



**Patricia Perez**

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**From:** Patricia Perez  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:20 PM  
**To:** Patricia Perez  
**Subject:** FW: Concern for STAAR End-of-Course Testing Failure

FYI: Board of Trustees  
Superintendent

**Board Agenda Request – Carlos Elizondo**

**From:** Dr. Alda T. Benavides <atbenavides@bisd.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:18 AM  
**To:** Patricia Perez <pperez@bisd.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Concern for STAAR End-of-Course Testing Failure

Board Member Request – Carlos Elizondo

**From:** Carlos Elizondo <celizondo2@bisd.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 10:49 PM  
**To:** Dr. Alda T. Benavides <atbenavides@bisd.us>  
**Subject:** Concern for STAAR End-of-Course Testing Failure

**Carlos A. Elizondo**

Trustee, Place 1  
Brownsville Independent School District

April 13, 2026

**Adela Benavides**

Interim Superintendent  
Brownsville Independent School District

Dear Ms. Benavides,

I am writing to formally address the reported Chromebook Wi-Fi connectivity failure that occurred during STAAR End-of-Course testing at Lopez Early College High School, as outlined in the April 13, 2026 administrative update.

This situation raises serious concerns regarding planning, system readiness, and oversight—particularly given the direct impact on over 300 students during a high-stakes state assessment. Any disruption during STAAR testing not only affects student performance but also exposes the district to potential compliance risks with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Of particular concern is the identification of a **security certificate issue** impacting Chromebook connectivity and the directive to utilize the **BISDFree network as a workaround**. The use of an alternative network that bypasses established security protocols during a state-mandated testing

window warrants immediate clarification, as it introduces potential risks related to data security, testing integrity, and compliance with state and federal guidelines.

In order to fulfill my duties as a Trustee, I am requesting a detailed report addressing the following:

- The root cause of the security certificate failure, including when the issue was first identified and whether any prior warnings or system alerts were generated
- Preventative measures that were in place prior to testing and why they failed to mitigate this issue
- A comprehensive timeline of events, including response actions taken by the Technology Department
- Justification for the use of the BISDFree network, including confirmation that this workaround complies with TEA testing security requirements
- The scope of impact beyond Lopez ECHS, including whether other campuses experienced similar disruptions
- A corrective action plan to ensure this issue does not recur during future testing cycles
- Identification of the individuals, roles, or departments responsible for system oversight, certification management, and testing readiness related to this failure

Furthermore, it is essential that we clearly determine **who was responsible for this failure and ensure that appropriate accountability measures are taken.** Situations of this magnitude require not only corrective action but also a transparent evaluation of responsibility to maintain the integrity of district operations and public trust.

Additionally, I request clarification on whether this incident has been formally reported to the Texas Education Agency, as required under testing irregularity protocols.

**Given the significance of this matter, I am requesting that this issue be placed on an upcoming Board agenda for full discussion and transparency. It is critical that we ensure all systems supporting student assessment are properly vetted, secured, and operational prior to testing administration.**

Our students, educators, and community expect a testing environment that is reliable and secure. Failures of this nature must be thoroughly examined and addressed with urgency and accountability.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

**Carlos A. Elizondo**

Trustee, Place 1

Brownsville Independent School District

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## Minerva Almanza

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**From:** pena4bisd@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2026 8:46 AM  
**To:** Patricia Perez  
**Cc:** Minerva Almanza  
**Subject:** Agenda Items

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Good Morning,

Please be advised that I would like to have this email stand as approval for all current and future agenda items requests, submitted by any and all of my BISD Board Members' Colleagues.

Respectfully,

Minerva M. Pena  
BISD Trustee  
946-345-5564

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)