

October 23, 2025

Dear Fort Worth ISD Families, Educators, and Community Members,

As Commissioner of Education, and as a parent myself, I know how important your child's education is to you. When changes are announced in a school district—especially ones that affect how it is governed—it's natural to feel uncertain or concerned. You deserve clear, honest communication about what's happening and why.

This week, I made the decision to appoint a board of managers to lead Fort Worth ISD. This does not mean anything will change right away, but it starts a process that will unfold over the next few months.

Texas law requires the Commissioner of Education to act when a campus receives unacceptable academic accountability ratings five years in a row. In Fort Worth ISD, the Leadership Academy at Forest Oak 6th Grade campus met that threshold in 2023. Although the district has since closed and merged the campus, after earning unacceptable ratings for five years, the law still requires a response—either formally closing the campus or appointing a board of managers to lead the district.

To make this decision, I reviewed Fort Worth ISD's academic performance, teaching and school leadership practices, and the quality of support for student learning. The most recent school year saw some improvements in student learning, but recent years have also seen an increase in the number of chronically unacceptable campuses, and student outcomes in Fort Worth remain far behind similar districts in Texas.

To move forward, TEA will recruit Fort Worth community members to serve on a board of managers. Members will reflect the breadth of experiences and backgrounds of the citizenry of Fort Worth ISD and may include parents, community leaders, and working professionals. United by a belief in every child's potential, the board will focus on strengthening instruction, leadership, and governance to boost student learning. Once the district shows meaningful progress and has systems in place focused on students to keep improving, leadership of the district will return to the elected board of trustees.

To support Fort Worth ISD in addressing persistent challenges and ensuring students receive the education they deserve, I will also be appointing a conservator to work directly with district leadership to provide oversight, guidance, and support. The conservator's role is to help prepare for the board of managers. When appointing a board of managers, state law gives me authority to appoint a new superintendent. While no decision has been made at this time, TEA will be interviewing prospective superintendent candidates, including current Superintendent Dr. Karen Molinar, to prepare for that possibility. Until both the board and superintendent are announced in early 2026, current district leadership will remain in place.

TEA is accepting applications for those interested in serving on the board of managers through Friday, November 21, 2025. We are also hosting two community meetings to share more information and answer questions. Visit tea.texas.gov/board-of-managers for details.

I know this is a significant change for Fort Worth ISD. Parents and teachers have high expectations for their children and students—and my role as Commissioner is to hold school system leaders to equally high standards. My promise is a fair, transparent process that puts students first. Together, we can build a stronger future for every child in the district.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath
Texas Commissioner of Education