

**RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DELEGATING EXPANDED AUTHORITY TO SUPERINTENDENT
DURING ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the United Independent School District (“UISD”) has a substantial public interest to protect the health and safety of its students, staff and community;

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was declared a public health disaster in March 2020 by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and continues to negatively impact the Laredo/Webb County community, leading to an increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases and deaths due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, UISD has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore desires to ensure that the school district and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for UISD finds there is a public purpose in retaining its employees; reducing turnover; increasing morale; helping employees focus on work-related matters while performing essential duties on behalf of the school district; and facilitating the return to duty of employees upon the re-opening of the school district’s facilities;

WHEREAS, the UNITED ISD Board of Trustees has determined that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the unforeseen closure of school district campuses to students, and that in the event school facilities are damaged or undergo operational failures as a result of an unforeseen catastrophe, or emergency, including any emergency related to COVID-19, that would prevent or impair the conduct of classes or other essential school activities, time is of the essence in making operational decisions;

WHEREAS, the UISD Board of Trustees finds the public purposes described above are fulfilled by efficiently and effectively making certain delegations to the Superintendent to address this ever- changing emergency situation in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of its students, staff, and community.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of United Independent School District in protecting the health, and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore in ensuring that the school district and its community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of its students, staff, and community in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In furtherance of the public purposes stated in this Resolution, the United ISD Board of Trustees makes the following delegations to the Superintendent in order to efficiently and effectively prepare the school district in response to the declarations of emergency announced by federal, state and local jurisdictions, and in preparation of any future declarations related to the COVID-19 pandemic by such jurisdictions, including the closure of the District:

1. The authority to act in place of the Board under DEA (LOCAL) and make all decisions regarding payment of employees; to implement the provisions of Board Policy DEA (LOCAL); and to make determinations regarding the purpose and parameters of any such payments, consistent with state and federal laws;

2. The authority to make decisions regarding the compensation of at-will employees, including providing premium payments to such employees during the emergency closure;
3. The authority to alter the UISD 2020-2021 school calendar by changing and/or adding school/instructional hours and work/school days as necessitated by the emergency closure;
4. The authority to seek any necessary waivers from the Texas Education Agency without further action of the Board of Trustees regarding missed instructional days, low attendance, or any matters related to the emergency closure as a part of this Resolution;
5. In the event other waivers or immediate action is needed, the Superintendent is authorized to take other action to submit/apply for other waivers in accordance with guidance and instructions from national and state authorities, including but not limited to the Texas Education Agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the authority given in this Resolution is retroactive to January 26, 2021, and any acts referred to which were performed prior to the adoption of this Resolution are ratified and affirmed.

The Superintendent will provide timely and reasonable information to the Board of Trustees regarding decisions made pursuant to this Resolution at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

This Resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded or amended by Board Action at a duly-called Board meeting.

Passed the 26th day of January, 2021. This Resolution may be signed electronically and in counterparts.

Ramiro Veliz, III
President, Board of Trustees
United Independent School District

Attest: _____
Ricardo "Rick" Rodriguez
Secretary, Board of Trustees
United Independent School District