

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 2, 2023

Dear San Antonio ISD Board Members and Superintendent:

I write to raise my constituents' concerns regarding San Antonio ISD's plan to close 19 schools. I have heard overwhelmingly from community members that they want to reduce this number of school closures, and that they want additional time to create plans to save their schools.

Seven schools are set to close within Texas Congressional District 35, including Pershing Elementary, Tynan Early Childhood, Lamar Elementary, Storm Elementary, Collins Garden Elementary, Ogden Elementary, and Nelson Early Childhood Center. Additionally, there are seven schools not directly within TX-35 that many of my constituents work at or attend.

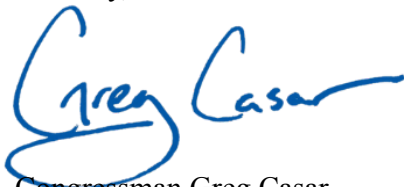
Many of my constituents have expressed concerns about these closures. Public schools are a vital component of our working class neighborhoods. Closing schools that we cannot easily reopen should be a last resort.

That is why I respectfully request that you reduce the number of schools being considered for closure, and that you provide time for the community to come up with creative strategies to save their schools.

As a Member of Congress and former City Council Member, I know first-hand that these decisions aren't easy. The State of Texas severely underfunds public education, and top state officials' neglect of our schools forces local communities to do more and more with fewer resources. Furthermore, top Texas officials are advocating for a school voucher scam that would make matters worse for students and teachers. That is why I am a sponsor of federal legislation that would bring millions of federal dollars home to San Antonio's schools to make up for Texas officials' neglect.

Many neighborhood associations and organizations have only begun developing proposals to save their neighborhood schools. These plans will take time. As we work to bring adequate funds back to San Antonio for our schools, I hope you will provide enough time for these community solutions to come to fruition, and that you reduce closures as much as possible.

Sincerely,



Congressman Greg Casar
Texas Congressional District 35