March 14, 2020

Dear Commissioner Morath,

I want to thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 outbreak that has caused many of our schools across Texas to close. The health and safety of our children should always be a priority, and the steps you and your team have made to help accomplish that are truly appreciated.

However, these cancellations will undoubtedly impact our local school districts and students. That is why I am joining my colleagues to urge you to eliminate STAAR testing requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. In doing so, students will be given adequate time to receive the required instruction without extending classroom time past the end of the school year. The focus for the teachers and students upon returning should be on education, not teaching to a test – especially in an expedited timeframe.

I understand the importance of these tests and the need for accountability. But continuing with the STAAR, under these abnormal and novel circumstances, would not be a fair assessment of our students and will not accurately reflect student-preparedness our educators are working so hard to achieve every day. I know you and your team have a lot to consider and weigh in the days and weeks ahead. I hope this letter will aid in that process. Thank you for your time and consideration. As always, I, and my office, stand ready to help you in any way possible. Thank you again for your tireless efforts on behalf of our state’s students and schools.

God bless,

Matt Krause

Representative Matt Krause
Texas House District 93