



Gatesville Independent School District

Barrett Pollard, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Dear Governor Abbott,

The number of COVID-19 cases among Texas public school staff and students continues to rise in surges across the state and within our community. The rapid transition from face-to-face learning to virtual instruction has had many negative effects on student learning outcomes. From failing grades to poor attendance, there have been many negative unintended consequences associated with remote learning. Therefore, a “hold harmless ADA policy” for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year is a necessity for Texas public schools.

Despite the best efforts of our teachers, counselors, principals, and school resource officers, the average daily attendance at each campus in our district continues to trend well below the ADA last year. Simply put, by not continuing the “hold harmless” policy on ADA, there will be dire financial implications for our school district.

Thus, I am formally requesting that you continue the ADA hold harmless policy for all Texas public school districts for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. Our local state representatives have backed this idea as well. We hope that you and Commissioner Morath will continue the hold harmless policy to help public school districts and avoid great financial strain. In the future, public school funding based on enrollment and not average daily attendance would be much more practical. Public schools would still hold students accountable for truancy, so it would be a win-win situation.

Sincerely,

Barrett Pollard, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Gatesville ISD