



JUDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Date: August 21, 2025

Submitted By: Dr. Mary Duhart-Toppen
Title: Deputy Superintendent

Agenda Item: Consider and take action regarding approving Proclamation Declaring September 15-October 15, 2025, as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

CONSENT ITEM

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve September 15-October 15, 2025, as National Hispanic Heritage Month, which increases recognition of contributions made, celebrates the heritage, culture, and important presence of Hispanic and Latin Americans in the United States, Texas, and our community.

IMPACT/RATIONALE:

Judson ISD is comprised of multiple Hispanic origins from throughout Central and South America. We celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month through literature, language, and culture, as well as observe this month by participating in activities that recognize and celebrate Hispanic Heritage. Cultural activities have been identified and developed for classroom use such as readings, studying maps, discussion points, and videos for all grade levels which will be provided via the Intranet under Social Studies curricular documents. The standards addressed in our TEKS-based curriculum are listed as follows: Grade 4: 2C, 12B; Grade 7: 1AB, 2DEF, 7D, 18C; Grade 8: U.S. History through 1877: 2A; World Geography: 2A, 9B, 16AB; US History Since 1877 to Present: 3BC, 4AB, 6A, 7FG, 8A, 9ABCDGIJ, 11B, 13B, 16C, 17ABDE, 22ABCD, 23B, 24AB, 25ABCD.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval/Disapproval



Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

Judson ISD Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage week began in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson, was expanded to National Hispanic Heritage Month by President Ronald Reagan and enacted into law in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15, the day which represents the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; while Mexico and Chile celebrate September 16th and 18th, respectively.

WHEREAS, Judson ISD embraces a diverse community because we believe cultural inclusion is the key to fostering understanding, developing mutual respect, and improving student academic outcomes for all our students. No matter the term one chooses to use, whether it be Latinx, Chicano, Chicana, or Hispanic, we refer to people whose history is rich and vibrant, and whose positive influence has enriched our nation, our society, our community, our state, and our schools through their work, commitment to our community, deep value of culture, social justice and liberty.

WHEREAS, Hispanics have made significant contributions in various fields, including education, government, science, law, medicine, entertainment, literature, sports, military, thereby improving and shaping the culture of the United States with year-old traditions that reflect the multicultural customs of their communities.

WHEREAS, Hispanics represent 58% of Judson's student population, 35% of our teaching population, and 80% of the district and campus administration and play an important role in enhancing the educational experience of all the teaching and learning community at Judson ISD. The District celebrates and builds upon the strengths and knowledge that students and staff bring with them to school, including cultural perspectives, lived experiences, practices, and languages.

WHEREAS, Judson ISD celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. Through our curriculum, we focus on celebrating prominent figures that have played an important role in shaping the rich Hispanic culture. We ensure text is culturally responsive and provide courses that celebrate diversity. The establishment of Mariachi Bands in our high schools allow us to enjoy one of many great styles of music prominent throughout the community.

WHEREAS, Judson ISD is dedicated to providing resources and programming for our Spanish speaking communities. We offer translation services for parents, bilingual literacy nights for families, and extensive training for teachers and administrators. Furthermore, we continue targeted recruitment efforts to attract diverse educators into the teaching profession and promote bilingual education through our Dual Language and Spanish Immersion Programs, as well as our involvement with TABE, Texas Association of Bilingual Educators. The Latino Family Literacy Project also provides our students and families more tools to succeed, and as a culturally responsive parent engagement strategy, it is an effective way to integrate the school staff, family culture, and academics.

WHEREAS, Our commitment to closing opportunity gaps and increasing student achievement for all students is a priority for our School Board, the Superintendent and district staff and is demonstrated through the Judson ISD Board Goals and Superintendent Constraints that are continuously progress monitored and reported.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Monica Ryan, as by virtue of the authority vested in me as School Board President of the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2025 through October 15, 2025 as National Hispanic Heritage Month in the Judson Independent School District, and urge our community and all our citizens to observe this month by learning and celebrating the distinct and vibrant contributions made by sharing cultures, language, ideas, beliefs and values within our school community with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Judson Independent School District to be affixed this 21st day of August, the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

Monica Ryan, President

Lesley Lee, Secretary

