

## **Harmony Public Schools and *60 Minutes*: Setting the Record Straight Statement for News Media**

The *60 Minutes* segment referencing Harmony Public Schools of Texas had factual errors and may have created inaccurate impressions. The following facts about Harmony Public Schools were shared with *60 Minutes* before the show was broadcast:

- HPS operates charter schools in Texas only.
- HPS are non-profit, open enrollment, Texas public schools, free to all students living in their respective independent school districts or surrounding districts.
- HPS is overseen by the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of Education, and follows the same rules and regulations as any other public school in Texas.
- HPS are not part of a national network of charter schools.
- HPS are not affiliated in any way with any religious or political organizations, including the so-called Gulen movement.
- HPS do not teach religion in any form.
- Approximately 16 percent of HPS teachers are on H-1B temporary work visas due to the well-documented shortage of qualified math and science teachers in the U.S. These teachers go through a rigorous, multiple agency U.S-government visa process before being approved to teach in the U.S.
- Of the more than 1,800 HPS employees, we have two teachers on H-1B temporary work visas who teach English. Both are graduates of an English language or literature program, and meet state and federal definitions of being “highly-qualified” to teach.
- The former teacher from Ohio who alleged that her husband was required to give a portion of his paycheck to an unnamed organization has never had any association with HPS whatsoever.
- In addition to having two schools ranked in Newsweek’s 2011 list of [“Top 500” High Schools in America](#) and [“Ten Miracle High Schools,”](#) three HPS campuses made *U.S. News & World Report’s* [“Best High Schools 2012 Rankings.”](#)

The philosophy of HPS is: Excellence is our standard, we expect every student to perform to the highest standards, and we believe that every child can achieve excellence in the classroom, and in life, if we nurture, develop and challenge them.