



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: CRIMINAL JUSTICE • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • NOMINATIONS • TRANSPORTATION

July 26, 2023

F. Mike Miles
HISD Superintendent of Schools
4400 W 18th St
Houston, TX 77092

Dear Superintendent Miles:

As the state senator that represents much of Houston ISD, I want to introduce myself and let you know that I am committed to working with you to improve the district. I am a native Houstonian that grew up in Sunnyside and am a proud graduate of Jack Yates High School. I strongly believe that neighborhood schools are the backbone of our communities. I have never forgotten where I come from and I have spent my 16 year political career being a voice for my community in Austin and in Houston.

I am strongly asking you to reconsider your plan to eliminate the libraries from 28 schools and turn them into what are functionally in-school detention facilities. Many of these 28 targeted schools are centered around Kashmere, North Forest, and Wheatley High Schools, all of which I represent, and their feeder elementary and middle schools. As you know, these are schools that are majority people of color from disadvantaged backgrounds. We are sending a terrible message to the greater Houston community that these majority-minority schools need in-school detention more than libraries.

This is not even taking into consideration the fact that you are firing the librarians and media specialists from these schools. Librarians are traditionally some of the most beloved staff in a school. Their expertise allows them to meet a student where they are intellectually and introduce them to books and other learning materials that matches their interests. I understand that your plan does not dispose of existing books and allows for check-outs, but the environment in these new library detention centers will not be conducive to learning and they will no longer have staff to assist students.

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(512) 463-0113
FAX: (512) 463-0006
DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

CENTRAL HOUSTON OFFICE:
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NORTHEAST OFFICE:
3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77020
(713) 223-0387
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FORT BEND OFFICE:
2440 TEXAS PARKWAY, SUITE 110
MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS 77489
(281) 261-2360
FAX: (281) 261-4726

I would welcome the opportunity to work with you to try and institute a plan that will fulfill your goals while taking into account the community you will be working with. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Borris L. Miles', with a stylized, cursive 'B' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sen. Borris L. Miles