

Resolution re: Austin ISD and Texas Education Agency Intervention

Whereas, the Austin Council of PTAs represents students, families, teachers and staff across 106 local PTA chapters in Austin ISD, a district serving approximately 66,000 students across 112 campuses¹; and

Whereas, two Austin ISD middle schools, Webb and Burnet, received a fifth consecutive unacceptable ("F") accountability rating in 2026; two campuses, Linder and Pecan Springs Elementary, now stand at a fourth consecutive unacceptable rating; and additional campuses stand at a third; and — while Dobie Middle School, previously at four consecutive unacceptable ratings, earned a D in 2026 and paused its accountability clock;

Whereas, under Texas Education Code Chapter 39A a fifth consecutive unacceptable rating at any single campus requires the Commissioner of Education to either order closure of that campus or appoint a Board of Managers to govern the entire district²; and

Whereas, the Texas Education Agency denied Austin ISD's SB 1882 partnership application intended to support these campuses on May 28, 2026, while approving other ISD's agreements, narrowing the district's options ahead of the summer 2026 accountability ratings³; and

Whereas, the state measures student outcomes through performance on standardized tests, graduation rates, and college, career, and military readiness⁴, and a campus may post a failing Student Achievement score while showing real student growth in the School Progress and Closing the Gaps domains, so growth over time tells us more about a school's work than a single achievement snapshot⁵; and

Whereas, students learn more when they are engaged in school and when campuses build social and emotional skills alongside academics⁶; and

Whereas, family and parent engagement is essential to better student outcomes⁷; and

¹Austin ISD district enrollment count, August 27, 2026: 66,177 students across 112 campuses (Austin ISD, DistrictEnrollmentCounts, 8/27/2026). Public profiles showing higher figures reflect prior years; see Texas School Report Cards, Austin ISD, <https://txschools.gov/?view=district&id=227901>. Chapter count per the Texas PTA local roster for the Austin Council of PTAs, August 29, 2026.

²Texas Education Code, Chapter 39A (Accountability Interventions and Sanctions), §39A.111 (appointment of board of managers); originating in HB 1842 (84th Texas Legislature, 2015). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.39A.htm>

³The Texas Tribune, "Austin ISD's bid to avoid state takeover rejected by Texas Education Agency" (May 28, 2026), <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/05/28/austin-isds-bid-to-avoid-state-takeover-rejected-by-texas-education-agency/>; SB 1882 partnerships, Texas Education Code §11.174.

⁴Texas Education Code §39.053 (Performance Indicators: Achievement). <https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/education-code/title-2/subtitle-h/chapter-39/subchapter-c/section-39-053/>

⁵Texas Education Agency, Accountability Rating System Manual for 2026 Ratings, Chapter 4 (Closing the Gaps Domain), <https://tea.texas.gov/school-and-district-leaders/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/2026-accountability-manual-full.pdf>

⁶Texas Education Agency, Building skills related to managing emotions and Social and Personal Competencies; Learning Policy Institute, Evidence for Social and Emotional Learning in Schools (2023), <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED630374.pdf>. On engagement: U.S. Department of Education, School climate and student outcomes (2021); National Center for Education Statistics, Student engagement and school climate (2022); Institute of Education Sciences, Using student engagement data to improve student outcomes (2017).

⁷U.S. Department of Education, Parent and Family Engagement: Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance (2025); Institute of Education Sciences, Meta-analysis of parent involvement and family-school partnerships and student outcomes; TEA Family Engagement Framework.

Whereas, students who receive special education services, students who are emergent bilingual, and students from families that are economically disadvantaged make up a substantial majority of enrollment at the Austin ISD campuses rated unacceptable, and they carry academic and non-academic needs that any improvement plan must meet⁸; and

Whereas, teachers and staff who feel supported and valued produce better student outcomes, and Texas districts undergoing state intervention have seen sharp increases in teacher turnover⁹; and

Whereas, in Houston ISD under state-appointed leadership one in four teachers began the 2025-26 school year uncertified, the district asked nearly fifty principals to resign or face termination in a single year, and record numbers of principals departed, so under intervention the experienced adults students rely on have churned out of their schools¹⁰; and

Whereas, in Houston ISD under state-appointed leadership access to advanced coursework narrowed, as eighth-grade Algebra I was cut by more than half across ten New Education System middle schools and eliminated at five, roughly two thousand juniors were moved out of Algebra II into lower-level courses, and Advanced Placement Calculus and Statistics were dropped at several high schools, even though Algebra II is the course Texas requires for the Distinguished Level of Achievement and its automatic top-ten-percent college admission pathway¹¹; and

Whereas, Houston ISD's reported STAAR gains, including a twenty-three-point rise in Algebra I and a seventeen-point rise in biology, coincided with changes to when and whether students take those courses rather than with broadly expanded learning, so a rising score can conceal a narrowing curriculum¹²; and

Whereas, a University of Houston study found that enrollment losses in Houston ISD accelerated after the 2023 takeover, leaving the district down more than thirteen thousand students, evidence that intervention can drive families away rather than restore their confidence¹³; and

⁸Texas Education Code §29.052 (Definitions — Emergent Bilingual Student); TEA Emergent Bilingual Support and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Guide. Campus demographics per Austin ISD district and campus profiles, <https://txschools.gov/?view=district&id=227901>

⁹Institute of Education Sciences, Teacher working conditions and equitable student outcomes; TEA Teacher Vacancy Task Force Final Report (2023); Gallup & Walton Family Foundation, Teaching for Tomorrow (2025). Turnover under Texas intervention documented in "Inside a TEA Takeover" (ACPTA, June 2026), citing the Houston Chronicle.

¹⁰Houston Chronicle, "1 in 4 HISD teachers are uncertified to start 2025-26 school year," <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/hisd/article/uncertified-teachers-2025-26-20825883.php>; Houston Chronicle, "HISD asked nearly 50 principals to resign or face board termination in 2023-24," <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/hisd/article/principals-resignation-board-termination-20329996.php>; Houston Chronicle, "A record number of HISD principals left in June," <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/article/hisd-principal-turnover-june-19595063.php>.

¹¹The Texas Observer, "The Houston Miracle Shell Game," <https://www.texasobserver.org/the-houston-miracle-shell-game/>; Texas Monthly, "How Houston ISD's STAAR Scores Rose as It Held Students Back," <https://www.texasmonthly.com/news-politics/houston-isd-staar-rise-holding-students-back/>. Texas requires Algebra II for the Distinguished Level of Achievement (Texas Education Code §28.025), the pathway to automatic top-ten-percent university admission.

¹²Texas Monthly, "How Houston ISD's STAAR Scores Rose as It Held Students Back," <https://www.texasmonthly.com/news-politics/houston-isd-staar-rise-holding-students-back/>.

¹³University of Houston, Hobby School study on Houston ISD enrollment following the 2023 state takeover (January 2026); see "HISD lost more than 13,000 students after state takeover, UH report finds," <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2026/01/21/hisd-lost-more-than-13000-students-after-state-takeover-uh-report-finds/>.

Whereas, Wichita Falls ISD avoided a state takeover in March 2026 and kept its elected school board, but only under an agreement that placed the district under a state-appointed conservator, required the adoption of state-selected curriculum materials, and included the closure of a neighborhood school, with a standing warning that a campus closure or Board of Managers could still follow¹⁴; and

Whereas, districts placed under state intervention in Texas have installed cameras in general-education classrooms at their lowest-rated campuses, and Fort Worth ISD placed web cameras in third through fifth grade classrooms at its Elevate Network schools in August 2026 and notified families roughly a week after the school year had already begun¹⁵; and

Whereas, Texas law authorizes a classroom camera in one narrow circumstance, a self-contained special education setting at the written request of a parent, staff member, or board member, and no comparable authorization exists for routine video monitoring of a general-education classroom¹⁶; and

Whereas, children know when they are being watched, and a school can be safe and secure without teaching students that they are under observation all day; and

Whereas, families have learned of changes to their children's schools only after those changes took effect, and parents in Fort Worth ISD were still seeking an explanation for changes at their campuses weeks into the 2026-27 school year¹⁷; and

Whereas, Austin ISD earned an overall B in the 2026 accountability ratings, eight campuses broke multi-year failing streaks, Dobie Middle School improved from an F to a D, and the number of Title I campuses rated D or F fell by thirty-six percent between 2024 and 2026, showing that improvement is already underway under local, elected governance¹⁸; and

¹⁴The Texas Tribune, "Wichita Falls ISD avoids state takeover, will keep its elected school board" (March 5, 2026), <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/03/05/texas-wichita-falls-school-takeover/>; KSAT, same title (March 5, 2026), <https://www.ksat.com/news/texas/2026/03/05/wichita-falls-school-district-avoids-takeover-by-state-officials-say/>.

¹⁵Fort Worth ISD installed web cameras in third through fifth grade classrooms at its lowest-rated Elevate Network campuses in August 2026 and notified families roughly a week after the school year began. See KERA News, "FWISD put cameras in classrooms at struggling schools. Why?" (Aug. 20, 2026), <https://www.keranews.org/education/2026-08-20/fwisd-put-cameras-in-classrooms-at-struggling-schools-why>; FOX 4 Dallas-Fort Worth, "We felt blindsided: Fort Worth ISD defends use of cameras in classrooms after parents raise privacy concerns" (Aug. 2026), <https://www.fox4news.com/news/we-felt-blindsided-fort-worth-isd-defense-use-cameras-classrooms-after-parents-raise-privacy-concerns>. Fort Worth ISD has operated under Texas Education Agency oversight since October 2025. Houston ISD adopted comparable classroom technology requirements under its state-appointed Board of Managers.

¹⁶Texas Education Code §29.022 (Video and Audio Equipment), which requires a district to place video equipment in a self-contained special education setting on the written request of a parent, staff member, or board member, and which does not authorize routine video monitoring of general-education classrooms. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.29.htm>. See also Austin ISD, Cameras in the Classroom, <https://www.austinisd.org/special-education/cameras-classroom>.

¹⁷Parents in Fort Worth ISD reported learning of instructional and program changes at their children's campuses only after those changes had taken effect, in some cases weeks into the 2026-27 school year, with the reason for the change still unexplained. See KERA News and FOX 4 Dallas-Fort Worth, cited above.

¹⁸Austin Current, "Austin ISD's latest school ratings still trace the city's historic divide" (Aug. 24, 2026), <https://austincurrent.org/2026/08/24/austin-austinisd-ratings-tea-title1-accountability/>; KUT, "Austin ISD moves closer to state takeover after two schools receive fifth failing ratings" (Aug. 13, 2026), <https://www.kut.org/education/2026-08-13/austin-isd-moves-closer-to-state-takeover-after-two-schools-receive-fifth-failing-ratings>.

Whereas, Austin ISD measures student success by more than a single STAAR score, setting district goals for student and staff well-being, reduced chronic absenteeism, social and emotional learning, and multiple college, career, and military readiness pathways including dual credit, Advanced Placement, and industry certifications, and setting targeted goals for its highest-need students¹⁹; and

Whereas, the pattern in districts already under state intervention is that decisions are made first and the policies governing them are written afterward, so community input arrives too late to change what has already happened and even locally minded members of a Board of Managers have no standard to hold administrators to; therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports better student outcomes for all children in Austin ISD, affirms that every child has the ability to learn, and affirms that failing accountability ratings are not the fault of students or families.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs urges the Austin ISD Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and administration to prioritize, resource, and transparently report on the improvement of the district's campuses with multiple unacceptable ("F") accountability ratings, beginning with Webb and Burnet Middle Schools, so that Austin ISD retains local, voter-elected governance.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs calls on the Texas Education Administration Commissioner to exercise action(s) other than takeover of Austin ISD.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports maintaining and expanding access to advanced coursework, including eighth-grade Algebra I, Algebra II, and Advanced Placement courses, and opposes any intervention that narrows course offerings or withholds college-preparatory courses from students at the lowest-rated campuses.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports clarity and consistency through a published academic baseline, so that families can rely on a core set of courses, programs, and opportunities being available to students at every Austin ISD campus, regardless of a campus's accountability rating or intervention status.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs holds that improvement must be measured by real student learning and opportunity, not by test scores produced by changing which students sit for an exam, and supports public reporting that separates genuine gains from changes in course-taking or testing populations.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports full transparency and regular public reporting on the district's campus turnaround plans, including measurable progress toward exit from the state's accountability-intervention pipeline.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports full and equitable resources and support being given at all times to our most vulnerable students, including students receiving special education services, students who are emergent bilingual, and students from families that are economically disadvantaged.

¹⁹Austin ISD 2025-2026 District Improvement Plan and Performance Objectives, Goals 1, 3, and 4 (student and staff well-being, reduced chronic absenteeism, targeted algebra goals for economically disadvantaged students, and multiple postsecondary pathways), https://www.austinisd.org/sites/default/files/dept/strategic-plan/docs/AISD_Improvement_Plan_2025-2026.pdf; Austin ISD Strategic Plan and Scorecard, Board Constraint 5 (Social and Emotional Learning), <https://www.austinisd.org/strategic-plan>.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports a stable, certified, and experienced educator workforce, and calls for any Board of Managers, Superintendent, or Conservator to report at least annually on teacher certification rates, principal and teacher turnover, and campus vacancies.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports measuring teacher and staff satisfaction through retention data and engagement surveys to ensure teachers and staff feel supported and valued.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports measuring student satisfaction through engagement surveys to ensure students feel supported and valued.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports policies that keep families enrolled in and connected to their neighborhood public schools, and holds that accelerating enrollment loss is a sign that an intervention is failing the community it serves.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports the active encouragement of and respect for family and parent engagement on school campuses.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs affirms the progress Austin ISD is making under local, elected governance, and supports continuing the district's focus on its highest-need students and on measuring the whole child rather than a single test.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs opposes school closure or consolidation as a default response to accountability ratings and supports keeping neighborhood public schools open and adequately resourced wherever improvement is achievable.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs opposes conditions like those in the Wichita Falls ISD agreement, including a state-appointed conservator overriding locally elected decisions, the forced adoption of a specific curriculum, and the closure of a neighborhood school, and holds that avoiding a Board of Managers must not come at the cost of these harms to students and communities.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs calls for a fixed communication standard, so that any decision affecting a student's campus, classroom, program, staffing, schedule, or learning environment is communicated in writing to every affected family and staff member no later than ten calendar days before it takes effect, and where an emergency makes advance notice impossible, no later than forty-eight hours after it takes effect, stating plainly what changed and why, in the languages our families speak.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports engagement with communities via District Advisory Committees, where planned program changes are reviewed and discussed before decisions are made and acted on.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports safety and security measures that families know about and understand, and holds that no camera shall be placed in an Austin ISD classroom without a written purpose, a named district owner of the footage, a stated retention period, and written notice to every affected family and staff member before that camera is activated.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs holds that cameras in classrooms must be visible and disclosed, that students and staff must be told plainly when and why they are being observed or recorded, that footage shall not be used for teacher evaluation or student discipline unless that use is disclosed in advance, and that no camera shall be placed in a general-education classroom without prior review by the campus community and the appropriate District Advisory Committee.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs shall communicate regularly with its member PTAs and with enrolled families about the issues in this resolution, including what accountability ratings measure and what they do not, the status of campus turnaround plans, the progress and effects of any state intervention, and the rights families hold under Texas law, and shall do so in plain language and in the languages our families speak.

Be It Resolved, as some executive board members of the Austin Council of PTAs are involved with Keep Austin Schools Independent (KASI), the coalition, ACPTA may permit use of its brand by KASI on a case-by-case basis, when use is requested and aligned with PTA's purpose.

Be It Resolved, that should the State appoint a Board of Managers, the Austin Council of PTAs supports the return of Austin ISD to local control as soon as possible, guided by SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-Bound) with exit criteria met within two years.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports that a Board of Managers, should one be appointed, is composed of at least two-thirds current Austin ISD parents living in the areas they would represent.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs holds that guardrails must come before action, and that any Board of Managers, Superintendent, or Conservator should adopt written policies governing communication, classroom surveillance, program and staffing changes, and community input before acting under them, and that a listening session held after a decision has already taken effect does not satisfy community engagement.

Be It Resolved, that should intervention occur, the Austin Council of PTAs supports the Board of Managers, District Administrators, Superintendent, and Conservator prioritizing not only high academic achievement, but also social-emotional learning targets, stakeholder satisfaction, graduation rates, and college, career, and military readiness.

Be It Resolved, that the Austin Council of PTAs supports the full transparency and accountability of any Board of Managers, Superintendent, and Conservator throughout any intervention, including financial management practices as outlined by the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas.

Closing Statement

The Austin Council of PTAs stands united with families, students, teachers and staff, and community partners across every neighborhood in Austin. Our mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. We affirm that collaboration and transparency are essential to improving student outcomes in every part of our district, and we are committed to acting now, before potential intervention, to help our schools succeed under local, elected governance. Together, we will work to ensure equity, better student outcomes, and strong neighborhood public schools.

Certification

This resolution was adopted by the **Austin Council of PTAs** on _____, 2026, following a vote of its member chapters.

Certified by:

Crystal Brothwell Hernandez, Council President

Mary Selby, Recording Secretary

Vote Tally:

Chapters in Favor: _____

Chapters Opposed: _____

Chapters Abstaining: _____