

Oct. 15, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my intent to step down from my position as Commissioner of Education, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

During the course of my career in public service, I have held two statewide positions since 1999 – first as a member of the Texas Railroad Commission and then as Commissioner of Education. Both of those are based in Austin. While carrying out my responsibilities, I have kept my house in Arlington and managed to maintain a long-distance partnership with my wife. But after more than 16 years of weekend commuting, I feel it is finally time to simply head home.

It has been my pleasure to serve the students, educators and people of Texas as Education Commissioner over the past three years. I am deeply honored and appreciative to have served you in your initial gubernatorial legislative session.

Under your leadership, Texas is poised to usher in a new level of high-quality Pre-K education, as well as bring greater flexibility and innovation to our school districts. You have worked to assure the return of valuable literacy and math academies as well as other supports for our teachers. Finally, we are again broadening the choices and information provided to Texas parents to help them make informed decisions about their children's education. I have no doubt that your commitment to public education will be key to maintaining our state's position as a national leader for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "M".

Michael Williams
Commissioner