Regular Board Meeting

October 20, 2025

AGENDA SECTION: Public Hearing

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

(FIRST)

BOARD POLICY: AIA (Legal)

STRATEGIC GOAL(S): Priority 4: Fiscal Stewardship & Operational Excellence

FISCAL NOTE: There is no impact to the budget

PREPARED/PRESENTED BY: Darla Moss

Background Information

School FIRST was initially authorized by the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. HB 5, passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature in 2013, enacted major changes to the law that effectively directed the Commissioner of Education to include metrics in the financial accountability rating system to rate the future financial solvency of each school district and open-enrollment charter school in Texas. The changes required by HB 5 are described in more detail below.

As stated by TEA, School FIRST "ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve those practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes."

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees hold the required public hearing to present the District's FIRST rating results and acknowledge the report.

Communication Deployment

To ensure transparency and public awareness the FIRST hearing notice was posted on October 6, 2025. The Full FIRST report will be available on the District's website following the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. T. Lamar Goree Superintendent