



August 31, 2020

Dear Commissioner Morath,

Our nation and state face a crisis like no other in history. Districts across the state are scrambling to build curriculum while struggling to meet the expectations of TEA requirements. We are asking our teachers to quickly become experts on technology integration and build online lessons, while also planning face-to-face learning under extreme and changing conditions. All the while, district administration struggles to construct safe spaces for both teachers and students.

Flexibility is a buzz word that is thrown about to parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Everyone involved in education must be flexible if we expect success. We ask that TEA apply flexibility to their plans also. Continuing to enforce and tie funding to already tenuous instructional minutes and attendance requirements, places districts and families under increased stress. Statewide testing and funding that is tied to district, teacher, and student performance is also an additional pressure during this crisis. It is irrational to continue to enforce policies that were designed for an uninterrupted normal school year.

Our district's experience with the serious technological problems with overloaded servers, flawed applications, and communication errors is not unique to our community. Districts across the state are suffering from the same issues. Our students, staff, and parents are paying the price of TEA's rigid requirements. The mental health and physical well-being of our children is at risk.

We also believe the current situations will set forth challenges to retain highly qualified teachers and recruit new teachers, if they see a lack of support for educators across the state.

While criterion-referenced testing can be stressful, we realize it will always be a part of the educational system in that it provides good information regarding instruction and student growth. The issue this year is holding us accountable for making sure every student performs at what TEA has set as "standard" cut-points and levels. If the state does not relax the accountability standards and cut-points, it puts districts in a precarious position in that those standards were set based on what was a "normal" year in teaching and learning.

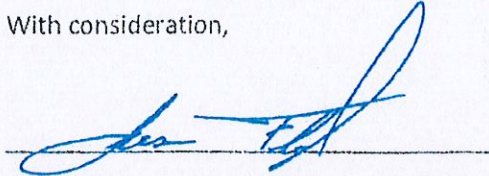
As School Board Trustees, we must disseminate information and vote on plans that best support our teacher's and student's well-being and safety. If we continue at this pace, without creating a better system, we face the collapse of public schools in the state of Texas.

Calallen ISD Board of Trustees asks that TEA reduce the required number of instructional minutes, relax attendance requirements and waive testing standards for the 2020-2021 school year. These

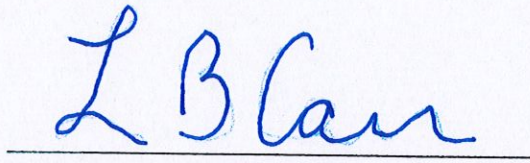


decisions would allow districts to focus their efforts on building a safe environment and a strong curriculum for all students.

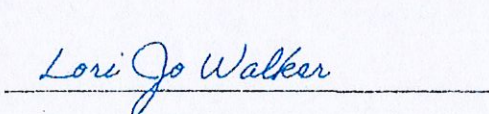
With consideration,



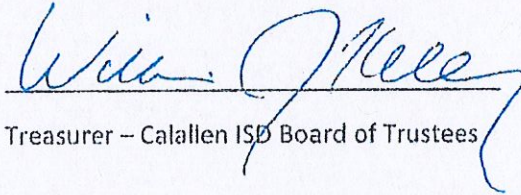
President -- Calallen ISD Board of Trustees



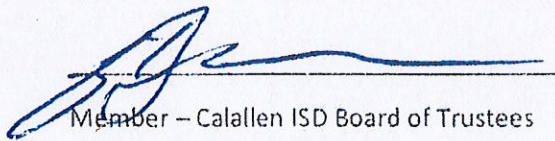
Vice-President -- Calallen ISD Board of Trustees



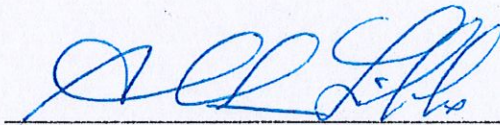
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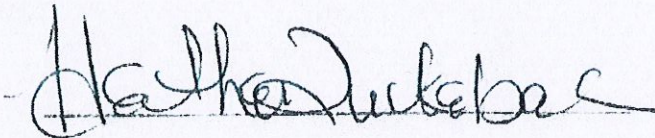
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