

No. \_\_\_\_\_



## UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** To Adopt the Proposed Resolution on Expenditure Targets Established by the Commissioner of Education

**SUBMITTED BY:** Laida P. Benavides, CPA OF: Division of Finance

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

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** August 20, 2008

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The United Independent School District Board of Trustees must adopt the proposed resolution regarding the intent to adopt a budget which does not meet proposed targets established by the Commissioner of Education.

**RATIONALE:**

As required by the Governors Executive Order RP 47 and the Texas Education Code Chapter 44.011, school districts must adopt and publish a resolution if the district adopts a budget that does not meet an established target and to be filed as part of the school district's financial records.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION:**

No Impact

**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**

Tx. Ed. Code Ch. 44.011

**RESOLUTION**  
**Intent to Adopt a Budget Which Does Not Meet Proposed Expenditure**  
**Targets Established by the Commissioner of Education**

**Whereas**, the United Independent School District ("United ISD") has prepared, reviewed and approved a budget based on the following principles:

- sustaining the commitment towards the enhancement of academic achievement and providing a safe environment,
- maintaining a fiscally responsible tax rate while providing the resources necessary to meet the District's objectives,
- maintaining adequate and appropriate fund balance levels in accordance with policy, and
- providing for a compensation package that will help attract and retain qualified personnel.

**Whereas**, United ISD and every school district in Texas is facing ever increasing inflationary pressures due to increases in basic district expenditures, including the costs of fuel, utilities, food expenses, salaries and health benefits; and

**Whereas**, the Texas Education Agency has offered no evidence that the state-developed expenditure targets improve educational performance or are related to research-based documentation of best practices for school districts in spite of statutory directives to develop spending targets based on documented best practices; and fails to account for the vast economic differences and cost drivers that impact school districts from different parts of the State; and

**Whereas**, the instruction budget is less than the State target percentage of 65% due to the following factors which are essential to the District's operations: (1) our commitment to strong campus leadership to guide our instructional programs, (2) our continuous support of student-based support services such as staff development, guidance and counseling, health, transportation, food services and social work, which are necessary for the best interests of our students; and (3) our investment in our non-student support areas such as facilities and security and monitoring services which are necessary for the safety of our students and for maintaining the investment of our taxpayers in our numerous school buildings.

**Whereas**, Texas Education Code, §44.011, requires that the board of trustees of a school district adopt and publish a resolution that includes an explanation justifying an intent to exceed proposed expenditure targets; yet, all other categories of expenditures, are within the acceptable expenditure ranges; and

**Therefore, be it resolved** that, for the reasons stated above, the United Independent School District Board of Trustees adopts the FY 2009 budget that falls short of the instruction expenditure target.

Be it further resolved that the United Independent School District Board of Trustees is committed to the FY 2009 budget as it is in the best interest and meets our commitment to academic achievement and responsibility to our students, parents, staff, and community.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
          John M. Bruce, President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
          Juan Antonio Molina, Jr., Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_