

December 11, 2025

*Dear Connally ISD Families, Educators, and Community Members,*

I'm writing to share an important decision about the Connally Independent School District. As Commissioner of Education, my responsibility is to ensure every child in Texas has access to a strong education that prepares them for the future. That commitment, and my belief that students come first, guides every decision I make.

After a thorough review of Connally ISD's academic performance, systems, and leadership, I have decided to appoint a board of managers and a conservator to help the district improve. Connally ISD has faced persistent challenges that affect students' learning. Two campuses, Connally Junior High and Connally Elementary, have received five consecutive unacceptable academic accountability ratings, and in recent years, nearly all campuses in the district have earned failing grades.

Under state law, when a campus has five consecutive failing ratings, action is required. The options include closing campuses or appointing a board of managers to govern the district. After careful consideration, I believe appointing a board and a conservator offers the best chance to stabilize the district and improve student academic outcomes. While changes won't happen overnight, this decision begins a structured, transparent process that will unfold over the coming months.

This decision was not made lightly. A single year of unacceptable performance often means fewer than one-third of students meet grade level and fewer than half make expected progress. When this happens year after year, students miss essential learning, creating gaps that limit future opportunities. Multiple years of failing ratings show that the district has not taken the necessary steps to fulfill its core mission: educating students. Without significant changes, these patterns will continue, and that is something we cannot allow.

I also want to acknowledge that this is a systemic issue, not a reflection of the dedication of Connally ISD's educators and staff. Their commitment will be essential as we work together to strengthen instruction and leadership.

The board of managers will include parents, local leaders, and professionals who represent the Connally ISD community. A conservator will provide oversight during the transition. State law also requires me to appoint a superintendent once the board is in place. Current leadership will remain until spring 2026, when both the board and superintendent are announced.

TEA is accepting applications for board positions through January 31, 2026, and we will host a community meeting to share details and answer questions. Visit [tea.texas.gov/board-of-managers](http://tea.texas.gov/board-of-managers) for more information.

Our shared responsibility is to ensure that every child in Connally ISD has the opportunity to learn and thrive. Thank you for your commitment to that goal. Together, we can create lasting change and a brighter future for all students.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education