



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Adoption of Resolution re: To join a coalition of Texas School Districts that will petition the Texas Legislature to fund a Texas Education Code provision that allows the Texas Education Agency Commissioner to adjust the taxable value of property in a school district that experiences a rapid decline in taxable property value

SUBMITTED BY: Roberto J. Santos **OF:** Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: October 18, 2016

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees adopt Resolution re: To join a coalition of Texas school districts that will petition the Texas Legislature to fund a Texas Education Code provision that allows the Texas Education Agency Commissioner to adjust the taxable value of property in a school district that experiences a rapid decline in taxable property value during the upcoming 85th session of the Texas Legislature.

RATIONALE: Due to the decline in oil & gas prices, United ISD experienced a 13% decline in certified property values which resulted in an overall revenue decrease of over \$31 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year. More than 250 school districts throughout the state have been identified as having experienced a substantial decline in their values as well. There has been interest to form a coalition of these districts to petition Texas legislators to fund the Texas Education Code section 42.2521. This section states "to the extent that money specifically authorized to be used under this section is available, the Texas Education Commissioner shall adjust the taxable value of property in a school district that, due to factors beyond the control of the board of trustees, experiences a rapid decline in the tax base used in calculating taxable values in excess of four (4) percent of the tax base used in the preceding year."

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

POLICY REFERENCE & COMPLIANCE:



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD RESOLUTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
THE COUNTY OF WEBB §

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TO JOIN A COALITION OF TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT WILL PETITION THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO FUND A TEXAS EDUCATION CODE PROVISION THAT ALLOWS THE TEXAS EDUCATION COMMISSIONER TO ADJUST THE TAXABLE VALUE OF PROPERTY IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT EXPERIENCES A RAPID DECLINE IN TAXABLE PROPERTY VALUE.

WHEREAS, Section 42.2521 of the Texas Education Code ("Section 42.2521") states that, to the extent money specifically authorized to be used under Section 42.2521 is available, the Texas Education Commissioner shall adjust the taxable value of property in a school district that, due to factors beyond the control of the board of trustees, experiences a rapid decline in the tax base used in calculating taxable values in excess of four percent of the tax base used in the preceding year; and

WHEREAS, the United Independent School District, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, has experienced a 13% decline in its 2016 certified taxable property values due to factors beyond its control, which resulted in an overall revenue decrease of over \$31 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned 13% decline in certified taxable property values will substantially impact local and state revenues for the foreseeable future, and will have a negative effect on the services that the United Independent School District can provide to its students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that it is in the best of interest of the students, teachers and staff of United Independent School District to request assistance from the Texas Education Commissioner under Section 42.2521 due to the aforementioned rapid decline in taxable property value; and

WHEREAS, the United Independent School District, by resolution, has resolved to join a coalition of Texas school districts that will combine their efforts in order to petition the Texas Legislature to fund Section 42.2521 during the upcoming 85th Session of the Texas Legislature.

Be it **RESOLVED, PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Board of Trustees of the United Independent School District this 18th day of October, 2016.

**UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

BY: _____
Judd Gilpin
President of the Board

ATTEST:

Aliza Flores Oliveros
Board Secretary