



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** Consideration for Approval to Adopt Resolution regarding Review of Investment Policy and Strategies

**SUBMITTED BY:** Samuel D. Flores **OF:** Director of Accounting

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** October 15, 2008

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve resolution indicating that United ISD Board of Trustees received and reviewed the District's investment policy and strategies, list of qualified brokers and list of investment training sources as required by the Public Investment Act and United ISD Investment Policy.

**RATIONALE:**

In order to comply with Public Funds Investment Act and District policy, the Board of Trustees should annually review the District's investment policies and strategies, list of qualified brokers and training sources.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**

CDA (LEGAL) Other Revenues: Investments

## Resolution

WHEREAS, the United Independent School District Board of Trustees has received and reviewed the investment policy and strategies of the District, a list of qualified brokers, and a list of authorized investments training sources in accordance with Board Policy, CDA (Legal) OTHER REVENUES : INVESTMENT.

WHEREAS, District Administration does not recommend any changes to the current investment policy or investment strategies at this time.

WHEREAS, District Administration does not recommend any changes to the current list of qualified brokers except name changes on two current brokers nor any changes to the current list of authorized investment training sources attached hereto.

WHEREAS, the investment policy requires the Board to adopt a written instrument stating it has reviewed the investment policy, investment strategies, list of qualified brokers, and list of authorized investment training sources, and record any changes made to either the investment policy, investment strategies, list of qualified brokers, and list of authorized investment training sources.

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes Eduardo Zuniga, CPA, Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services, Laida P. Benavides, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, and Samuel D. Flores, Director of Accounting, to act in the capacity of Investment Officers for the District.

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2008 that the Board of Trustees for the United School District does hereby approve the resolution described herein and that it be made part of the minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

OTHER REVENUES  
INVESTMENTS

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(LEGAL)

All investments made by the District shall comply with the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 2256, Subchapter A) and all federal, state, and local statutes, rules or regulations. *Gov't Code 2256.026*

WRITTEN POLICIES

Investments shall be made in accordance with written policies approved by the Board. The investment policies must primarily emphasize safety of principal and liquidity and must address investment diversification, yield, and maturity and the quality and capability of investment management. The policies must include:

1. A list of the types of authorized investments in which the District's funds may be invested;
2. The maximum allowable stated maturity of any individual investment owned by the District;
3. For pooled fund groups, the maximum dollar-weighted average maturity allowed based on the stated maturity date of the portfolio;
4. Methods to monitor the market price of investments acquired with public funds; and
5. A requirement for settlement of all transactions, except investment pool funds and mutual funds, on a delivery versus payment basis.

*Gov't Code 2256.005(b)*

ANNUAL REVIEW

The investment policy and the investment strategy shall be reviewed not less than annually. The Board shall adopt a written instrument stating that it has reviewed the investment policy and investment strategies and that the written instrument so adopted shall record any changes made to either the investment policy or investment strategies. *Gov't Code 2256.005(e)*

ANNUAL AUDIT

The Board shall perform a compliance audit of management controls on investments and adherence to the Board's established investment policies. The compliance audit shall be performed in conjunction with the annual financial audit. *Gov't Code 2256.005(m)*

INVESTMENT  
STRATEGIES

As part of the investment policy, the Board shall adopt a separate written investment strategy for each of the funds or group of funds under the Board's control. Each investment strategy must describe the investment objectives for the particular fund under the following priorities in order of importance:

1. Understanding of the suitability of the investment to the financial requirements of the Board;

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2. Preservation and safety of principal;
3. Liquidity;
4. Marketability of the investment if the investment needs to be liquidated before maturity;
5. Diversification of the investment portfolio; and
6. Yield.

*Gov't Code 2256.005(d)*

INVESTMENT  
OFFICER

The Board shall designate one or more officers or employees as investment officer(s) to be responsible for the investment of its funds. If the Board has contracted with another investing entity to invest its funds, the investment officer of the other investing entity is considered to be the investment officer of the contracting Board's District. In the administration of the duties of an investment officer, the person designated as investment officer shall exercise the judgment and care, under prevailing circumstances that a prudent person would exercise in the management of the person's own affairs, but the Board retains the ultimate responsibility as fiduciaries of the assets of the District. Unless authorized by law, a person may not deposit, withdraw, transfer, or manage in any other manner the funds of the investing entity. Authority granted to a person to invest an entity's funds is effective until rescinded by the Board or until termination of the person's employment by the District.

*Gov't Code 2256.005(f)*

A District or investment officer may use the District's employees or the services of a contractor of the District to aid the investment officer in the execution of the officer's duties under Government Code, Chapter 2256. *Gov't Code 2256.003(c)*

INVESTMENT  
TRAINING  
INITIAL

Within 12 months after taking office or assuming duties, the treasurer or chief financial officer and the investment officer of the District shall attend at least one training session from an independent source approved either by the Board or by a designated investment committee advising the investment officer. This initial training must contain at least ten hours of instruction relating to their respective responsibilities under the Public Funds Investment Act.

*Gov't Code 2256.008(a)*

WITHIN A TWO-  
YEAR PERIOD

The treasurer or chief financial officer and the investment officer must also attend an investment training session not less than once in a two-year period and receive not less than ten hours of instruction relating to investment responsibilities under the Public Funds Investment Act from an independent source approved by the Board or a designated investment committee advising the investment offi-

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cer. If the District has contracted with another investing entity to invest the District's funds, this training requirement may be satisfied by having a Board officer attend four hours of appropriate instruction in a two-year period. *Gov't Code 2256.008(a), (b)*

Investment training shall include education in investment controls, security risks, strategy risks, market risks, diversification of investment portfolio, and compliance with the Government Code, Chapter 2256. *Gov't Code 2256.008(c)*

STANDARD OF  
CARE

Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under prevailing circumstances that a person of prudence, discretion, and intelligence would exercise in the management of his or her own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of capital and the probable income to be derived. Investments shall be governed by the following objectives in order of priority:

1. Preservation and safety of principal;
2. Liquidity; and
3. Yield.

In determining whether an investment officer has exercised prudence with respect to an investment decision, the following shall be taken into consideration:

1. The investment of all funds, rather than the prudence of a single investment, over which the officer had responsibility.
2. Whether the investment decision was consistent with the Board's written investment policy.

*Gov't Code 2256.006*

PERSONAL  
INTEREST

A District investment officer who has a personal business relationship with a business organization offering to engage in an investment transaction with the District shall file a statement disclosing that personal business interest. An investment officer who is related within the second degree by affinity or consanguinity, as determined by Government Code Chapter 573, to an individual seeking to sell an investment to the District shall file a statement disclosing that relationship with the Board and with the Texas Ethics Commission. For purposes of this policy, an investment officer has a personal business relationship with a business organization if:

1. The investment officer owns ten percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business organization or owns \$5,000 or more of the fair market value of the business organization;

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2. Funds received by the investment officer from the business organization exceed ten percent of the investment officer's gross income for the previous year; or
3. The investment officer has acquired from the business organization during the previous year investments with a book value of \$2,500 or more for the personal account of the investment officer.

*Gov't Code 2256.005(i)*

QUARTERLY  
REPORTS

Not less than quarterly, the investment officer shall prepare and submit to the Board a written report of investment transactions for all funds covered by the Public Funds Investment Act. This report shall be presented to the Board and the Superintendent not less than quarterly, within a reasonable time after the end of the period. The report must:

1. Contain a detailed description of the investment position of the District on the date of the report;
2. Be prepared jointly and signed by all District investment officers.
3. Contain a summary statement for each pooled fund group (i.e., each internally created fund in which one or more accounts are combined for investing purposes). The report must be prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and must state:
  - a. Beginning market value for the reporting period;
  - b. Additions and changes to the market value during the period;
  - c. Ending market value for the period; and
  - d. Fully accrued interest for the reporting period.
4. State the book value and market value of each separately invested asset at the beginning and end of the reporting period by the type of asset and fund type invested.
5. State the maturity date of each separately invested asset that has a maturity date.
6. State the account or fund or pooled group fund in the District for which each individual investment was acquired.
7. State the compliance of the investment portfolio of the District as it relates to the District's investment strategy expressed in

the District's investment policy and relevant provisions of Government Code, Chapter 2256.

If the District invests in other than money market mutual funds, investment pools or accounts offered by its depository bank in the form of certificates of deposit, or money market accounts or similar accounts, the reports shall be formally reviewed at least annually by an independent auditor, and the result of the review shall be reported to the Board by that auditor.

*Gov't Code 2256.023*

SELECTION OF  
BROKER

The Board or a designated investment committee, shall, at least annually, review, revise, and adopt a list of qualified brokers that are authorized to engage in investment transactions with the District. *Gov't Code 2256.025*

AUTHORIZED  
INVESTMENTS

The Board may purchase, sell, and invest its funds and funds under its control in investments described below, in compliance with its adopted investment policies and according to the standard of care set out in this policy. Investments may be made directly by the Board or by a nonprofit corporation acting on behalf of the Board or an investment pool acting on behalf of two or more local governments, state agencies, or a combination of the two. *Gov't Code 2256.003(a)*

In the exercise of these powers, the Board may contract with an investment management firm registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Section 80b-1 et seq.) or with the State Securities Board to provide for the investment and management of its public funds or other funds under its control. A contract made for such purpose may not be for a term longer than two years. A renewal or extension of the contract must be made by the Board by order, ordinance, or resolution. *Gov't Code 2256.003(b)*

The following investments are authorized:

1. Obligations, including letters of credit, of the United States or its agencies and instrumentalities; direct obligations of the state of Texas or its agencies and instrumentalities; collateralized mortgage obligations directly issued by a federal agency or instrumentality of the United States, the underlying security for which is guaranteed by an agency or instrumentality of the United States; other obligations, the principal and interest of which are unconditionally guaranteed or insured by, or backed by the full faith and credit of, the state of Texas, the United States, or their respective agencies and instrumentalities; obligations of states, agencies, counties, cities, and other political subdivisions of any state rated as to investment quality by

a nationally recognized investment rating firm not less than A or its equivalent; and bonds issued, assumed, or guaranteed by the state of Israel. *Gov't Code 2256.009(a)*

The following investments are not authorized:

- a. Obligations whose payment represents the coupon payments on the outstanding principal balance of the underlying mortgage-backed security collateral and pays no principal.
- b. Obligations whose payment represents the principal stream of cash flow from the underlying mortgage-backed security collateral and bears no interest.
- c. Collateralized mortgage obligations that have a stated final maturity date of greater than ten years.
- d. Collateralized mortgage obligations the interest rate of which is determined by an index that adjusts opposite to the changes in a market index.

*Gov't Code 2256.009(b)*

2. Certificates of deposit or share certificates issued by a depository institution that has its main office or a branch office in Texas that is guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or its successor or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or its successor and is secured by obligations described in item 1 above, including mortgage-backed securities directly issued by a federal agency or instrumentality that have a market value of not less than the principal amount of the certificates (but excluding those mortgage-backed securities described in Section 2256.009[b]) or secured in any other manner and amount provided by law for the deposits of the investing entity. *Gov't Code 2256.010(a)*

In addition to the authority to invest funds in certificates of deposit under the previous section, an investment in certificates of deposit made in accordance with the following conditions is an authorized investment under Government Code 2256.010:

- a. The funds are invested by the District through a depository institution that has its main office or a branch office in this state and that is selected by the District;
- b. The depository institution selected by the District arranges for the deposit of the funds in certificates of deposit in one or more federally insured depository institutions, wherever located, for the account of the District;



- c. The full amount of the principal and accrued interest of each of the certificates of deposit is insured by the United States or an instrumentality of the United States;
- d. The depository institution selected by the District acts as custodian for the District with respect to the certificates of deposit issued for the account of the District entity; and
- e. At the same time that the funds are deposited and the certificates of deposit are issued for the account of the District, the depository institution selected by the District receives an amount of deposits from customers of other federally insured depository institutions, wherever located, that is equal to or greater than the amount of the funds invested by the District through the depository institution.

*Gov't Code 2256.010(b)*

The investment policies may provide that bids for certificates of deposit be solicited orally, in writing, electronically, or in any combination of those methods. *Gov't Code 2256.005(c)*

- 3. Fully collateralized repurchase agreements that have a defined termination date, are secured by obligations of the United States or its agencies and instrumentalities, are pledged to the District, held in the District's name, and deposited with the District or a third party selected and approved by the Board, and placed through a primary government securities dealer, as defined by the Federal Reserve or a financial institution doing business in Texas. The term of any reverse security repurchase agreement may not exceed 90 days after the date the reverse security repurchase agreement is delivered. Money received by the District under the terms of a reverse security repurchase agreement shall be used to acquire additional authorized investments, but the term of the authorized investments acquired must mature not later than the expiration date stated in the reverse security repurchase agreement. *Gov't Code 2256.011*
- 4. A securities lending program if:
  - a. The value of securities loaned is not less than 100 percent collateralized, including accrued income, and the loan allows for termination at any time;
  - b. The loan is secured by:

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- (1) Pledged securities described by Government Code 2256.009;
  - (2) Pledged irrevocable letters of credit issued by a bank that is organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any other state and continuously rated by at least one nationally recognized investment rating firm at not less than A or its equivalent; or
  - (3) Cash invested in accordance with Government Code 2256.009, 2256.013, 2256.014, or 2256.016;
- c. The terms of the loan require that the securities being held as collateral be pledged to the investing entity, held in the investing entity's name, and deposited at the time the investment is made with the entity or with a third party selected by or approved by the investing entity; and
  - d. The loan is placed through a primary government securities dealer or a financial institution doing business in this state.

An agreement to lend securities under a securities lending program must have a term of one year or less.

*Gov't Code 2256.0115*

5. Banker's acceptance, with a stated maturity of 270 days or fewer from the date of issuance that will be liquidated in full at maturity, which is eligible for collateral for borrowing from a Federal Reserve Bank, and is accepted by a bank meeting the requirements of Government Code 2256.012(4). *Gov't Code 2256.012*
6. Commercial paper that has a stated maturity of 270 days or fewer from the date of issuance and is rated not less than A-1 or P-1 or an equivalent rating by at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies or by one nationally recognized credit rating agency provided the commercial paper is fully secured by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank organized and existing under U.S. law or the law of any state. *Gov't Code 2256.013*
7. No-load money market mutual funds that:
  - a. Are registered with and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission;

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- b. Provide the District with a prospectus and other information required by the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) or the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.);
- c. Have a dollar-weighted average stated maturity of 90 days or fewer; and
- d. Include in their investment objectives the maintenance of a stable net asset value of \$1 for each share.

However, investments in no-load money market mutual funds shall be limited to the percentages authorized by Government Code 2256.014(c).

- 8. No-load mutual funds that:
  - a. Are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
  - b. Have an average weighted maturity of less than two years;
  - c. Are invested exclusively in obligations approved by Government Code Chapter 2256, Subchapter A, regarding authorized investments (Public Funds Investment Act);
  - d. Are continuously rated by at least one nationally recognized investment rating firm of not less than AAA or its equivalent; and
  - e. Conform to the requirements in Government Code Section 2256.016(b) and (c) relating to the eligibility of investment pools to receive and invest funds of investing entities.

Investments in no-load mutual funds shall be limited to the percentages authorized by Government Code 2256.014(c). In addition, the District may not invest any portion of bond proceeds, reserves, and funds held for debt service, in no-load mutual funds described in this item.

*Gov't Code 2256.014*

- 9. A guaranteed investment contract, as an investment vehicle for bond proceeds, if the guaranteed investment contract:
  - a. Has a defined termination date.
  - b. Is secured by obligations described by Government Code Section 2256.009(a)(1), excluding those obliga-

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tions described by Section 2256.009(b), in an amount at least equal to the amount of bond proceeds invested under the contract.

- c. Is pledged to the District and deposited with the District or with a third party selected and approved by the District.

Bond proceeds, other than bond proceeds representing reserves and funds maintained for debt service purposes, may not be invested in a guaranteed investment contract with a term longer than five years from the date of issuance of the bonds.

To be eligible as an authorized investment:

- a. The Board must specifically authorize guaranteed investment contracts as eligible investments in the order, ordinance, or resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds.
- b. The District must receive bids from at least three separate providers with no material financial interest in the bonds from which proceeds were received.
- c. The District must purchase the highest yielding guaranteed investment contract for which a qualifying bid is received.
- d. The price of the guaranteed investment contract must take into account the reasonably expected drawdown schedule for the bond proceeds to be invested.
- e. The provider must certify the administrative costs reasonably expected to be paid to third parties in connection with the guaranteed investment contract.

*Gov't Code 2256.015*

- 10. A public funds investment pool meeting the requirements of Government Code 2256.016 and 2256.019, if the Board authorizes the investment in the particular pool by resolution.  
*Gov't Code 2256.016, 2256.019*

CHANGE IN LAW

The District is not required to liquidate investments that were authorized investments at the time of purchase. *Gov't Code 2256.017*

SELLERS OF  
INVESTMENTS

A written copy of the investment policy shall be presented to any person offering to engage in an investment transaction with an investing entity or to an investment management firm under contract

with an investing entity to invest or manage the entity's investment portfolio. For purposes of this policy, a business organization includes investment pools and an investment management firm under contract with an investing entity to invest or manage the entity's investment portfolio. The qualified representative of the business organization offering to engage in an investment transaction with the District shall execute a written instrument in a form acceptable to the District and the business organization substantially to the effect that the business organization has:

1. Received and thoroughly reviewed the District investment policy; and
2. Has acknowledged that the business organization has implemented reasonable procedures and controls in an effort to preclude investment transactions conducted between the District and the organization that are not authorized by the District's policy, except to the extent that this authorization is dependent on an analysis of the makeup of the entity's entire portfolio or requires an interpretation of subjective investment standards.

The investment officer may not acquire or otherwise obtain any authorized investment described in the District's investment policy from a person who has not delivered to the District the instrument described above.

*Gov't Code 2256.005*

DONATIONS

A gift, devise, or bequest made to provide college scholarships for District graduates may be invested by the Board as provided in Property Code 117.004, unless otherwise specifically provided by the terms of the gift, devise, or bequest. *Education Code 45.107*

Investments donated to the District for a particular purpose or under terms of use specified by the donor are not subject to the requirements of Government Code Chapter 2256, Subchapter A. *Gov't Code 2256.004(b)*

ELECTRONIC FUNDS  
TRANSFER

The District may use electronic means to transfer or invest all funds collected or controlled by the District. *Gov't Code 2256.051*

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INVESTMENT  
AUTHORITY

The assistant superintendent for business/finance or other person designated by Board resolution shall serve as the investment officer of the District and shall invest District funds in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, the District's approved investment policy, and generally accepted accounting procedures. All investment transactions except investment pool funds and mutual funds shall be executed on a delivery versus payment basis.

APPROVED  
INVESTMENT  
INSTRUMENTS

From those investments authorized by law and described further in CDA(LEGAL), the Board shall permit investment of District funds in only the following investment types, consistent with the strategies and maturities defined in this policy:

1. Obligations of, or guaranteed by, governmental entities as permitted by Government Code 2256.009.
2. Certificates of deposit and share certificates as permitted by Government Code 2256.010.
3. Fully collateralized repurchase agreements permitted by Government Code 2256.011.
4. A securities lending program as permitted by Government Code 2256.0115.
5. Banker's acceptances as permitted by Government Code 2256.012.
6. Commercial paper as permitted by Government Code 2256.013.
7. No-load money market mutual funds and no-load mutual funds as permitted by Government Code 2256.014.
8. A guaranteed investment contract as an investment vehicle for bond proceeds, provided it meets the criteria and eligibility requirements established by Government Code 2256.015.
9. Public funds investment pools as permitted by Government Code 2256.016.

SAFETY AND  
INVESTMENT  
MANAGEMENT

The main goal of the investment program is to ensure its safety and maximize financial returns within current market conditions in accordance with this policy. Investments shall be made in a manner that ensures the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio, and offsets during a 12-month period any market price losses resulting from interest-rate fluctuations by income received from the balance of the portfolio. No individual investment transaction shall be undertaken that jeopardizes the total capital position of the overall portfolio.

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LIQUIDITY AND  
MATURITY

Any internally created pool fund group of the District shall have a maximum dollar weighted maturity of 180 days. The maximum allowable stated maturity of any other non-capital project or non-bond proceeds individual investment owned by the District shall not exceed one year from the time of purchase. The maximum allowable stated maturity of any capital project or bond proceeds individual investment owned by the District shall not exceed the lesser of the anticipated expenditure date or three years from the time of purchase, whichever is sooner. The Board may specifically authorize a longer maturity for a given investment, within legal limits.

The District's investment portfolio shall have sufficient liquidity to meet anticipated cash flow requirements.

DIVERSITY

The investment portfolio shall be diversified in terms of investment instruments, maturity scheduling, and financial institutions to reduce risk of loss resulting from overconcentration of assets in a specific class of investments, specific maturity, or specific issuer.

MONITORING MARKET  
PRICES

The investment officer shall monitor the investment portfolio and shall keep the Board informed of significant declines in the market value of the District's investment portfolio. Information sources may include financial/investment publications and electronic media, available software for tracking investments, depository banks, commercial or investment banks, financial advisors, and representatives/advisors of investment pools or money market funds. Monitoring shall be done at least quarterly, as required by law, and more often as economic conditions warrant by using appropriate reports, indices, or benchmarks for the type of investment.

FUNDS / STRATEGIES

Investments of the following fund categories shall be consistent with this policy and in accordance with the strategy defined below.

OPERATING FUNDS

Investment strategies for operating funds (including any commingled pools containing operating funds) shall have as their primary objectives safety, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements.

AGENCY FUNDS

Investment strategies for agency funds shall have as their objectives safety, investment liquidity, and maturity sufficient to meet anticipated cash flow requirements.

DEBT SERVICE  
FUNDS

Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as their objective sufficient investment liquidity to timely meet debt service payment obligations in accordance with provisions in the bond documents. Maturities longer than one year are authorized provided legal limits are not exceeded.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Investment strategies for capital project funds shall have as their objective sufficient investment liquidity to timely meet capital pro-

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	<p>ject obligations. Maturities longer than one year are authorized provided legal limits are not exceeded.</p>
SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY	<p>The District shall retain clearly marked receipts providing proof of the District's ownership. The District may delegate, however, to an investment pool the authority to hold legal title as custodian of investments purchased with District funds by the investment pool.</p>
BROKERS / DEALERS	<p>Prior to handling investments on behalf of the District, brokers/dealers must submit required written documents in accordance with law. [See SELLERS OF INVESTMENTS, CDA(LEGAL)] Representatives of brokers/dealers shall be registered with the Texas State Securities Board and must have membership in the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), and be in good standing with the National Association of Securities Dealers.</p>
SOLICITING BIDS FOR CD'S	<p>In order to get the best return on its investments, the District may solicit bids for certificates of deposit in writing, by telephone, or electronically, or by a combination of these methods.</p>
INTEREST RATE RISK	<p>To reduce exposure to changes in interest rates that could adversely affect the value of investments, the District shall use final and weighted-average-maturity limits and diversification.</p> <p>The District shall monitor interest rate risk using weighted average maturity and specific identification.</p>
INTERNAL CONTROLS	<p>A system of internal controls shall be established and documented in writing and must include specific procedures designating who has authority to withdraw funds. Also, they shall be designed to protect against losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by employees and officers of the District. Controls deemed most important shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Separation of transaction authority from accounting and recordkeeping and electronic transfer of funds.</li><li>2. Avoidance of collusion.</li><li>3. Custodial safekeeping.</li><li>4. Clear delegation of authority.</li><li>5. Written confirmation of telephone transactions.</li><li>6. Documentation of dealer questionnaires, quotations and bids, evaluations, transactions, and rationale.</li><li>7. Avoidance of bearer-form securities.</li></ol>



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These controls shall be reviewed by the District's independent auditing firm.

PORTFOLIO REPORT

In addition to the quarterly report required by law and signed by the District's investment officer, a comprehensive report on the investment program and investment activity shall be presented annually to the Board. This report shall include a performance evaluation that may include, but not be limited to, comparisons to 91-day U.S. Treasury Bills, six-month U.S. Treasury Bills, the Fed Fund rate, the Lehman bond index, and rates from investment pools. The annual report shall include a review of the activities and total yield for the preceding 12 months, suggest policies, strategies, and improvements that might enhance the investment program, and propose an investment plan for the ensuing year. Weighted average yield to maturity shall be the portfolio performance measurement standard for all investment reporting.

## **Qualified Brokers**

As per the Public Funds Investment Act and the District investment policy, the District's qualified broker list is as follows:

APEX Pryor Securities (formerly Pryor Doley Securities)  
Bank of America  
Coastal Securities  
Duncan Williams  
Laredo National Bank  
Merrill Lynch  
Morgan Keegan  
Wells Fargo

Administration is NOT recommending any changes to the list, although two firms have changed their operating names:

Laredo National Bank – LNB Compass Bank  
Apex Pryor Securities – Rice Financial

## **Authorized Training Sources**

As per the Public Funds Investment Act and the District investment policy, the District's authorized training sources list is as follows:

Texas Association of School Boards  
Texas Association of School Administrators  
Texas Association of School Business Officials  
Government Finance Officers Association  
Government Finance Officers Association of Texas  
Council of Governments  
University of North Texas  
Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants  
American Institute of Certified Public Accounts

Administration is NOT recommending any changes to the Authorized Training Sources list at this time.

## Investment Strategy Statement

The Investment Strategy applies to the investment activities of the United Independent School District (the "District"). These strategies serve to satisfy the statutory requirement of chapter 2256, Texas Government Code ("the Public Funds Investment Act"), to define and approve investment strategies.

It is the policy of District that, giving due regard to the safety and risk of investment, all available funds shall be invested in conformance with State and Federal Regulation, applicable Loan documentation and Bond resolution requirements, adopted Investment Policy and adopted Investment Strategy.

In accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, District investment strategies shall address the following priorities (in order of importance):

- Understanding the suitability of the investment to the financial requirements of District;
- Preservation and safety of principal;
- Liquidity;
- Marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment prior to maturity;
- Diversification of the investment portfolio; and
- Yield.

Effective investment strategy development coordinates the primary objectives of District's Investment Policy and cash management procedures. Aggressive cash management to increase the available "investment period" will enhance the ability of District to earn interest income. Maturity selections shall be based on cash flow and market conditions to take advantage of interest rate cycles as viable and material revenue to all District funds. District's portfolio shall be designed and managed in a manner responsive to the public trust and consistent with the Investment Policy.

Each major Fund type has varying cash flow requirements and liquidity needs. Therefore specific strategies shall be implemented considering the Fund's unique requirements. District funds shall be analyzed and invested according to the following major Fund types:

- A. Operating Funds
- B. Agency Funds
- C. Debt Service Funds
- D. Capital Project Funds

## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In order to minimize risk of loss due to interest rate fluctuations, investment maturities will not exceed the anticipated cash flow requirements of the Funds. Investment guidelines by Fund-type are as follows:

### A. Operating Funds

**Suitability** - Any investment eligible in the Investment Policy is suitable for Operating Funds.

**Safety of Principal** - All investments shall be of high quality securities with no perceived default risk. Market price fluctuations will occur. However, managing the weighted average days to maturity for the Operating Fund's portfolio to less than 180 days and restricting the maximum allowable maturity to one year will minimize the price volatility of the overall portfolio.

**Marketability** - Securities with active and efficient secondary markets are necessary in the event of an unanticipated cash flow requirement. Historical market "spreads" between the bid and offer prices of a particular security-type of less than a tenth of a percentage point will define an efficient secondary market.

**Liquidity** - The Operating Fund requires the greatest short-term liquidity of any of the Fund types. Short-term investment pools and money market mutual funds will provide daily liquidity and may be utilized as a competitive yield alternative to fixed maturity investments.

**Diversification** - Investment maturities should be staggered throughout the budget cycle to provide cash flow based on the anticipated operating needs of District. Diversifying the appropriate maturity structure out through one year will reduce market cycle risk.

**Yield** - Attaining a competitive market yield for comparable security-types and portfolio restrictions is the desired objective. The yield of an equally weighted, rolling six-month Treasury bill portfolio will be the minimum yield objective.

### B. Agency Funds

**Suitability** - Any investment eligible in the Investment Policy is suitable for Agency Funds.

**Safety of Principal** - All investments shall be of high quality securities with no perceived default risk. Market price fluctuations will occur. However, by managing weighted average days to maturity for the Investment Pool to less than 180 days and restricting the maximum allowable maturity to one year, the price volatility of the overall portfolio will be minimized.

**Marketability** - Securities with active and efficient secondary markets are necessary in the event of an unanticipated cash flow requirement. Historical market “spreads” between the bid and offer prices of a particular security-type of less than a tenth of a percentage point will define an efficient secondary market.

**Liquidity** – Agency Funds require reasonable short-term liquidity. Short-term investment pools and money market mutual funds will provide daily liquidity and may be utilized as a competitive yield alternative to fixed maturity investments.

**Diversification** - Investment maturities should be staggered throughout the budget cycle to provide cash flow based on the anticipated needs of District. Diversifying the appropriate maturity structure out through one year will reduce market cycle risk.

**Yield** - Attaining a competitive market yield for comparable security-types and portfolio restrictions is the desired objective. The yield of an equally weighted, rolling six-month Treasury bill portfolio will be the minimum yield objective.

C. **Debt Service Funds**

**Suitability** - Any investment eligible in the Investment Policy is suitable for the Debt Service Fund.

**Safety of Principal** - All investments shall be of high quality securities with no perceived default risk. Market price fluctuations will occur. However, by managing Debt Service Funds to not exceed the debt service payment schedule the market risk of the overall portfolio will be minimized.

**Marketability** - Securities with active and efficient secondary markets are not necessary as the event of an unanticipated cash flow requirement is not probable.

**Liquidity** - Debt Service Funds have predictable payment schedules. Therefore investment maturities should not exceed the anticipated cash flow requirements. Investment pools and money market mutual funds may provide a competitive yield alternative for short term fixed maturity investments. A singular repurchase agreement may be utilized if disbursements are allowed in the amount necessary to satisfy any debt service payment. This investment structure is commonly referred to as a flexible repurchase agreement.

**Diversification** - Market conditions influence the attractiveness of fully extending maturity to the next “unfunded” payment date. Generally, if investment rates are anticipated to decrease over time, District is best served by locking in most investments. If the interest rates are potentially rising, then investing in shorter and larger amounts may provide advantage. At no time shall the debt service schedule be exceeded in an attempt to bolster yield.

**Yield** - Attaining a competitive market yield for comparable security-types and portfolio restrictions is the desired objective. The yield of an equally weighted, rolling three-month Treasury bill portfolio shall be the minimum yield objective.

D. **Capital Project Funds**

**Suitability** - Any investment eligible in the Investment Policy is suitable for Capital Project Funds.

**Safety of Principal** - All investments will be of high quality securities with no perceived default risk. Market price fluctuations will occur. However, by managing Capital Project Funds to not exceed the anticipated expenditure schedule the market risk of the overall portfolio will be minimized.

**Marketability** - Securities with active and efficient secondary markets are necessary in the event of an unanticipated cash flow requirement. Historical market "spreads" between the bid and offer prices of a particular security-type of less than a tenth of a percentage point will define an efficient secondary market.

**Liquidity** - Capital Project Fund programs have reasonably predictable draw down schedules. Therefore investment maturities should generally follow the anticipated cash flow requirements. Investment pools and money market mutual funds will provide readily available funds generally equal to one month's anticipated cash flow needs, or a competitive yield alternative for short term fixed maturity investments. A singular repurchase agreement may be utilized if disbursements are allowed in the amount necessary to satisfy any expenditure request. This investment structure is commonly referred to as a flexible repurchase agreement.

**Diversification** - Market conditions and arbitrage regulations influence the attractiveness of staggering the maturity of fixed rate investments for construction, loan and bond proceeds. Generally, when investment rates exceed the applicable cost of borrowing, District is best served by locking in most investments. If the cost of borrowing cannot be exceeded, then concurrent market conditions will determine the attractiveness of diversifying maturities or investing in shorter and larger amounts. At no time shall the anticipated expenditure schedule be exceeded in an attempt to bolster yield.

**Yield** - Achieving a positive spread to the cost of borrowing is the desired objective, within the limits of the Investment Policy's risk constraints. The yield of an equally weighted, rolling six-month Treasury bill portfolio will be the minimum yield objective for non-borrowed funds.