



Dr. Jeff Gasaway
1800 Colt Circle
Marble Falls, TX 78654

August 25, 2026

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

In light of your latest assault on public education in our state with your proposed ban on H-1B visas for public schools, perhaps insight from a school district that relies on H-1B Visas to fill critical teaching positions would be beneficial for you.

Contrary to your false rhetoric that this ban would “eliminate foreign influence in classrooms”, H-1B visas are used by public school districts to fill teacher shortages, which continue to increase year over year due to the now hostile environment for teachers in public education created by you and your administration. These shortages usually come in roles that serve our neediest students in bilingual programs.

In simpler terms: there are not enough Texas teachers to teach Texas students.

That means school districts are forced to get creative with how to fill these positions in order to best serve our students—ALL of our students, not just the ones who come to us already speaking fluent English. H-1B visas are one of the few remaining tools public schools have to try and solve this issue, and instead of working with school districts on a solution to the teacher shortage, you have instead chosen to try and take yet another support away from us.

Despite your claim that this ban will prioritize local hires, school districts are not currently hiring foreign teachers over local teachers. There simply aren't local teachers lining up who can fill these positions. We as public school districts do a disservice to our students if we do not execute due diligence in trying to find and hire the best teachers for these positions, even if that means we have to look out of state, or even out of the country in order to do so.

In Marble Falls ISD, we have a commitment to love and inspire all of our students, and empower them to lead extraordinary lives through relevant, engaging learning experiences led by inspirational and nurturing educators. We are educating our students to be future doctors, medical personnel, lawyers, teachers, and even politicians.

LOVE & INSPIRE

Marble Falls ISD has an unyielding commitment to love every
child and inspire them to achieve their fullest potential.

www.marblefallsisd.com



Located just 50 miles northwest of Austin, we serve a student population of 4,000 spread over three different communities. The majority of our student population is hispanic, while 62% is economically disadvantaged, and 24% is identified as emergent bilingual.

This school year, we launched a dual way, two-way language program after much community feedback and demand. We aren't just teaching Spanish as a second-language option for secondary students—we are meeting our most vulnerable students where they are at, some as young as Pre-K 4s, and educating them in two languages. Research has shown that students in well-designed dual language programs can demonstrate stronger academic outcomes while developing the ability to communicate, learn, and succeed in two languages - an increasingly valuable skill in our workforce and global economy.

Without H-1B visas, we would not be able to fully provide the free public education guaranteed to every child under the Texas Constitution.

In Marble Falls ISD, we have used anywhere from 4 to 12 visas a year since the 2018-2019 school year, to fill bilingual positions for our students. This allows us to have native Spanish speaking teachers in classrooms who can teach our Spanish speaking students in their native language so that they can comprehend what's being taught as prescribed by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, all while learning English with the goal of mastering the language well enough to transition into general population classes before they become Marble Falls High School graduates.

So instead of spouting election-year nonsense of saving our state from foreign ideological influence and further crippling public education more than you already have, work with school districts to address real challenges we face—including finding and hiring the qualified staff we need to fulfill our mission of educating every student in our district.

I invite you, Governor Abbott, to come visit us here in Marble Falls ISD anytime. We would be happy to show you the amazing ways our H-1B Visa teachers are reaching our neediest students and setting an educational foundation that will lead our students to achieve their fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Gasaway
Superintendent, Marble Falls ISD

LOVE & INSPIRE

Marble Falls ISD has an unyielding commitment to love every child and inspire them to achieve their fullest potential.

www.marblefallsisd.com