

**Via
E-Mail**

235-902
2017-2018

August 17, 2017

Dr. Robert Jaklich, Superintendent
Mr. Ludvik Svetlik, Board President
Victoria Independent School District
P.O. Box 1759
Victoria, TX 77902

Re: Potential Actions Following the Completion of the 2017-2018 School Year

Dear Dr. Jaklich and Mr. Svetlik:

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify Victoria Independent School District ("VISD" or "district") of the action that I may be required to order at some point at least one year from now. As you are aware, during the 84th legislative session, Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.107 was amended, with an effective date of June 19, 2015. The amendments included provisions related to campus turnaround plans for low performing campuses, as well as required consequences for campuses that continue to receive unacceptable performance ratings subsequent to the submission of a campus turnaround plan. Specifically, TEC §39.107(e) mandates that if a campus is considered to have an unacceptable performance rating for three consecutive school years after the campus is ordered to submit a turnaround plan, the commissioner of education must order either the appointment of a board of managers to govern the district as provided by TEC §39.112(b) or closure of the campus. The statute provides no discretion; I must order either campus closure or the appointment of a board of managers.

As you are aware, on August 15, 2017, the Texas Education Agency (TEA or Agency) issued preliminary 2017 academic accountability ratings indicating that VISD has a total of two campuses with unacceptable performance ratings, of which the following campuses within the district have received four (4) or more consecutive unacceptable academic accountability ratings:¹

- Patti Welder Middle School (5 years of unacceptable performance ratings)
- Crain Elementary School (5 years of unacceptable performance ratings)

If by the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year any of the campuses identified above have received five or more consecutive unacceptable performance ratings, pursuant to TEC §§39.107(e) and 39.1071(b), I will be required to order either the appointment of a board of managers to govern the district as provided by TEC §39.112(b) or closure of the campus. In accordance with TEC

¹ If the district has decided to close a campus but has not yet provided official notification to TEA, that campus would not be subject to an order of closure pursuant to TEC §39.107(e). It is advised that any campus closures be officially communicated to TEA as soon as possible.

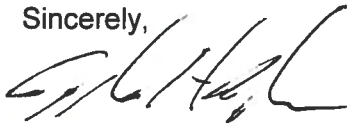
§39.107(e-2) and 19 TAC §97.1065(c), timely submission of a valid petition by the parents of a majority of students enrolled at the campus may direct which of those actions should be taken.

It is my sincere desire that the district will remedy any deficiencies so that the Agency actions described in this notification will not be necessary.

Nothing in this notification precludes the Agency from taking additional action in the interim. Please note that if any actions are taken other than the matters discussed herein, those actions will be addressed in future correspondence.

Any questions regarding this notification may be addressed to the Division of School Improvement at (512) 463-5226 or Sldivision@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

MM/sh

cc: Charlotte Baker, Executive Director, Region III, Education Service Center
Gene Acuña, Director, Communications, TEA
Kara Belew, Deputy Commissioner of Finance, TEA
Von Byer, General Counsel, TEA
A.J. Crabill, Deputy Commissioner of Governance, TEA
Cory Green, Associate Commissioner, Grants and Federal Fiscal Compliance, TEA
Christopher Jones, Senior Legal Counsel, TEA
Leo Lopez, Associate Commissioner/Chief School Finance Officer, TEA
C. Lizette Ridgeway, Director, School Improvement, TEA
Ron Rowell, Director, School Governance, TEA
Denise Canchola, Principal, Patti Welder Middle School
Melissa Correll, Principal, Crain Elementary School