



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Houston A+ Challenge Joins the CHILDREN AT RISK Team**

*Two nonprofits merge to continue serving the growing needs of Texas children*

**HOUSTON, TX (September 9, 2022)** – CHILDREN AT RISK (C@R), a statewide nonpartisan research and advocacy nonprofit for Texas children, is happy to announce its merger with Houston A+ Challenge (Houston A+), a Houston-based nonprofit that provides coaching services to help public schools, district leaders, principals, and most importantly, teachers. Both nonprofits work tirelessly to be the catalyst for change Texas children need and are now combining efforts to increase the impact of their work to improve the public education system.

“Houston A+ Challenge has done so much impactful work in our public schools and this merger gives us the chance to expand on our great work, allowing every child the opportunity to be successful,” said Dr. Bob Sanborn, president and CEO of CHILDREN AT RISK. “Public education plays a big role in breaking the cycle of poverty, and nine out of 10 students in the Greater Houston Area attend public schools.”

“We are excited to join the CHILDREN AT RISK team and use this opportunity to combine our resources and talents to build more positive outcomes for students,” said Tom Monaghan, executive director of Houston A+ Challenge.

Since 1997, Houston A+ Challenge has led an experienced, interconnected team of professional coaches to give school administrators, specialists, and teachers the tools they need to maintain a focus on student learning and academic growth. To date, they have served over 250,000 students and continue to grow. Monaghan joined Houston A+ in 2010. Four years ago, he was promoted to executive director and in addition to leading the organization, continues to be a leadership coach for principals and assistant principals. Monaghan spent 28 years working and leading public schools in Houston ISD.

Founded in 1989, CHILDREN AT RISK has spent over 32 years advocating for the whole child, working in the areas of education, health and nutrition, family well-being, immigration and anti-trafficking efforts to improve equity and justice for all Texas families. With this merger, Houston A+ will join the C@R team, while continuing their work to improve educational outcomes for Texas students. C@R will continue to use the tools of research, collaboration, and advocacy to make a greater impact for Texas children with Houston A+ Challenge’s support.

“CHILDREN AT RISK has been a strong supporter of the work of Houston A+ Challenge for many years. We are excited now to bring together two organizations with long traditions of working and advocating for Texas children,” said Donald Bowers, chairman of the CHILDREN AT RISK Board of Directors. “By combining together, we can go farther in achieving our missions of creating systemic change and better outcomes for our children.”

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### **About Houston A+ Challenge**

Houston A+ Challenge works with public schools to strengthen instruction and leadership through consulting, on-campus coaching, leadership academies, professional development workshops, and more. The coaches provide highly individualized feedback, guidance, and support to professionals who fulfill a variety of roles in public education, including teachers, school, and district leaders. Houston A+ Challenge’s mission is to make

schools better for every student and education stakeholders, and to put actionable information in the hands of policymakers.

### **About CHILDREN AT RISK**

CHILDREN AT RISK is a research and advocacy nonprofit leading the way in improving the quality of life for Texas children. CHILDREN AT RISK considers the whole child and educates the community and public officials based on its groundbreaking research *Growing Up In Houston* which tracks children's health, safety, education, and economic security. Committed to action beyond the data, CHILDREN AT RISK drives evidence-based change by speaking out on behalf of children. For more information, visit [childrenatrisk.org](http://childrenatrisk.org), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).