

News Release

**For Immediate Release
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“We support the HISD Board of Trustees’ continued legal effort to protect our students from Gov. Greg Abbott’s power-grab scheme to turn over our historic neighborhood schools to outside charter school executives.”

HOUSTON—Statement by Jackie Anderson, president of the Houston Federation of Teachers, on today’s Texas Supreme Court 8-1 ruling upholding a temporary injunction on a state takeover of the Houston Independent School District:

“We applaud the Texas Supreme Court’s ruling today and encourage the court to ask serious questions about the Texas Education Agency’s authority to take control of a school district and the process it followed to trigger a takeover of Houston’s public schools. We support the HISD Board of Trustees’ continued legal effort to protect our students from Gov. Greg Abbott’s power-grab scheme to turn over our historic neighborhood schools to outside charter school executives.

“Instead of focusing on taking away Houston’s right to control our own public schools, Abbott should be working day and night to direct the federal COVID-19 relief funds to our schools to lower class sizes, retain Houston’s amazing educators and school staff, and fund wraparound services. The bull’s-eye focus for our students should be on recovering on so many fronts from the pandemic, not on politics as usual.”

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The Houston Federation of Teachers represents over 7,000 educators and education support professionals. Texas AFT represents more than 65,000 educators, paraprofessionals, support personnel and higher education employees across the state. HFT and Texas AFT are affiliated with the 1.7 million-member American Federation of Teachers.