



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goose Creek students to drive Baytown's plans

Goose Creek CISD high-schoolers are about to participate in a golden opportunity - the chance to give their opinions to local leaders.

Starting this month, each Goose Creek high school students will have the opportunity to participate in a survey asking about their hopes, dreams and expectations for the future of their community. The results, when compiled, will provide Baytown's leaders and decision makers with teen input on everything from entertainment and education, to economic development and job needs. It's all part of an unprecedented collaboration by local government, educators, area business leaders and students.

Unlike other youth surveys which poll a cross-section of the population, this survey will take into consideration the opinions of approximately 10,000 teens in our community.

"We're so excited about this project," said Kristie Kenny, a senior at Ross S. Sterling High School, and Youth Advisory Council member. "The information we collect will drive decisions of both government and business for years to come."

She added that the committee has researched what other cities have done to get involved their youth in the planning process, and didn't find any other community who asked every teen in town to participate. "It's our chance to share our community vision with the people who have the ability to make it happen. We intend to be very thorough."

The City of Baytown's Youth Advisory Committee developed the survey. Made up of area teens, the committee designed to make Baytown more youth-friendly has in the past limited their impact to teen dances and social events. Determined to have a more important role in government current members of the YAC decided to embark on an ambitious project with lasting effect. They engaged the help of community leaders that includes City Council, Goose Creek Board members, the Chamber of Commerce, local business leaders, and the City's Economic Development Foundation. Although the survey is youth driven, each stakeholder contributed to the survey's 60 plus questions. The survey will be administered in the area's three public high schools and online for private or home-schooled students.

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