



# TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## **TSTA: Mike Morath should be replaced with a teacher on new study commission**

The Texas State Teachers Association today asked Governor Greg Abbott to replace Mike Morath with a school teacher on a new commission that will study alternatives to standardized testing. The commission was created by House Bill 2804 last spring, and the Legislature did not include the commissioner of education as a member of the commission.

The governor on Monday appointed Morath, a Dallas ISD trustee, as the new state education commissioner, only a few weeks after naming him to chair the new Texas Commission on the Next Generation of Assessment and Accountability. That panel is charged with recommending to the next session of the Legislature a possible replacement for the STAAR testing regime.

“Mike Morath will be involved with this study and many other tasks as the state’s new education commissioner,” said TSTA President Noel Candelaria. “He should step down from the study panel and give the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House an opportunity to correct a critical oversight by appointing a teacher – a real classroom expert – to the commission that will study a more effective way of measuring student success.”

“No teacher was appointed to the study commission when it initially was named a few weeks ago,” Candelaria pointed out. “A teacher can bring a critical perspective to a panel that is now top-heavy with school board members and administrators. Teachers know we don’t have standardized students and know first-hand the futility of trying to measure their success with standardized tests.”