

DRAFT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION CONCERNING
APPOINTMENT OF THE TEXAS COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

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 creates 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.

In order to effectively lead the state’s education system, the commissioner must 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 training on the complexities of Texas public schools.

In Texas, in order 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). Similarly, an educator is required to possess a master’s degree in order 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.

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II. Resolution

Based on the recitals above, the Lewisville Independent School District implores Governor Abbott to appoint a Texas Commissioner of Education who possesses a minimum of a master's degree in education as well as extensive experience in education leadership.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 9th day of November 2015

By: _____
Trisha Sheffield
Board President

By: _____
Angie Cox
Board Member

By: _____
Tracy Scott Miller
Board Vice President

By: _____
Kristi Hassett
Board Member

By: _____
Kris Vaughn
Board Secretary

By: _____
Brenda Latham
Board Member

By: _____
Krona Thimesch
Board Member