

TEA Takeover

January 28, 2023

Regarding "[Opinion: A takeover won't help HISD. Funding will](#)," (Jan. 25): Caveat emptor! Problems at a few HISD campuses prompted the Texas Education Agency to mull a takeover of the board in 2019, and the idea is still being considered today. This seems a fool's errand and I would think twice before throwing another ruling and oversight committee at a problem that is complicated by social and economic issues unique to a few campuses for which there are no obvious solutions. A new board might try to succeed by pouring an unreasonable amount of additional resources into the campuses but, according to a [Cato Institute study of Kansas City schools](#), this money-throwing approach does not work. If the TEA were to fail at rehabilitating a school, it too would be a target for criticism — not the kind of diversion they should tolerate if they are to adhere to their broader educational mission. The TEA should equip HISD with advice and advisors who would help develop a plan with some promise of success and avoid diversion of their sense of purpose and precious HISD resources from other campuses.

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