

**Via Mail
& E-Mail**

220-905
2016-2017

October 12, 2016

Mr. Kent Scribner, Superintendent
Ms. Christine Moss, Board President
Fort Worth Independent School District
100 N University Drive,
Fort Worth, TX 76107-3010

Dear Mr. Scribner, Ms. Moss:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Fort Worth Independent School District (ISD) with notification regarding the review by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) of the campus turnaround plans submitted for:

- I M Terrell EI;
- John T White EI;
- Forest Oak Middle; and
- Maude Logan EI

These campuses received an academic accountability rating of *Improvement Required*. After multiple years of unacceptable academic performance ratings in 2015, the campus was required to develop a campus turnaround plan during the 2015-2016 school year for implementation during the 2016-2017 school year. Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.107(a). Texas Education Code §39.107(b-1) provides that a campus turnaround plan must include: 1) a detailed description of the academic programs to be offered at the campus, including instructional methods, length of school day and school year, academic credit and promotion criteria, and programs to serve special student populations; 2) the term of the charter, if a district charter is to be granted for the campus under TEC §12.0522; 3) written comments from the campus-level committee established under TEC §11.251, if applicable, parents, and teachers at the campus; 4) and a detailed description of the budget, staffing, and financial resources required to implement the plan, including any supplemental resources to be provided by the district or other identified sources. The campus turnaround plan was submitted by the district to TEA following board approval.

The commissioner may approve a campus turnaround plan only if the commissioner determines that the campus will satisfy all student performance standards required under TEC §39.054(e) not later than the second year the campus receives a performance rating following the implementation of the campus turnaround plan. If the commissioner does not make this determination, the commissioner shall order: (1) appointment of a board of managers to govern the district as provided by TEC §39.112(b); (2) alternative management of the campus under this section; or (3) closure of

the campus. TEC §39.107(d). Based upon my initial review of the campus turnaround plans submitted by the district for the campuses mentioned above, I have several concerns that render me unable at the present time to make a determination that the campus will satisfy all student performance standards required under Section 39.054(e) not later than the second year the campus receives a performance rating following the implementation of the campus turnaround plan.

I would be inclined to defer making a determination at this time regarding the turnaround plans if the district agrees to:

- Include agency-directed governance training for the Board of Trustees and Superintendent in its turnaround and implementation plans; and
- Fully implement the governance improvements set forth in the agency-directed training and in the training's implementation fidelity instrument.

If the district is amenable to these terms, the district should notify Lizette Ridgeway, Director of School Improvement, of its acceptance of this term identified above no later than October 25, 2016. If the district does not have a Board meeting before October 17, 2016, it may supplement its response with a Board resolution after its next board meeting. I will notify the district in future correspondence regarding my decision to approve the campus turnaround plan, as well as any updated implementation plan. The campus should work to implement its turnaround plan as written until it receives notice from the Agency regarding the approval or rejection of its turnaround plan.

Please be advised that if the district is not amenable to accepting this additional term, I will be unable to make a determination that these campuses will satisfy all student performance standards required under TEC §39.054(e) not later than the second year the campus receives a performance rating following the implementation of the campus turnaround plan and, pursuant to TEC §39.107(d), I would be required to order: (1) appointment of a board of managers to govern the district as provided by TEC §39.112(b); (2) alternative management of the campus under this section; or (3) closure of the campus. Texas Education Code §39.107(c) requires that the campus shall implement any updated targeted improvement plan approved by the commissioner and that a monitor, conservator, management team, or board of managers may be appointed to oversee district-level support to a low-performing campus and implementation of the updated targeted improvement plan.

It is my sincere desire that all parties work together in a cooperative and productive manner with a focus on ensuring that these campuses will satisfy all student performance standards required under TEC §39.054(e). The agency reserves the right to implement all available interventions and sanctions under TEC, Chapter 39, and Title 19, TAC, Chapter 97, to address the current, or any future, deficiencies identified for the campus and district .

Any questions regarding this correspondence may be addressed to the Division of Enforcement Coordination at (512) 463-3847 or EnforcementCoordination@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



A.J. Crabill
Deputy Commissioner of Governance

AJC/sh

cc: Clyde Steelman, Executive Director, Region XI, Education Service Center
A.J. Crabill, Deputy Commissioner of Governance, TEA
Kara Belew, Deputy Commissioner of Finance, TEA
Leo Lopez, Associate Commissioner/Chief School Finance Officer, TEA
Nora Hancock, Associate Commissioner, Grants and Federal Fiscal Compliance, TEA
Von Byer, General Counsel, TEA
Christopher Jones, Senior Legal Counsel, TEA
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Ron Rowell, Director, Governance and Investigations, TEA
Lizette Ridgeway, School Improvement, TEA
Chris Cowan, Enforcement and Support, TEA
Raven Brown, Campus Principal, I M Terrell EI
Joann Dickerson, Campus Principal, John T White EI
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