

A Message from the Superintendent
March 22, 2024, 7:40 p.m.

Dear Hays CISD Family,

I am heartbroken as I write this email. As you know, one of our school buses was involved in a fatal accident today. One of the people who was killed was a precious young boy who was a pre-K student at Tom Green Elementary School. There are no words that can express my sorrow for the student's family, the Tom Green Elementary School family, and our greater Hays CISD community. I am also saddened to learn of the death of a person who was driving a car that was on the road behind our bus.

This is a horrible and tragic day for our school district. In total, in addition to the two who were killed, 51 others were injured. We continue to pray for everyone affected, those still in the hospital, and their loved ones.

Investigating officers from the Texas Department of Public Safety continue to work at the scene of the accident in Bastrop County to fully assess what happened. At a news conference this afternoon, they tell us that the initial information they have is that a concrete truck veered into the bus's lane and hit it head-on, causing the bus to roll over.

I am most grateful to all of the men and women who served as first-responders to this accident to help us in our most urgent time of need. I am also thankful for the offers of support that have been extended to us from so many parents and community members from across our district; all of our neighboring and regional school superintendents; Governor Greg Abbott; United States Senator John Cornyn; United States Representative Chip Roy; State Senator Donna Campbell; State Senator Judith Zaffirini; State Representative Erin Zwiener; the chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Nim Kidd; leadership at the Texas Education Agency; and other local leaders from Hays County and the City of Buda. I am particularly grateful for our colleagues in Bastrop ISD, who have been both at the scene and in close contact with us since moments after the accident occurred.

I can report to you this evening that our reunification process was completed at 6:45 p.m. Our teachers and school staff have all been commendable and professional in their efforts to help everyone affected by today's unspeakable event. Allow me to specifically thank the driver of the bus. Though injured, she insisted that medical personnel tend to the children first. Additionally, the other adults on the bus also focused their attention on the children first, despite their own injuries.

I wish I could end this correspondence by saying that everything will be alright. For most of us, it eventually will. But, there are grieving families tonight who will never know life again as it was before. Let us continue to focus on them in our hearts and in our prayers.

Sincerely,
Eric Wright
Superintendent of Schools