

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING
APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS**

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF DENTON §

I. Recitals

The Texas Education Agency’s Commissioner of Education serves as the educational leader of the state. The commissioner oversees the creation of rules and policies governing the state's approximately 1,200 school districts, oversees the TEA and its \$21 billion annual budget, and works closely with the state legislature, various state agencies, and the U.S. Department of Education on behalf of the 5.2 million public school children of Texas.

In order to effectively lead the state’s education system, the commissioner should understand and have relevant experience in all areas related to public schools in Texas, including the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, school curriculum, instructional materials, student academic achievement, social factors affecting student learning, special education requirements, legislative mandates, school finance, and teacher, administrator, and school board roles and duties. The 5.2 million children currently in Texas public schools need a commissioner who is qualified upon appointment to avoid months or years of additional training on the complexities of Texas public schools.

In Texas, to be eligible for a Principal Certificate, an educator must have a master’s degree, valid classroom teaching certificate, and at least two years of teaching experience, which permits the educator to fulfill the role of principal, assistant principal, or other administrator in a public school. *See* 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 241.20(2). A Superintendent Certificate requires similar qualifications allowing an educator to serve as superintendent of a Texas public school district. *See* TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 242.20 (3). Presently, however, the only qualification mandated by the Texas Education Code for the Commissioner of Education to oversee the statewide public education system is that he or she must be a citizen of the United States.

The Texas legislature has recognized the importance of appointing or selecting other state-level commissioners with relevant experience and expertise in the area the commissioner leads. For example, state law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to have worked for at least five years in the general agriculture field. *See* TEX. AGRIC. CODE § 11.005. Further, the Commissioner of Insurance must be well informed and qualified in the field of insurance and have at least five years of relevant experience. *See* TEX. INS. CODE § 31.023. Texas statutes also require professional and consulting service providers (*see* TEX. GOV’T CODE § 2254) and senior judges (*see* TEX. GOV’T CODE § 62.102) to possess some level of experience and qualifications. Further, other U.S. states have mandated by statute that the leader of their state education system possess experience and qualifications related to education, including New Mexico and Virginia.

II. Resolution

Based on the recitals above and the pride and strong commitment of Texans to the quality of the public education of our children, the Denton Independent School District recognizes the political nature of such appointment, and the District implores the Governor to appoint a Texas Commissioner of Education who

- Possesses a minimum of a master's degree in education and extensive experience in education leadership.
- Considers the social, emotional, and academic welfare of each of Texas' 5.2 million public school students in all decision making and resource allocation.
- Demonstrates a heart for ALL children. Texas public schools are open to every child in this state regardless of family background, personal abilities, or geographic location.
- Understands the value of local control. Schools are best governed by locally elected trustees, who volunteer their time and know the community and its needs.
- Is dedicated to an adequate and equitable funding system. Appropriate school funding is critical to the future of this state because it is necessary to provide for our growing student population.
- Collaborates with dedicated educators. The people who commit their lives to educating children should be seen as valuable resources in charting the future.
- Communicates and embodies a vision for the future. Knowing *why* it matters that we educate every student in Texas to the best of our ability, and *why* it is an investment in our tomorrows.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 8th day of December 2015

By: _____
Mrs. Barbara Burns
Board President

By: _____
Dr. Jim Alexander
Board Member

By: _____
Dr. Jeanetta Smith
Board Vice President

By: _____
Dr. Glenna Harris
Board Member

By: _____
Mrs. Dorothy Martinez
Board Secretary

By: _____
Mrs. Mia Price
Board Member

By: _____
Mr. Charles Stafford
Board Member