

**Via Certified Mail,
Regular Mail & Email**

227-901

February 17, 2026

Matias Segura, Superintendent
Lynn Boswell, Board President
Austin Independent School District
4000 S. IH 35 Frontage Rd.
Austin, Texas 78704

RE: Update on Agreed Order

Dear Mr. Segura and Ms. Boswell:

The purpose of this correspondence is to update you on the Austin Independent School District's (ISD or district) progress toward accomplishing the conditions of the Agreed Order dated September 28, 2023, in which the agency appointed two monitors to support the district in curing significant deficiencies in federal and state special education reporting requirements and required the district to establish necessary governance and administrative conditions to achieve and sustain compliance. As you are aware, the district failed to meet the baseline requirements of the Agreed Order by the original deadline and asked the Texas Education Agency (TEA or agency) for a one-year extension. The agency granted an extension on November 7, 2024, related to the data systems component of the Agreed Order, and TEA has been actively monitoring the district's progress.

Preceding the appointment of the monitors, Austin ISD had 43 open special education investigations, 40 of which ultimately resulted in findings of non-compliance with law. Additionally, over 600 initial evaluations were out of timeline for students, violating federal and state law. The agency also identified ineffective systems and practices in Austin ISD related to child find, student referrals to special education, MTSS, and the collection, management, and reporting of valid and reliable data in special education. The district had further failed to meet the requirements of multiple Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). These facts, coupled with additional findings through ongoing monitoring activities related to the CAPs and subsequent special education complaints, led to the Agreed Order.

I have received and reviewed an end-of-year report submitted to the TEA by the monitors. The district has met the minimum expectations of the Agreed Order, and I am hereby removing the monitors from the district. However, while progress has been made, the district has a long way to go to ensure sustainability and to improve instruction for students receiving special education and related services throughout the district. Even though the monitors will no longer be actively providing support to the district, Austin ISD remains responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state law and for ensuring all students are learning. During the 2024-25 school year, only 25% of students receiving special education services and 28% of economically disadvantaged students in Austin ISD met grade-level standards.

The Agreed Order also required the district's school board to make governance improvements, including policy updates to diminish the board's micromanagement of the administrative team and hiring a Lone Star Governance coach to engage in a cycle of self-assessment and progress monitoring. I appreciate the board prioritizing discussion of student achievement in their public meetings. It is a best practice for boards to spend at least 50% of their meeting time discussing student outcomes, and it is my hope that the board continues this practice. As with special education compliance, the board has met the minimum expectations of the Agreed Order related to governance improvements. While the board is no longer required to engage in Lone Star Governance, significant improvement in governance behavior remains necessary in order for the district's student achievement to improve. As such, I strongly recommend that the board continue to receive governance coaching.

In sum, with support from the TEA-appointed monitors and Lone Star Governance coach, the original purpose of the intervention and Agreed Order has been addressed, and the district has remedied the concerns set forth in the final investigation report that led to the intervention. For the sake of all Austin ISD students, I expect to see focused, sustained efforts by the school board to prioritize excellent classroom instruction, ensure all students are learning, and eliminate board distractions that divert the focus of the superintendent and his administrative team from prioritizing student achievement. It is the superintendent's role to manage district operations; it is the board's role to govern without interfering with the superintendent and his team as they operate the district.

Although TEA is removing the monitors at this time, please note that doing so does not relieve the district and its board of trustees of the responsibility to, at all times, operate and govern the district in compliance with all applicable statutes and rules. The agency reserves the right to implement all available interventions and sanctions under the Texas Education Code—including but not limited to Chapters 39 and 39A and Title 19, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 97—to address any future deficiencies identified in the district.

Any questions you may have should be addressed to Garrett Black in the Division of Governance Interventions at Garrett.Black@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Morath', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

MM/lm