

**Via E-Mail,
Certified Mail &
Regular Mail**

123-910

December 11, 2025

Dr. Shannon Allen, Superintendent
Thomas Sigee Sr., Board President
Robert C. Dunn Sr., Board Vice President
Denise Wallace-Spooner, Board Secretary
Yolanda Avery, Board Member
Joe A. Evans Jr., Board Member
Matilda Hickman, Board Member
Beaumont Independent School District
3395 Harrison Ave.
Beaumont, Texas 77706

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

Dear Superintendent Allen and Trustees:

As you are aware, two Beaumont Independent School District (“ISD” or “district”) campuses earned a fifth consecutive unacceptable academic accountability rating following the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, which requires me to either order closure of the campuses or appoint a board of managers to govern the district.¹ After engaging in a comprehensive analysis of district data and a thorough vetting of district systems, leadership, and student results, **I am hereby ordering the appointment of both a board of managers to govern the district and a conservator.**

The timeline for the district to engage in the appeals processes allowed under the Texas Education Code (“TEC”) begins as of the date of this letter. I will appoint members of the board of managers, the conservator, and the superintendent as permitted by law after appropriate review and appeal processes have concluded.

Campus Performance Rating History

The ML King Middle School (CDCN:123-910-043) campus earned its fifth consecutive unacceptable accountability rating with the public release of ratings for the 2023-24 school year earlier this year.²

¹ Texas Education Code (“TEC”) §39A.111.

² The 2023-24 school year and the 2024-25 school year academic accountability ratings were released concurrently in the TEA Login (“TEAL”) Accountability application on August 13, 2025, and made publicly available on TXSchools.gov

The Fehl-Price Elementary (CDCN:123-910-131) campus earned its fifth consecutive unacceptable accountability rating with the 2024-25 school year ratings. With these ratings, it has been eleven years since King Middle School earned an acceptable academic accountability rating, while Fehl-Price Elementary has never met an acceptable standard since it opened in the 2011-12 school year.

Campus	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
King MS	-	F	F (1882 Pause 2)	Not Rated - SB 1365 (1882 Pause 1)	Not Rated - Disaster	Not Rated - Disaster	F	Not Rated- Harvey	IR	IR	IR	MS
Fehl- Price El	F	D (1882 Pause 2)	F (1882 Pause 1)	Not Rated - SB 1365	Not Rated - Disaster	Not Rated – Disaster (1882 Pause 2)	D (1882 Pause 1)	Not Rated- Harvey	IR	IR	IR	IR

a. **King Middle School**

Prior to implementation of the state’s current A-F accountability system in 2019, King Middle School was assigned a final academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required* for 2015, 2016, and 2017, which was the lowest rating in the accountability system. These were the first, second, and third consecutive unacceptable ratings for the campus.

Due to the impacts of Hurricane Harvey in 2018, directly affected campuses that met certain criteria, including King Middle School, were labeled *Not Rated: Harvey*. Under Texas law, the designation of “Not Rated” during any school year does not break the chain of unacceptable performance.

In 2019, the campus was assigned a final academic accountability rating of *F*, which is included in the definition of an unacceptable academic rating in the state’s A-F accountability rating system and was the campus’ fourth consecutive unacceptable rating. The district was notified in February 2020 of the potential actions that may be required under TEC §39A.111 if the campus received another consecutive unacceptable rating.

As a result of the impact of COVID-19, the Texas Education Agency (“TEA” or “agency”) labeled all districts and campuses *Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster* for the 2019-20 school year. As with the campus’ earlier *Not Rated: Harvey* designation, the designation of “Not Rated” did not break the chain of unacceptable performance. In the 2020-21 school year, districts and campuses were also issued a *Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster*; however, if any campus could demonstrate acceptable levels of performance, districts could apply to have those campuses issued an acceptable rating to break

on August 15, 2025. The issuance of ratings for the 2023-24 school year was considerably delayed due to litigation. In 2024, a group of districts sued the Texas Education Agency (“TEA” or “agency”) to prevent the release of academic accountability ratings for the 2023-24 school year. After TEA appealed the trial court’s issuance of an injunction preventing the release of 2024 ratings, the Fifteenth Court of Appeals overturned the trial court and permitted the release of 2024 ratings in a July 3, 2025, judicial ruling. Unlike accountability results in 2023 and 2024, both of which were delayed due to litigation, 2025 preliminary A-F ratings were timely released on the dates announced in the 2025 Accountability Manual and required by state law.

the chain of unacceptable performance. King Middle School could not do so that year; thus, the designation of “Not Rated” during that school year again did not break the chain of unacceptable performance.

In 2022, the campus was assigned *Not Rated: Senate Bill 1365*. Senate Bill 1365 (87th Texas Legislature, 2021) established that districts or campuses that did not meet the performance target to earn at least an academic accountability rating of *C* were assigned *Not Rated: Senate Bill 1365*. Again, the designation of “Not Rated” during any school year did not break the campus’ chain of unacceptable performance.

The 2023 rating was delayed due to litigation that prevented the agency from releasing ratings until 2025, at which time the campus again earned an academic accountability rating of *F*.³ Even though this rating would have ordinarily served as the campus’ fifth consecutive unacceptable rating—and thus triggering TEC §39A.111—during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, the campus received an accountability sanction pause as part of Texas Partnership⁴ benefits granted to the district based on its partnership with Green Dot Public Schools to operate the campus. The campus still received an accountability rating each year during the sanction pause, but the ratings earned during those years did not count toward the campus’ consecutive unacceptable rating count and therefore the accountability result in 2023 was included in the sanction pause.

In March 2023, the district was again notified of the potential actions that may be required under TEC §39A.111 if King Middle School, or three other campuses, received another consecutive unacceptable rating.

For the 2023-24 school year, the campus earned another *F* rating. Since there was no applicable sanction pause during this school year, the 2024 *F* rating constituted the campus’ fifth consecutive unacceptable rating and therefore triggered the sanction. The 2024 ratings were also delayed due to litigation that prevented the agency from releasing ratings until 2025.

It should also be noted, that the district previously submitted a request to the TEA to close the campus. However, the Texas Administrative Code (“TAC”) prohibits campus closure in a year in which the campus could earn a fifth consecutive unacceptable rating.⁵ Regardless, students attended King Middle School during the 2023-24 school year, thus the campus’ accountability rating for that year counts for purposes of calculating TEC 39A sanctions.

Finally, according to TEA records, no students attended King Middle School during the 2024-25 school year; thus, King Middle School did not earn an accountability rating for the 2024-25 school year. That fact, however, does not abrogate my legal responsibility to take action since the campus earned five consecutive unacceptable ratings with its 2024 rating.

b. Fehl-Price Elementary

For 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, Fehl-Price Elementary earned a final academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required*, which was the lowest rating in the accountability system and served as the first, second, third, and fourth consecutive unacceptable ratings for the campus’ consecutive years

³ *Id.*

⁴ TEC §11.174(f).

⁵ TAC §97.1066.

count. For 2018, the campus was labeled *Not Rated: Harvey* due to the impacts of Hurricane Harvey. In 2019, the campus was assigned a final academic accountability rating of *D*. However, a *D* does not break the chain of the campus' unacceptable ratings.

As described above, for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, all districts and campuses were labeled *Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster*. In 2022, Fehl-Price Elementary was assigned *Not Rated: Senate Bill 1365*. As with King Middle School, the "Not Rated" designations during these years did not break the campus' chain of unacceptable performance.

Following the above referenced litigation delays, for 2023, the campus was assigned an academic accountability rating of *F*, which was subject to an accountability sanction pause as part of another Texas Partnership⁶ benefit. As referenced previously, the district was notified in March 2023 of the potential actions that may be required under TEC §39A.111 if the campus received another consecutive unacceptable rating.

For 2024, the campus earned a final academic accountability rating of *D*, which as before did not break the chain of the campus' unacceptable ratings.

Then, in 2025, Fehl-Price Elementary was assigned an *F* rating, marking the campus' fifth consecutive unacceptable performance rating. Twice between 2019 and 2024, Fehl-Price Elementary utilized a two-year sanction pause based on a Texas Partnership, such that the ratings the campus earned in 2019, 2020, 2023, and 2024 did not count toward TEC 39A sanction calculations. However, the 2025 rating was not subject to a pause and was used to calculate the campus' fifth consecutive unacceptable rating.

District Performance History

During the 2023-24 school year—the year in which King Middle School earned its fifth consecutive unacceptable rating—more than 70% of the district's rated campuses earned either an *F* or a *D*, with eight campuses earning an *F* rating and nine campuses a *D* rating. Similarly, during the 2024-25 school year—the year in which Fehl-Price Elementary earned its fifth consecutive unacceptable rating—over 60% of the district's rated campuses earned either an *F* or a *D*, with seven campuses earning an *F* rating and seven campuses a *D* rating. Currently, the district still has seven campuses that have been academically unacceptable for consecutive years. Moreover, the district overall has not earned an acceptable accountability rating since 2019.

Unacceptable academic performance in a single year represents significant academic deficiencies – typically less than one-third of students in those campuses reach grade level and less than one-half of students in those campuses demonstrate a year's worth of academic growth. When that unacceptable performance continues for multiple years, the students in those campuses develop significant academic gaps. This represents a fundamental failure of the school district and a complete inability to take the necessary action to effectively educate students.

Beyond the performance of individual campuses that are unacceptable, Beaumont ISD has demonstrated a chronic inability to support students so that they can learn and achieve at high levels. Across all grades and subjects, only 30% of students in Beaumont ISD are meeting grade level. This is 20 percentage points below state average.

⁶ TEC §11.174(f).

Beaumont ISD's low level of student achievement is a long-standing issue, predating the COVID-19 disruptions. Going back to the 2018-19 school year, only 30% of Beaumont ISD students met grade level.

In light of the district's current and historic data, district-level intervention is needed to improve overall performance for the students of Beaumont ISD.

Appointment of Board of Managers

On September 3, 2025, I notified the district that if the unacceptable 2024 and 2025 preliminary academic accountability ratings assigned to the King Middle School and Fehl-Price Elementary campuses became final ratings, I would be required to order the appointment of a board of managers to govern the district or closure of the campuses. While the district submitted an intent to appeal the preliminary performance rating assigned to the campuses, a complete appeal packet was not submitted for either 2024 or 2025 for these campuses. Thus, the King Middle School campus received a final 2024 academic performance rating of *F* and the Fehl-Price Elementary campus received a final 2025 academic performance rating of *F* on December 11, 2025, the fifth consecutive unacceptable performance rating for both campuses.

As you are aware, once any campus in a district earns five consecutive years of unacceptable academic accountability ratings, the district triggers TEC §39A.111, which states:

CONTINUED UNACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE RATING. If a campus is considered to have an unacceptable performance rating for five consecutive school years, the commissioner, subject to Section 39A.112, shall order:

(1) appointment of a board of managers to govern the school district as provided by Section 39A.202; or

(2) closure of the campus.

Commissioner action under this section of the TEC is compulsory; the commissioner does not have discretion whether to act under this provision. Therefore, I am required to take action according to TEC §39A.111, and as stated above, I am ordering the appointment of a board of managers to lead the district.

I do not make this decision lightly. As a formerly elected school board member, I understand the importance and impact local school board members can have on the quality of schools in their districts. And it seems clear there are many hard-working, dedicated educators in Beaumont, including those in leadership positions within the district. Ultimately, however, the Beaumont ISD school board has presided over a school system that has not focused enough on struggling students and has ultimately allowed the failure of too many students for too long. The inability of the district to implement effective changes to improve the performance of students necessitates the interventions announced by this letter. Furthermore, the interventions are in the public interest as a failure of governance is demonstrated by continual academic deficiencies district-wide.

I am aware of the previous board of managers in Beaumont ISD begun in April 2014, placed by the prior Commissioner of Education. That instance was a non-academic intervention in the district, and the board of managers was placed to address financial mismanagement and financial compliance

issues by the board of trustees at the time. That intervention was successful, resulting in clean financial audits and a return to elected control of the board from 2018 through 2020. The focus of the new board of managers will be to support comprehensive academic changes so that Beaumont ISD will see no more multi-year D or F campuses.

The members of the board of managers will be named at a future date. They will consist of Beaumont community members who are committed to governing effectively to support positive change for the students of the district. Effective today, I am directing agency staff to begin the process of identifying prospective members of the community who are committed to improving the district through serving on the board of managers. Interested community members can find more information and apply to serve on the board of managers, by visiting the TEA's website at tea.texas.gov/board-of-managers. Board of manager candidates will be required to complete an application, attend Lone Star Governance training, and participate in virtual and observational interviews.

Superintendent Appointment

State law also requires that I appoint a superintendent.⁷ I will announce my decision on the superintendent appointment in future correspondence.

Conservator Appointment

I am appointing a conservator to the district. The conservator will have all authority permitted under Texas law and will ensure the district supports its low-performing campuses and implements the district's turnaround plans.⁸ I will name the conservator at a future date.

Due Process Procedures

The district is entitled to due process as described in 19 TAC §157.1121. The timelines for all such informal procedures begin as of the date of this letter. To that end, the district has a right to participate in an informal review regarding the appointment of both the board of managers and the conservator.⁹ Please be advised that the informal review has been scheduled for **December 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** This review will be presided over by the commissioner of education and serves as an opportunity for the district to present any information or supporting documentation it desires for the commissioner to consider in his decision making related to the board of managers and conservator. All such information and documentation should be submitted to TEA no later than **December 15, 2025**.

The district is not required to attend the review; however, if the district 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.

The informal review is scheduled to take place in person as follows:

Location: William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

⁷ TEC §39A.202.

⁸ TEC §§39A.002(7), 39A.051(a), 39A.102(b), 39A.102(b-1); and TAC §§97.1064(m), 97.1065(c), 97.1073(c).

⁹ TAC §157.1121(4).

Commissioner's Conference Room, 4th Floor

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Please note the following:

- The review will be scheduled not to exceed 60 minutes.
- Documentation for consideration will be limited to that which was submitted by the district no later than **December 15, 2025**.
- The scope of the review is limited to the appointment of the board of managers and conservator.
- No later than **December 15, 2025**, please notify the agency of the district representatives who will attend the informal review. The notice should include names and roles of representatives and should note who will present information or engage in discussions and questioning during the review. It is requested that attendees representing the district not exceed six individuals. If attendees include members of a body covered by the Texas Open Meetings Act, the number of attendees present cannot create a quorum of the body.
- The review is a closed proceeding and will not be open to the public or media.
- The district must notify the Division of Enforcement Coordination no later than **December 15, 2025**, if accommodations or equipment are needed and specify the type of accommodation or equipment needed (e.g., sign language interpreters, projector, laptop, etc.)
- The review will not constitute a formal administrative hearing, and the Rules of Evidence will not apply to the review.

All responses, notices, and requests related to the content of this letter must be sent to:

Division of Enforcement Coordination
Texas Education Agency
EnforcementCoordination@tea.texas.gov

If, following the informal review of the assignment of a conservator and board of managers, the commissioner, or his designee, decides to move forward with the assignment of a conservator and board of managers, the district will have an opportunity to file a petition for review with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).¹⁰

During the pendency of the review process, the board of trustees and superintendent are expected to continue to follow state laws and rules and operate the district in the best interest of the students to promote student achievement and improve student outcomes.

¹⁰ TEC §39A.301.

Compliance and Cooperation

Notwithstanding anything contained in this letter, the agency reserves the right to implement all available interventions and sanctions under TEC, Chapters 39, 39A, and 19 TAC Chapter 97 to address the current, or any future, deficiencies identified for the campuses and district.

Throughout the process outlined in this letter, it is my sincere desire that all parties work together in a cooperative and productive manner with a focus on the district's students. Any questions regarding this correspondence may be addressed to the Division of Enforcement Coordination at (512) 463-5899 or EnforcementCoordination@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Morath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

MM/lm