



TSTA NEWS

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TSTA: State takeover is an injustice to HISD students and educators

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement:

The Texas Education Agency's takeover of Houston ISD is an injustice to HISD students and educators, especially at a time when the locally elected board, its administrators and its teachers have been scoring marked improvements in student progress.

Since 2019, when TEA began taking steps toward the takeover, HISD voters have replaced board members who were accused of misconduct. Under new leadership, the hard work of students and educators has reduced the number of campuses with a D or an F rating from 50 to 10.

HISD's nearly 200,000 students, their parents and other taxpayers have a lot invested in HISD, including the futures of these children. To continue the district's progress, it is important for these parents and taxpayers to remain in control of their students' educations through their ability to keep electing school board members who will remain accountable to them.

They will lose that control when their elected board members are replaced with board members handpicked by the unelected state education commissioner. The commissioner is not responsible to HISD parents and taxpayers. He is responsible only to Gov. Greg Abbott, whose top education priority is taking millions of dollars in tax money from HISD and other public-school districts and transferring it to unregulated private schools.

Abbott is less interested in supporting HISD and other public schools than he is in privatizing them.

Another problem with the state takeover is the flawed law and state accountability system under which it has been ordered. Real progress in HISD is being disrupted because too many students failed to pass STAAR, a high-stakes standardized test that isn't — and never has been — an accurate measure of student progress.