

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COPPELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

STATE OF TEXAS       §  
                                  §  
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

**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). 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, the Coppell 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Apple  
Board President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Hill  
Board Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy Fisher  
Board Vice President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Dungan  
Board Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Barbo  
Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susie Kemp  
Board Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thom Hulme  
Board Member