

7/7/2026

Lesa Shocklee and Katherine Seals
Appointed Conservators
Houston ISD

Subject: HISD Success Program

Dear Conservators:

Recent public reporting¹ has raised significant concerns regarding Houston ISD's Success Program and the potential movement of students with disabilities to different campuses for the 2026–2027 school year. TEA is aware that families have publicly requested that Houston ISD pause implementation of these changes, and the agency is investigating multiple special education complaints related to this matter.

The campus changes have been described by Houston ISD as an administrative movement of students with individualized education programs (IEPs) between campuses where the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and IEP services will remain unchanged. TEA acknowledges that school districts generally have some authority to determine campuses that host specialized programs, as well as what special education and related services are offered on each district campus, as long as every eligible student is provided FAPE through implementation of their IEPs.

However, TEA is concerned that a large majority of these impacted students' IEPs are written such that changing campuses without revising IEPs through a properly constituted IEP team meeting or, to the extent allowed by law, through the amendment process, will result in noncompliance with IDEA. Two notable areas of noncompliance would occur if IEPs:

- (1) document the specific campus or location where special education and related services will be provided during the 2026-2027 school year and that campus is no longer the planned campus as a result of the recent correspondence sent to parents regarding their children's campus assignments; and
- (2) do not effectively consider the potential harmful effects related to the proposed change in service-delivery location, particularly when a student would no longer attend his or her home campus as the result of the change.

During TEA's June 15, 2026, meeting with Houston ISD, the district described its plan to conduct a campus-level review of IEPs for students impacted by the Success Program by the end of the first week of school and to determine whether admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meetings with families are required. Given the public nature of this matter, the number of potentially impacted students, and the agency's ongoing review of related complaints, TEA expects conservator oversight of this work to be active, documented, and timely.

¹ [HISD parents ask board to pause sweeping special education overhaul](#)

Accordingly, TEA is requiring the conservators, through their established authority, to oversee the following for all students impacted by the Success Program:

- Verify that Houston ISD reviewed each impacted student's record for IEP development and implementation, potential harmful effects of any proposed placement or service-delivery change, and the continued provision of FAPE required under the IDEA before students are moved to a campus different than the one designated on his or her IEP for the 2026-2027 school year, and
- Ensure, when required, that HISD held ARD committee meetings with families to review and revise IEPs before students are moved to a campus different than the one designated on his or her IEP for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Verify district policies and procedures are reviewed/revised and staff are provided with timely notice, professional development and training on the policies and procedures to prevent future related instances of noncompliance.

TEA is requiring regular written updates regarding the progress of the file review, with monthly reports submitted to TEA beginning August 1, 2026.

A final report verifying completion, findings, corrective actions taken, and outcomes must be submitted to TEA no later than October 9, 2026. If the conservators are unable to verify Houston ISD's completion of these required actions by that date, TEA will issue formal notice and may pursue additional interventions or sanctions against Houston ISD regarding these issues.

Please contact me immediately with any questions.

Sincerely,



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Cc:

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