



# HOUSTON NEWS

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## **HEA: HISD teachers are ready to work with Supt. Miles, but more state funding is essential**

Houston Education Association President Michelle Williams released the following statement:

Houston ISD teachers are ready to work with the new superintendent, Mike Miles, to continue the student improvement that had begun before the state takeover. But Supt. Miles also must work with educators, not bully them as he often did when he was superintendent of Dallas ISD.

Requiring teachers to go through a reapplication and interview process to keep their jobs is the wrong focus. The problems in HISD are systemic and rooted in the historic failure of the governor and the Legislature to provide enough funding, not only for classroom resources but also for the health care and other support services that most HISD students need to have a chance at success. Even with a record, \$33 billion revenue surplus during the recent legislative session, Gov. Greg Abbott and the legislative majority refused to even increase the basic funding allotment that all school districts — and especially HISD — must have.

Supt. Miles most recently served as CEO of a charter school network, and state Education Commissioner Mike Morath, who appointed him to lead HISD, is a charter promoter. But converting HISD campuses to charter schools — if that possibility is being contemplated — isn't the answer. The starting point must be more state funding for HISD's existing campuses and more funding for students' essential life needs.