March 14, 2020

Governor Greg Abbott

Office Of the Governor

PO BOX 12428

Austin, Texas 7871-2428

Commissioner Mike Marath

Texas Education Agency

1701 N, Congress Avenue

Austin. Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott and Commissioner Morath:

As you are aware. the rapid spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in

unprecedented actions by local authorities In an effort to combat the public health threats posed

by this pandemic. An increasing number o' counties, municipalities and even entire States have

taken Steps to prohibit large gatherings and cancel public events.

As school districts, we are faced with the task of providing educational Services to our students In a

safe and healthy leaning environment. We are also responsible for our students and contributing to

the protection of the overall public health in the midst of a pandemic. As a result, and because of

the significant public health threat posed by COVID-19, we have determined that the prudent course

Of action is to close schools and provide educational services in an alternative manner.

While we appreciate the TEA's support of school district efforts to protect the safety of our

students, we are concerned with the continued focus on the administration of STAAR as described

In the TEAS most recent guidance to school districts. Given the unique situation with which we are

faced. We believe our focus is best placed on keeping students safe and maintaining continuity of

instruction, not attempting to implement some alternative form of standardized testing,

With this in mind. we urge you to cancel STAAR testing for the 2019-2020 school year so that

school districts and teachers can focus on providing the best possible instruction to students in an

Impossibly difficult situation. Student assessment is Important, but student instruction and safety

must be paramount when faced with such significant challenges.

Thank you for your continued support Of school districts as we seek to continue serving Our

students to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

Aledo ISD

Allen ISD

Anna

Bells ISO

Birdville ISD

Blue Ridge ISO

eoles ISD

Bonham ISD

Brock ISD

Caddo Mills ISD

Carroll ISD

Carrollton-Farmers

Branch ISD

Castleberry ISD

Cedar Hill ISD

Celina ISD

College station ISD

Community ISD

Coppell ISD

Denton ISD

Desoto ISO

Eagle Mountain ISD

Saginaw ISD

Farmersville ISD

Forney ISD

Frisco ISD

Garland ISO

Grand praine ISD

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

Greenville ISD

Gunter ISD

Irving ISD

Keller ISD

Lake Dallas ISD

Lake Worth ISD

Lancaster ISD

Leonard ISO

Lewisville ISD

Lovejoy ISD

Lubbock Cooper I SD

Mansfield ISD

McKinney ISO

Mesquite ISD

Midlothian ISD

Plano ISD

Pottsboro ISD

prosper ISD

Richardson ISD

Rockwall ISD

Royse City ISD

ses consolidated ISD

Sam Rayburn ISD

Scurry-Rosser ISO

Sherman ISD

Sunnyvale ISD

Terrell ISD

Van Alstyne ISD

Whitesboro SD