

Dear parents, families, teachers, and staff of Houston ISD:

I'm writing to share information about my recent decision to appoint a Board of Managers of Houstonians to temporarily replace the district's elected Board of Trustees.

As a parent myself, I know that most families will immediately wonder how this decision will impact their own children. Educators will be asking: what does this mean for my school, for all our schools, for our students? Many students in Houston ISD are truly flourishing, and the district operates several of the highest performing schools in the state. But there are a large number of students in Houston who have not been given the support necessary to succeed. The decision I have made is neither a reflection of the incredible students in Houston ISD nor of the hard-working teachers and staff of HISD. It is a decision about necessary changes to the structure of support provided from the district's governing team. My goal is to ensure that what is great about Houston ISD continues to be great. And where there have been more significant shortcomings, more support is provided.

This week's decision does not create any immediate changes in the district. Instead, the [letter](#) I sent to the Houston ISD Board this week marks the beginning of a process. Over the next few months, my focus will be to [recruit a group of Houstonians](#) to serve on a Board of Managers. They will then take responsibility for governing the district for a period of time. I am committed to appointing a Board of Managers of Houstonians who have a firm belief that all children can learn and achieve at high levels when properly supported, and who will work together to ensure that support is provided.

This decision is required by state laws meant to ensure school boards take steps necessary to support all students. In addition to a Board of Managers, state law also requires that I appoint a superintendent. Until the announcement of a Board and superintendent is made later this year, current district leadership will remain in place. I am thankful the district's current superintendent, Millard House II, will continue serving the students, teachers, staff, and families of Houston ISD with my full support during this transition.

I know that parents and teachers have high expectations for their children. My role as Commissioner of Education is to maintain high expectations for school boards. In Houston ISD, despite good intentions from many, gaps in learning were allowed for some students for far too long, and some teachers were left without adequate support from the district. As we move forward, this will change as we work together to serve students and families better.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath
Commissioner of
Education