



# DeSoto Independent School District

## Board Meeting Presentation Summary

### Agenda Item: Request for Exception to Facility Rental Agreement – Chocolate MINT Non-Profit Organization

#### Purpose:

To request Board approval for an exception to the district's standard facility rental agreement for the non-profit organization *Chocolate MINT*, which has consistently demonstrated a strong partnership with DeSoto ISD through its charitable community engagement efforts.

#### Background:

As DeSoto ISD implements a more structured and consistent approach to facility rental processes, including revised protocols and fee schedules, we recognize the importance of balancing operational integrity with community impact. *Chocolate MINT* has organized and facilitated significant holiday charitable events on DeSoto ISD campuses for multiple years, including:

- **Annual Turkey Drive Giveaway:** Provides full Thanksgiving meal packages for families in need, many of whom are DeSoto ISD scholars and their families.
- **Christmas Candyland:** A festive gift-giving event offering toys and holiday cheer to children in the community, directly supporting our students and enhancing their holiday experience.

These events have been hosted at DeSoto ISD facilities and have proven to be well-organized, safe, and deeply impactful to our school community. *Chocolate MINT* covers event costs and coordinates with district staff to ensure a smooth and aligned experience.

#### Request:

In light of their ongoing contributions and alignment with the district's mission of supporting the whole child and strengthening community ties, we respectfully request the Board's approval to:

- **Waive or significantly reduce facility rental fees** for *Chocolate MINT* events scheduled for the 2025–2026 school year.
- **Formalize a community partnership agreement** that acknowledges the organization's charitable impact while providing the district with appropriate scheduling, operational, and risk management assurances.

#### Rationale:

Granting this exception supports the district's broader goals of community engagement, student and family support, and strategic partnership cultivation. It also reinforces the district's commitment to equity, compassion, and service—especially during the holiday season when community needs are heightened.

*The mission of DeSoto ISD is to prepare each student academically and socially to be a problem solver and productive citizen for a 21<sup>st</sup> century global society.*



# DeSoto Independent School District

---

**Recommendation:**

Approve an exception to the standard facility rental agreement for *Chocolate MINT* to allow continued use of district facilities for charitable holiday events benefiting DeSoto ISD scholars and families.

**Next Steps:**

Upon Board approval, district administration will work with *Chocolate MINT* to develop a written agreement outlining expectations, dates, and responsibilities for upcoming events.

*The mission of DeSoto ISD is to prepare each student academically and socially to be a problem solver and productive citizen for a 21<sup>st</sup> century global society.*

---