



State Board of Education



Aaron Kinsey
Chair
Midland, District 15

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Vice Chair
Fairview, District 12

Will Hickman
Secretary
Houston, District 6

3/19/2026

Dear Commissioner Morath,

Americans across the political spectrum are disgusted by the facts that have come to light about the sexual abuse committed by Cesar Chavez. To quote Governor Abbott: "Reports of the horrific and widely acknowledged sexual assault allegations against Cesar Chavez rightfully dismantle the myth of this progressive hero and undermine the narrative that elevated Chavez as a figure worthy of official state celebration." Similarly, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus has issued a statement indicating it is ready to lead efforts to remove statutory references to the Cesar Chavez holiday.

As you know, Cesar Chavez is currently required to be featured in instructional materials and is required to be taught in Texas public schools in multiple grade levels as a result of his inclusion in the Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) several years ago.

The agency is currently administering a process on behalf of the SBOE to revise the Social Studies TEKS. Your team has diligently followed the process adopted by the SBOE, including relying on work group members approved by the SBOE to write the specific language for proposed revisions. Thank you for the agency's steadfast execution of the SBOE's process to enable us to comply with the July revision deadline established in statute!

Given the recent horrific facts that have become known since the work groups finished their work, I am requesting you remove references to Cesar Chavez from the proposed Social Studies TEKS to be presented to the SBOE for our deliberation and debate in April. Texans would rightfully be concerned if they thought work groups continued to include content about Chavez after these revelations. Additionally, I am confident that if there were time to reconvene work groups to consider this, they would eliminate these references in good conscience.

For April's board meeting, please have copies of documentation noting where Cesar Chavez was removed from the work group draft as a reference for all board members.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kinsey
Chairman, Texas State Board of Education

cc: Cari Christman, Deputy Associate Commissioner of the State Board of Education
Shannon Trejo, Deputy Commissioner of School Programs

Gustavo Reveles El Paso, District 1	LJ Francis Corpus Christi, District 2	Marisa B. Perez-Diaz San Antonio, District 3	Staci Childs Houston, District 4	Rebecca Bell-Metereau San Marcos, District 5	Julie Pickren Pearland, District 7
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