

Austin American-Statesman

Our state treasure, teachers and Johnston High | Your View

Saving Johnston

Re: June 10 commentary "[State help arrives too late.](#)"

We strongly agree with state Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, that the sad episode of Johnston High's closing is a case of "a day late, and a dollar short."

We also agree that it's unacceptable for the state to consider it acceptable when 55 percent of students fail math and 60 percent fail science. But the state did not wrongly pull "the rug out from under" Johnston. Johnston students have been performing poorly for five years.

Seventy-two percent of Johnston's ninth-graders and 65 percent of 10th-graders failed on math this year. In science, 64 percent of 10th-graders failed. Because strong math and science skills are key to good-paying jobs, how can we tolerate such results?

We hope that state lawmakers will toughen, not soften, the accountability system. Students at schools such as Johnston deserve a dramatic improvement in their education now, not five years after failure sets in at their schools.

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