

Tioga Independent School District

Josh Ballinger, Superintendent
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5th Notice - Assignment of 2024-25 & 2025-26 Accreditation Status

Tioga ISD Community,

This is the summary letter of a series of notifications that you have received over the last several weeks. We received the TEA Commissioner Abatement Order this afternoon and I wanted to take a minute to provide you with the details stated in it. Essentially, the first couple of pages within the order reviewed everything we have discussed in previous letters. These details served as a summary regarding why our Tioga ISD accreditation for both the 2024-25 & 2025-26 school years was revoked. Remember, this action from TEA was solely because of our five failed FIRST (financial) ratings, nothing else.

The agreement sections of the order were the next two pages within the document. Generally, it contained three primary themes. First, we need to receive an acceptable rating for both the 2026 Financial and Academic Accountability Ratings. These will both be released this coming August. Remember, our next financial accountability is based on fiscal year 2025 that closed on June 20, 2025 and all of that information has already been submitted to TEA. Academic accountability is based on several factors within measurable student performances during our current 2025-26 school year and primarily takes into account STAAR testing scores and other things like college/career readiness. Second, our current TEA Conservator, Dr. Wiesman now has full authority over the district and anything permitted under Texas Law. We will continue to work in conjunction with her to ensure our students receive the best possible education. Third, the district loses any right to appeal further decisions made by Commissioner Morath regarding our informal review, which is the meeting that set in motion our abatement order.

The order states we should stay on the path of improving our financial status and also maintain, if not also improve, our current academic successes. If either of these areas decline, we will again be back at the mercy of Commissioner Morath and his sole discretion of any enforced action or law when considering what is acceptable. We were granted the reprieve because our staff and students have continued to work hard and perform at above average levels academically each year. Plainly stated in the order is the TEA expectation for us to continue improvement in all areas, which aligns with our expectation as well. As mentioned in previous letters, our FIRST rating will be close for 2026, but it should be passing with the extra efforts that have been made by our contracted CPA/audit director over the last few weeks. The successful performance of our students academically requires many extra efforts from our staff, no matter their department or role. The bottom line here is obviously “extra effort” typically pays off in the end and we should be able to meet the agreed terms of the abatement order. As always, we are more than happy to explain any of this situation in more detail upon request. Thank you for your continued support of Tioga ISD.

Respectfully,

Josh Ballinger