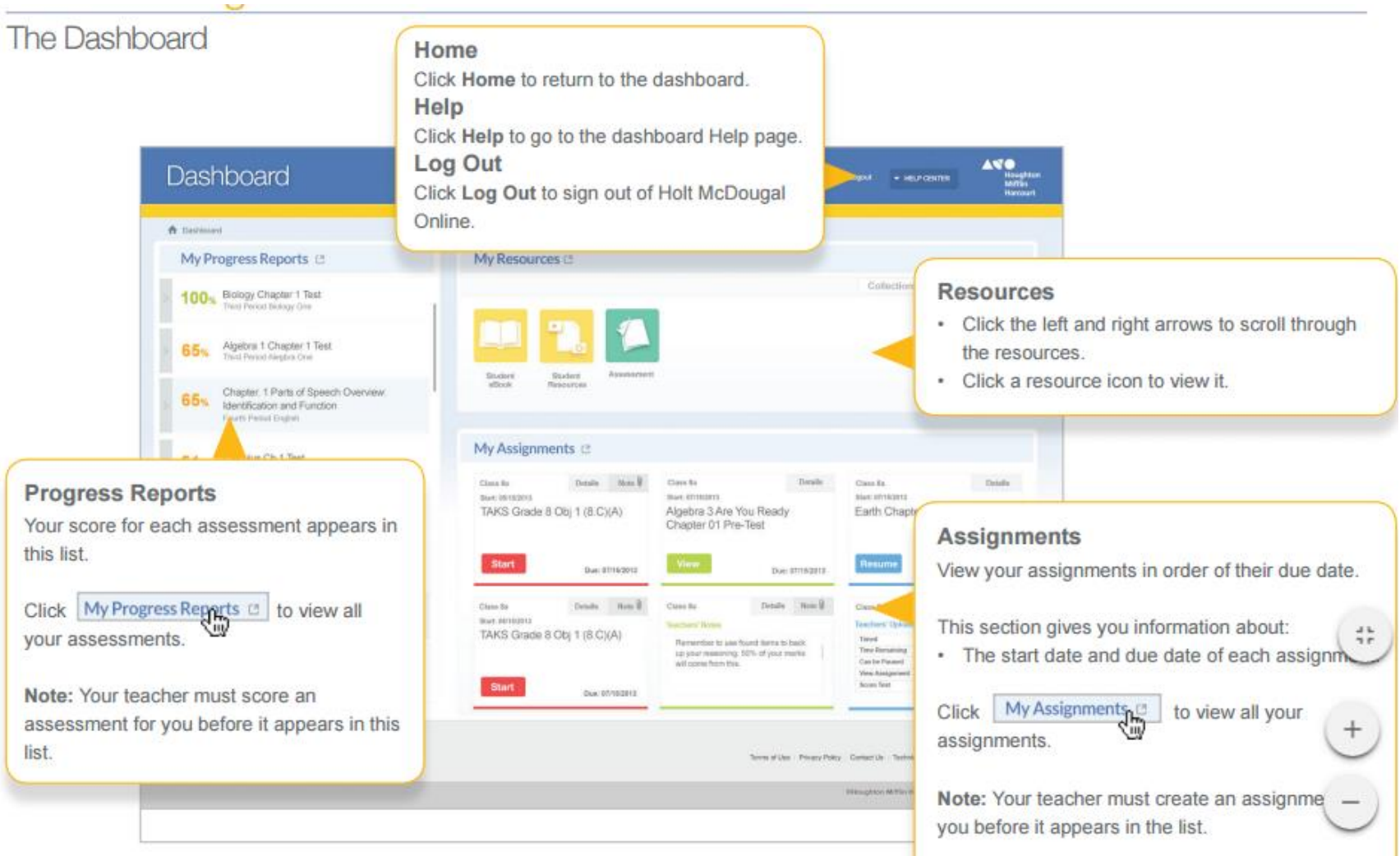
★ Examples of digital textbooks:

★ http://my.hrw.com/ (User name: ESPLOST2017; Password: ESPLOST2017)

★ http://ces.hcbe.net/?PageName=bc&n=186880

Digital Resources

★ Home page of digital texts we currently use, my.hrw.com



Instructional Materials

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Instructional Materials

All schools would benefit.

- ★ Provide instructional materials such as digital resources and traditional textbooks.

- ★ Explore additional virtual school opportunities.

FOR SCHOOLS

Transportation

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Transportation

The entire system would benefit from new buses.

- ★ Need school buses to safely and adequately transport students
- ★ 65% of buses over 10 years old - average age is 12.5 years
- ★ Buses driven total of more than 3 million miles a year
- ★ Demand increasing as student population increases on average of approximately 300 students a year
- ★ Local costs increasing since state currently pays only approximately 14% of total transportation cost

E-SPLOST Vote March 1, 2016

- Must be registered to vote by **Feb. 1, 2016**
- Early voting offered at 3 locations:
  - Board of Elections, Feb. 8-26
  - Houston Health Pavilion Conference Center, Feb. 16-26
  - Central Georgia Technical College, Feb. 16-26

E-SPLOST Vote March 1, 2016

- Final opportunity to vote: **March 1, 2016**
- To find out where you vote, visit Secretary of State's *My Voter Page*, http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do
- For voting questions, call Board of Elections at 478.987.1973

For more information, visit the HCBOE E-SPLOST website, www.hcbe.net/ESPLOST.

Thank you for your support of our schools!