Texas Education Agency

Commissioner Mike Morath

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Certified Mail
& Regular Mail

204-904
2019-2020

November 6, 2019

Mr. Rick Hartley, Superintendent
Ms. Susan Bailes, Board President
Shepherd Independent School District
1401 S. Byrd Ave.
Shepherd, TX 77371

RE: Appointment of Board of Managers and Conservator Due to Campus Performance Ratings

Dear Mr. Hartley and Ms. Bailes:

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify Shepherd Independent School District ("ISD" or "district") that pursuant to the requirements contained in Texas Education Code (Tex. Educ. Code) §39A.111, I am ordering the appointment of a board of managers as provided by Tex. Educ. Code §39A.202. Additionally, I am appointing a conservator to the district pursuant to the authority in Tex. Educ. Code §§39A.002(7), 39A.051(a) and 39A.102(b), and 19 Texas Administrative Code (Tex. Admin. Code) §§ 97.1059, 97.1065(c) and 97.1073.

Campus Performance Ratings

In 2015, Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate were assigned a final academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required*. This was the campuses' first unacceptable rating following a 2014 rating of Met Standard. The rating of Improvement Required was the lowest rating in the accountability system. Shepherd Intermediate was required to develop and submit a Targeted Improvement Plan[1].

In 2016, Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate were assigned a final academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required*. This was the campuses' second consecutive

[1] Shepherd Primary is an Early Education to 2nd grade campus and therefore must be paired with either a campus in the district or the district for accountability purposes. Shepherd ISD has paired Shepherd Primary with Shepherd Intermediate since 2015. Shepherd Intermediate submits improvement plans that encompass both campuses.

unacceptable rating. Shepherd Intermediate was required to develop and submit a Targeted Improvement Plan and develop a Campus Turnaround Plan.

In 2017, Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate were assigned a final academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required*. This was the campuses' third consecutive unacceptable rating. Shepherd Intermediate was required to develop and submit a Turnaround Implementation Plan.

In 2018, Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate were assigned a final academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required*. This was the campuses' fourth consecutive unacceptable rating. Shepherd Intermediate was required to develop and submit a Turnaround Implementation Plan and the campus engaged in the Effective Schools Framework Diagnostic in the Spring of 2019.

On August 15, 2019, Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate were assigned a preliminary academic accountability rating of *F*. This was the campuses' fifth consecutive unacceptable rating. Shepherd Intermediate is required to develop and submit a Turnaround Implementation Plan. Consequently, I am required to take action pursuant to Tex. Educ. Code § 39A.111, and I am ordering the appointment of a board of managers[2].

Appointment of Board of Managers

As you are aware, on September 3, 2019, I notified the district that if the unacceptable 2019 preliminary academic performance rating assigned to the Shepherd Primary campus and Shepherd Intermediate campus became a final rating, I would be required to order either the appointment of a board of managers to govern the district as provided by Tex. Educ. Code §39A.202 or closure of the campus. The district appealed the preliminary performance rating assigned to Shepherd Intermediate and, on November 5, 2019, the district was notified of the appeal denial and that Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate received a final 2019 academic performance rating of *F*, the fifth consecutive unacceptable rating assigned to the campuses, and the third unacceptable rating assigned to the campuses after Shepherd Intermediate was ordered to submit a turnaround plan. Consequently, I am required to take action pursuant to Tex. Educ. Code §39A.111, and I am ordering the appointment of a board of managers.

The long-standing failure of the board of trustees to provide better educational opportunities to the students of this campus, compel me to appoint a board of managers pursuant to Tex. Educ. Code §§39A.111(1), and 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1061(g). This action is necessary because the Agency's systems for campus accountability have identified the board of trustees' material deficiencies and inability to implement effective change to improve the performance of students assigned to the campus. See 19 Tex. Admin Code §§ 97.1057(f)(4) and 97.1059(b)(1)(G). These deficiencies have been persistent and long-standing. The SISD Board of Trustees has allowed this campus to operate without an acceptable performance rating since 2015, earning 5 consecutive unacceptable ratings. The district-level failures to address the campus performance compels me to appoint a Board of Managers. See 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1059(d).

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[2] An unacceptable performance rating includes ratings of *Academically Unacceptable*, *Improvement Required*, and *F*. See *2019 Accountability Manual* Chapter 9, page 91.

This intervention is needed to prevent imminent and substantial harm to the welfare of the district's students or to the public interest because a failure of governance has resulted in an inability of the board to carry out the powers and duties of the board as outlined in Tex. Educ. Code 11.151 and 11.1511, as demonstrated by its inability to address the long-standing academic deficiencies of Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate. See 19 Tex. Admin. Code §§97.1073(e)(4), (e)(7), and (e)(8), and 97.1059(b)(1)(E) and (b)(4).

This action is necessary to achieve the purposes of the accreditation system. See Tex. Educ. Code §§39.051, 39.052, and Tex. Admin. Code §97.1053(a), 97.1057(a), 97.1057(e), and 97.1059(a). This action is necessary to inform stakeholders of the district's poor campus academic performance. See Tex. Admin. Code §97.1053(a)(1). This action will encourage the district to improve its academic performance, and will allow stakeholders the ability to assist future board members in improving the district's poor campus academic performance. See Tex. Admin. Code §97.1053(a)(2-3). This action will also encourage other districts to improve their campus academic performance in order to avoid similar action. See Tex. Admin. Code §97.1053(a)(4). Finally, these actions will improve the Texas public school system by allowing a board of managers to address the campus' poor academic performance. See Tex. Admin. Code §97.1053(a)(5).

A majority of the board of managers will consist of members of the Shepherd ISD community who are committed to service on behalf of the students of the district and the community. The members of the board of managers will be responsible for overseeing the management of the Shepherd ISD, including oversight of the district's efforts to address and correct identified deficiencies, and implementation of effective structural and procedural improvement strategies for long-term positive change. Tex. Educ. Code §39A.202 also requires that I appoint a superintendent. I will announce my appointments in future correspondence.

Conservator Appointment

Texas Education Code §§39A.051(a) and 39A.102(b) provide that the commissioner may appoint a monitor, conservator, management team, or board of managers to a district required to submit a campus turnaround plan under Tex. Educ. Code §39A.101 to oversee district-level support to low-performing campuses and the implementation of the updated targeted improvement plan. Due to the multiple years of unacceptable academic accountability ratings assigned to Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate, and because of the potential sanctions that I may be required to order based upon the final 2019 academic performance rating, I am appointing a conservator to the district, pursuant to Tex. Educ. Code §§39A.003, 39A.051(a), and 39A.102(b), and 19 Tex. Admin. Code §§97.1059, 97.1065(c), and 97.1073. This intervention is necessary to encourage the district to improve the academic performance of its campuses, encourage other districts or campuses to improve their performance so as to avoid similar action and to retain their accreditation, and improve the Texas public school system by eliminating poor academic, fiscal, and compliance performance by districts and campuses on the standards listed in 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1059. 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1053(a)(2), (4), (5). This action is additionally necessary due to the failures of the district's campuses to satisfy the academic performance standards in Tex. Educ. Code §§39.053 or 39.054, the on-going and long-standing deficiencies, and because such intervention is necessary to prevent substantial or imminent harm to the welfare of the district's students or to the public interest. 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1059(b)(1), (2), (4).

As a TEA conservator, Vicki Mims' role will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Overseeing the operations of the district to ensure the district complies with state and federal law;
- Attending board meetings, including executive session, and directing the board as necessary; and
- Submitting monthly reports documenting the district's progress and evaluating the district's improvement plan.

Please note that the appointment of a conservator does not relieve the district of the responsibility to, at all times, operate the district in compliance with all applicable statutes and rules. The agency reserves the right to implement all available interventions and sanctions under Tex. Educ. Code, Chapters 39 and 39A, and Title 19, Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 97, singly or in combination, to address the current, or any future, deficiencies identified for the district and its campuses. The cost of the conservator's services will be paid by the district in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code §39A.903. The conservator's fee shall be $85 per hour plus necessary travel expenses not to exceed the state per diem rate. Failure to make timely payments to the conservator may result in appropriate amounts being deducted from the district's Foundation School Program (FSP) funds.

Parent Petition

If the superintendent submits to the Commissioner a petition that the superintendent has certified as a valid petition on or before **December 2, 2019**[3],and reflects that the parents of a majority of the students enrolled at Shepherd Primary and Shepherd Intermediate request that I close the campuses or install of board of managers, I must order the action requested. See Tex. Educ. Code §39A.112(b). However, if authorized by a majority of the board of trustees in a meeting conducted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board may request that the commissioner take a different action than the action requested in the parent petition. If the board takes such an action, it must provide a written explanation of the basis for the board's request to the commissioner no later than **December 16, 2019**[4]**.** See Tex. Educ. Code §39A.112(b). If the parent petition and the board request call for different actions, the commissioner may order either a board of managers or campus closure. See Tex. Educ. Code §39A.112(c).

Review Process

The district has a right to request a formal review regarding the assignment of a board of managers. 19 Tex. Admin. Code §157.1131(2). The district may also request an informal review of the appointment of a conservator. 19 Tex. Admin. Code §157.1123. In the interest of efficiency, TEA may conduct a formal and informal review in a single proceeding.

A request for a formal/informal review must be in writing and received by TEA no later than **November 20, 2019.** If no formal/informal review is requested by the deadline, a final decision may be issued without review. 19 Tex. Admin. Code §§157.1123(d), 157.1133(5). Additionally, any information

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[3] 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1065(d)(1)(C) provides that if the petition was determined to be valid, it must be submitted by the district superintendent to the commissioner not later than December 1. However, as December 1, 2019 falls on a Sunday, the deadline was extended to Monday, December 2, 2019 per the Parent Petition for Action Guidance Document.

[4] 19 Tex. Admin. Code §97.1065(d)(3) provides for a deadline of no later than December 15, however as December 15, 2019 falls on a Sunday, the deadline was extended to Monday, December 16, 2019 per the Parent Petition for Action Guidance Document.

and supporting documentation that the district wishes to submit for consideration during the formal/informal review must be received no later than **November 20, 2019.**

A request for review and any written response and documentation **must be received by the TEA no later than November 20, 2019**, and should be sent to:

Division of Enforcement Coordination
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
Fax: (512) 475-3665
EnforcementCoordination@tea.texas.gov

If both a formal review of the appointment of a board of managers and an informal review of the appointment of a conservator are requested, the formal and informal reviews will be conducted in a single proceeding, and the district is invited to attend the review. Should the district wish to appear in person at the review or attend via telephonic conference, the district must give such notification within its request for review no later than **November 20, 2019**, and subsequent notification from TEA will be issued scheduling the review. The district is not required to attend the review; however, if the district requests a review and chooses not to attend, the review will proceed, and a final decision will be made based upon the documentation that was submitted by the district, if any, with its request for review. If no formal/informal review is requested by the deadline, a final decision may be issued without review. 19 Tex. Admin. Code §§157.1123(d), 157.1133(5). Pursuant to Tex. Educ. Code §39A.116 and 19 Tex. Admin. Code §157.1136, the Commissioner's decision related to the appointment of the board of managers is final and may not be appealed.

Compliance and Cooperation

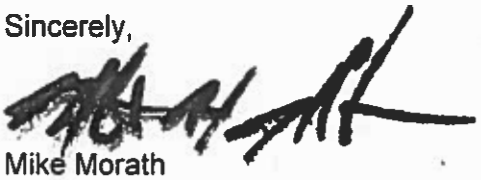
The board of managers, once installed, will keep me apprised of the conditions in the district and the agency will continue to monitor the district's performance and its cooperation with the agency's interventions, I will appoint a board of managers comprised of a majority of members of the Shepherd ISD community because I believe the community is in the best position to effectuate long-term, positive change for the district. It is my sincere desire that all parties work together in a cooperative and productive manner with a focus on assisting the students.

The agency reserves the right to implement all available interventions and sanctions under Tex. Educ. Code, Chapter 39, 39A and 19 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 97, to address the current, or any future, deficiencies identified for the campus and district.

Any questions regarding this correspondence may be addressed to the Division of Enforcement Coordination at (512) 463-5899 or EnforcementCoordination@tea.texas.gov.

Any questions regarding the appointment of a board of managers, superintendent, and conservator may be addressed to Jason Hewitt in the Division of Monitors, Conservators & Investigations at (512) 936-5962 or by email at Jason.Hewitt@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

MM/lm

cc: Michael Holland, Executive Director, Region 6, Education Service Center
Jeff Cottrill, Deputy Commissioner, Governance & Accountability, TEA
Kelvey Oeser, Deputy Commission, Educator Support
Mike Meyer, Deputy Commissioner, Finance, TEA
Leo Lopez, Associate Commissioner/Chief School Finance Officer, TEA
Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, Grants and Compliance Oversight, TEA
Joe Siedlecki, Associate Commissioner, Innovation & Charters, TEA
Von Byer, General Counsel, TEA
Christopher Jones, Senior Legal Counsel, TEA
Lizette Ridgeway, Director, School Improvement, TEA
Jason Hewitt, Director, Monitors & Conservators, TEA

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2015 Accountability Summary
SHEPHERD PRI (204904101) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating

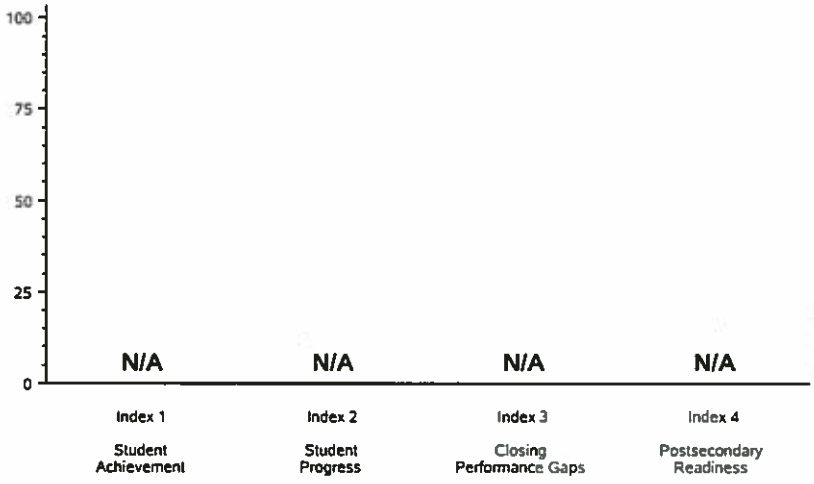
Improvement Required

This campus is paired with SHEPHERD INT (204904102)

Distinction Designation

Academic Achievement in Reading/ELA
NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Mathematics
NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Science
NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Social Studies
NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Student Progress
NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps
NOT ELIGIBLE
Postsecondary Readiness
NOT ELIGIBLE

Performance Index Report



Campus Demographics

Campus Type	Elementary
Campus Size	547 Students
Grade Span	EE - 02
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	80.4
Percent English Language Learners	19.6
Mobility Rate	19.6

Performance Index Summary

Index	Points Earned	Maximum Points	Index Score
1 - Student Achievement	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 - Student Progress	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 - Closing Performance Gaps	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 - Postsecondary Readiness	N/A	N/A	N/A

State System Safeguards

Number and Percent of Indicators Met	
Performance Rates	N/A
Participation Rates	N/A
Graduation Rates	N/A
Total	**N/A**

For further information about this report, please see the Performance Reporting Division website at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2015/index.html

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2015 Accountability Summary
SHEPHERD INT (204904102) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating

Improvement Required

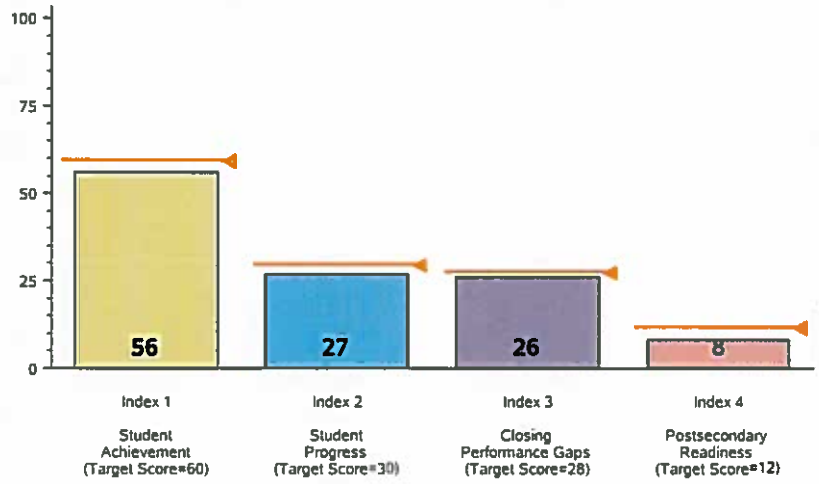
Met Standards on	Did Not Meet Standards on
- NONE	- Student Achievement
	- Student Progress
	- Closing Performance Gaps
	- Postsecondary Readiness

In 2015, to receive a Met Standard or Met Alternative Standard rating, districts and campuses must meet targets on three indexes: Index 1 or Index 2 and Index 3 and Index 4.

Distinction Designation

Academic Achievement in Reading/ELA
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Mathematics
NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Science
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Social Studies
NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Student Progress
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Postsecondary Readiness
NO DISTINCTION EARNED

Performance Index Report



Performance Index Summary

Index	Points Earned	Maximum Points	Index Score
1 - Student Achievement	322	570	56
2 - Student Progress	214	800	27
3 - Closing Performance Gaps	316	1,200	26
4 - Postsecondary Readiness			
STAAR Score	8.0		
Graduation Rate Score	N/A		
Graduation Plan Score	N/A		
Postsecondary Component Score	N/A		8

Campus Demographics

Campus Type	Elementary
Campus Size	402 Students
Grade Span	03 - 05
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	75.9
Percent English Language Learners	13.4
Mobility Rate	14.9

State System Safeguards

Number and Percent of Indicators Met	
Performance Rates	4 out of 13 = 31%
Participation Rates	5 out of 5 = 100%
Graduation Rates	N/A
Total	**9 out of 18 = 50%**

For further information about this report, please see the Performance Reporting Division website at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2015/index.html

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2016 Accountability Summary
SHEPHERD PRI (204904101) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating

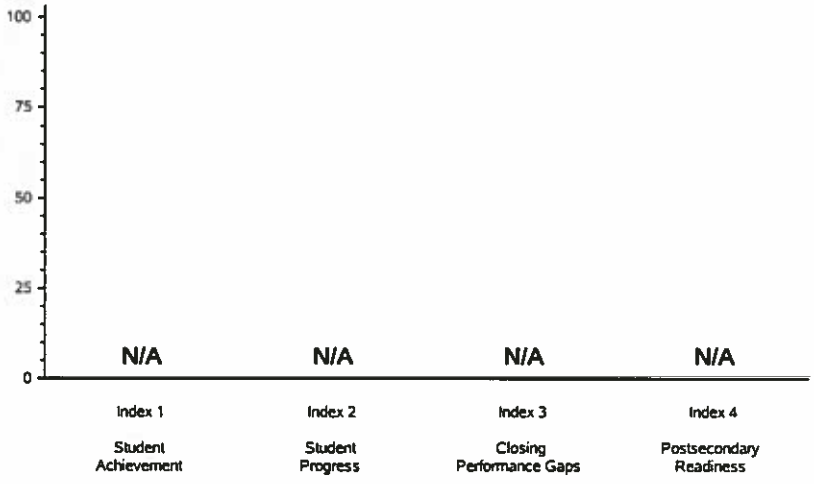
Improvement Required

This campus is paired with SHEPHERD INT (204904102)

Distinction Designation

Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading	NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Mathematics	NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Science	NOT ELIGIBLE
Academic Achievement in Social Studies	NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Student Progress	NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps	NOT ELIGIBLE
Postsecondary Readiness	NOT ELIGIBLE

Performance Index Report



Performance Index Summary

Index	Points Earned	Maximum Points	Index Score
1 - Student Achievement	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 - Student Progress	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 - Closing Performance Gaps	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 - Postsecondary Readiness	N/A	N/A	N/A

Campus Demographics

Campus Type	Elementary
Campus Size	531 Students
Grade Span	EE - 02
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	79.8
Percent English Language Learners	21.8
Mobility Rate	18.5

System Safeguards

Number and Percentage of Indicators Met	
Performance Rates	N/A
Participation Rates	N/A
Graduation Rates	N/A
Total	**N/A**

For further information about this report, please see the Performance Reporting Division website at /perfreport/account/2016/index.html

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2016 Accountability Summary
SHEPHERD INT (204904102) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating

Improvement Required

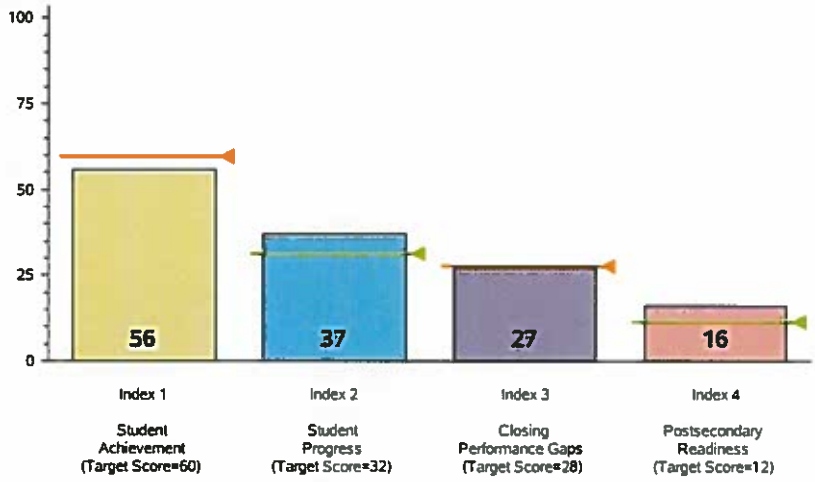
Met Standards on	Did Not Meet Standards on
- Student Progress	- Student Achievement
- Postsecondary Readiness	- Closing Performance Gaps

In 2016, to receive a Met Standard or Met Alternative Standard rating, districts and campuses must meet targets on three indexes: Index 1 or Index 2 and Index 3 and Index 4.

Distinction Designation

Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Mathematics
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Science
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Social Studies
NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Student Progress
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Postsecondary Readiness
NO DISTINCTION EARNED

Performance Index Report



Performance Index Summary

Index	Points Earned	Maximum Points	Index Score
1 - Student Achievement	592	1,055	56
2 - Student Progress	447	1,200	37
3 - Closing Performance Gaps	436	1,600	27
4 - Postsecondary Readiness			
STAAR Score	15.7		
Graduation Rate Score	N/A		
Graduation Plan Score	N/A		
Postsecondary Component Score	N/A		16

Campus Demographics

Campus Type	Elementary
Campus Size	421 Students
Grade Span	03 - 05
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	72.7
Percent English Language Learners	18.3
Mobility Rate	18.3

System Safeguards

Number and Percentage of Indicators Met

Performance Rates	5 out of 19 = 26%
Participation Rates	10 out of 10 = 100%
Graduation Rates	N/A
Total	**15 out of 29 = 52%**

For further information about this report, please see the Performance Reporting Division website at /perfreport/account/2016/index.html

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2017 Accountability Summary
SHEPHERD PRI (204904101) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating

Improvement Required

This campus is paired with SHEPHERD INT (204904102)

Distinction Designation

Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading
NOT ELIGIBLE

Academic Achievement in Mathematics
NOT ELIGIBLE

Academic Achievement in Science
NOT ELIGIBLE

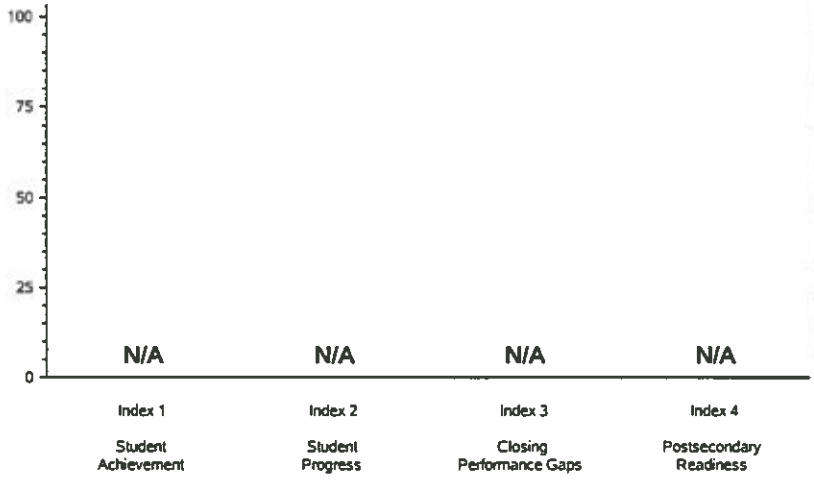
Academic Achievement in Social Studies
NOT ELIGIBLE

Top 25 Percent Student Progress
NOT ELIGIBLE

Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps
NOT ELIGIBLE

Postsecondary Readiness
NOT ELIGIBLE

Performance Index Report



Performance Index Summary

Index	Points Earned	Maximum Points	Index Score
1 - Student Achievement	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 - Student Progress	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 - Closing Performance Gaps	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 - Postsecondary Readiness	N/A	N/A	N/A

Campus Demographics

Campus Type	Elementary
Campus Size	551 Students
Grade Span	EE - 02
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	82.0
Percent English Language Learners	22.5
Mobility Rate	20.5
Percent Served by Special Education	6.0
Percent Enrolled in an Early College High School Program	0.0

System Safeguards

Number and Percentage of Indicators Met

Performance Rates	N/A
Participation Rates	N/A
Graduation Rates	N/A
Total	**N/A**

For further information about this report, please see the Performance Reporting website at /perfreport/account/2017/index.html

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2017 Accountability Summary
SHEPHERD INT (204904102) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating

Improvement Required

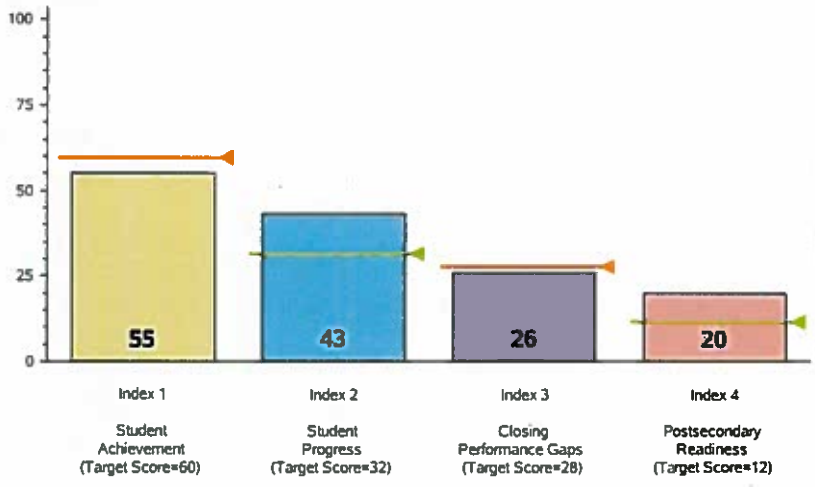
Met Standards on	Did Not Meet Standards on
- Student Progress	- Student Achievement
- Postsecondary Readiness	- Closing Performance Gaps

In 2017, to receive a Met Standard or Met Alternative Standard rating, districts and campuses must meet targets on three indexes: Index 1 or Index 2 and Index 3 and Index 4.

Distinction Designation

Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Mathematics
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Science
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Academic Achievement in Social Studies
NOT ELIGIBLE
Top 25 Percent Student Progress
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Top 25 Percent Closing Performance Gaps
NO DISTINCTION EARNED
Postsecondary Readiness
NO DISTINCTION EARNED

Performance Index Report



Performance Index Summary

Index	Points Earned	Maximum Points	Index Score
1 - Student Achievement	628	1,137	55
2 - Student Progress	426	1,000	43
3 - Closing Performance Gaps	414	1,600	26
4 - Postsecondary Readiness			
STAAR Score	20.0		
Graduation Rate Score	N/A		
Graduation Plan Score	N/A		
Postsecondary Component Score	N/A		20

Campus Demographics

Campus Type	Elementary
Campus Size	459 Students
Grade Span	03 - 05
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	76.9
Percent English Language Learners	19.4
Mobility Rate	16.4
Percent Served by Special Education	6.3
Percent Enrolled in an Early College High School Program	0.0

System Safeguards

Number and Percentage of Indicators Met

Performance Rates	7 out of 21 = 33%
Participation Rates	12 out of 12 = 100%
Graduation Rates	N/A
Total	**19 out of 33 = 58%**

For further information about this report, please see the Performance Reporting website at /perfreport/account/2017/index.html

Texas Education Agency
2018 Accountability Ratings Overall Summary
SHEPHERD PRI (204904101) - SHEPHERD ISD

	Component Score	Scaled Score	Rating
Overall		54	Improvement Required
Student Achievement			Not Rated
STAAR Performance			
College, Career and Military Readiness			
Graduation Rate			
School Progress			Not Rated
Academic Growth			Not Rated
Relative Performance (Eco Dis: 59.3%)			Not Rated
Closing the Gaps			Not Rated

Notes:
- This campus is paired with SHEPHERD INT (204904102)

Distinction Designations

ELA/Reading	Not Eligible
Mathematics	Not Eligible
Science	Not Eligible
Social Studies	Not Eligible
Comparative Academic Growth	Not Eligible
Postsecondary Readiness	Not Eligible
Comparative Closing the Gaps	Not Eligible

Texas Education Agency
2018 Accountability Ratings Overall Summary
SHEPHERD INT (204904102) - SHEPHERD ISD

	Component Score	Scaled Score	Rating
Overall		54	Improvement Required
Student Achievement		55	Improvement Required
STAAR Performance	29	55	
College, Career and Military Readiness			
Graduation Rate			
School Progress		58	Improvement Required
Academic Growth	61	58	Improvement Required
Relative Performance (Eco Dis: 57.1%)	29	52	Improvement Required
Closing the Gaps	10	43	Improvement Required

Distinction Designations

ELA/Reading	Not Earned
Mathematics	Not Earned
Science	Not Earned
Social Studies	Not Eligible
Comparative Academic Growth	Not Earned
Postsecondary Readiness	Not Earned
Comparative Closing the Gaps	Not Earned

Texas Education Agency
2019 Accountability Ratings Overall Summary
SHEPHERD PRI (204904101) - SHEPHERD ISD

This campus is paired with SHEPHERD INT (204904102)

Accountability Rating Summary

	Component Score	Scaled Score	Rating
Overall		51	F
Student Achievement			Not Rated
STAAR Performance			
College, Career and Military Readiness			
Graduation Rate			
School Progress			Not Rated
Academic Growth			Not Rated
Relative Performance (Eco Dis: 78.1%)			Not Rated
Closing the Gaps			Not Rated

Texas Education Agency
2019 Accountability Ratings Overall Summary
SHEPHERD INT (204904102) - SHEPHERD ISD

Accountability Rating Summary

	Component Score	Scaled Score	Rating
Overall		51	F
Student Achievement		53	F
STAAR Performance	27	53	
College, Career and Military Readiness			
Graduation Rate			
School Progress		58	F
Academic Growth	60	58	F
Relative Performance (Eco Dis: 78.0%)	27	53	F
Closing the Gaps	3	34	F

Identification of Schools for Improvement

This campus is a comprehensive support and improvement reidentified school

Distinction Designations

ELA/Reading	Not Earned
Mathematics	Not Earned
Science	Not Earned
Social Studies	Not Eligible
Comparative Academic Growth	Not Earned
Postsecondary Readiness	Not Earned
Comparative Closing the Gaps	Not Earned

Texas Education Agency

Commissioner Mike Morath

1701 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • tea.texas.gov

November 5, 2019

Mr. Rick Hartley, Superintendent
Shepherd Independent School District
1401 S. Byrd Ave.
Shepherd, TX 77371

Dear Mr. Hartley:

Thank you for your letter dated September 11, 2019, appealing the accountability ratings of Shepherd Primary School and Shepherd Intermediate School for the 2018–19 school year. Your appeal has been carefully considered, along with information provided by staff and the recommendations of an independent, three-person appeals panel. Based on this consideration, your appeal is denied; the overall and School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth domain ratings for Shepherd Intermediate School (204904102) and its paired campus, Shepherd Primary School, (204904101) remain an *F*.

The basis of your appeal is that the outcomes on the STAAR interim assessments overestimated student STAAR outcomes. Your appeal contends that the district relied heavily on interim assessment outcomes and if the grade 4 STAAR results had aligned, the campuses would have earned a *D* in School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth. As noted in the *Interim Assessments User Manual*, interim assessments are a way to monitor academic improvement, especially for students who are performing below grade level; a tool to inform interventions for students or groups of students based on predictions of STAAR performance; and a benchmarking instrument at the campus or district level. The interim assessments are not a formative assessment tool designed to provide standards-level performance data. Furthermore, they do not guarantee student outcomes on STAAR assessments. The appeals process cannot consider alternate outcomes that may have occurred under different circumstances. For these reasons, your appeal is denied.

Please be aware that in order to preserve its intent and integrity, the accountability system, as prescribed each year in the accountability manual, must be applied to all districts consistently. The provisions set forth in the manual prevent me from granting requests to modify calculations or methodology that are applied to all districts and campuses.

Please direct any questions to the Performance Reporting Division at (512) 463-9704 or performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

cc: Jeff Cottrill, Deputy Commissioner, Governance and Accountability
Jamie Crowe, Executive Director, Performance Reporting