

AGREED ABATEMENT ORDER
LA MARQUE ISD

The Texas Education Agency ("Agency") and La Marque Independent School District ("La Marque ISD") (collectively "Parties") agree as follows:

- (1) On February 3, 2015, the Commissioner of Education ("Commissioner") assigned La Marque ISD an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked and ordered La Marque ISD to be closed effective July 1, 2015.
- (2) La Marque ISD requested an informal review of the Commissioner's proposed order as permitted by 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §157.1123.
- (3) The informal review was conducted before the Commissioner on February 18, 2015.
- (4) The Commissioner has not issued a final decision in response to the February 18, 2015, informal review.
- (5) At this time, the Parties agree that it would be appropriate to abate the informal review process until preliminary academic and financial accountability ratings are released by the Agency.
- (6) La Marque ISD agrees that in the event it receives a preliminary 2015 academic accountability rating of Improvement Required or a preliminary 2014-15 financial accountability rating of Substandard Achievement, the Commissioner will appoint a board of managers to the district to exercise all of the powers and duties assigned to a board of trustees of a school district by law, rule, or regulation. The board of managers will govern in the same manner as a board of trustees.
 - a. The powers and duties of the board of trustees of the district are suspended for the period of the appointment.
 - b. The Commissioner will name the members of the board of managers in future correspondence.
 - c. The Commissioner will also appoint a superintendent during the term of the board of managers.
- (7) La Marque ISD agrees that in the event it receives a final 2015 academic accountability rating of Improvement Required or a final 2014-15 financial accountability rating of Substandard Achievement, the Commissioner will assign an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked to La Marque ISD and order its closure. If La Marque ISD receives acceptable academic and financial accountability ratings, the Commissioner will re-evaluate the 2014-2015 accreditation status and notify the district at a later date regarding the status assignment.

- (8) La Marque ISD agrees that the Commissioner's decision with respect to the informal review will be final and not appealable. La Marque ISD waives its right under Section 39.152 of the Texas Education Code to challenge the Commissioner's decision before the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
- (9) La Marque ISD understands that the Agency may take action at any time to determine whether La Marque ISD has complied with this agreement, identify additional compliance issues, address threats to the health, safety and welfare of La Marque ISD's students, implement available sanctions and interventions, and otherwise ensure compliance with Texas law.
- (10) La Marque ISD further understands that:
- a. the Commissioner may, in his sole discretion, determine whether La Marque ISD's performance under this agreement is acceptable.
 - b. the Commissioner may, in his sole discretion, assign any accreditation status to La Marque ISD, including a "Not Accredited-Revoked" status, based in whole or in part on his evaluation of La Marque ISD's performance under this agreement;
 - c. La Marque ISD's compliance with this agreement, in whole or in part, does not prevent the Commissioner from taking any action authorized by law at any time; and
 - d. the Commissioner is the ultimate decision maker with respect to La Marque ISD's accreditation status and closure.

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION:

By: _____
Michael Williams, Commissioner of Education

AGREED BY THE PARTIES on this ____ day of _____, 2015.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

By: _____
Sally Partridge, Associate Commissioner for Accreditation and School Improvement

LA MARQUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

I certify that a majority of the school board of the La Marque Independent School District has voted to accept this agreement. I am authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of La Marque Independent School District.

By: _____
Nakisha Paul, President

By: _____
Terri Watkins, Superintendent