



Agenda of Regular Meeting SCHOOL BOARD LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Regular Meeting of the School Board of **LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** will be held on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM**, in the Staff Development Center Board Room at Nellie Schunior Administration Building, 200 W. Expwy 83, La Joya, TX 78560. A quorum of the Board and the presiding officer will be present at this location. Any Board members participating by videoconference will be in accordance with Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code.

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken, are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - *(Other)*

2. ROLL CALL & DECLARE QUORUM - *(Other)*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, *Julian Alvarez III, School Board President - (Other)*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - *(Synergy and Teamwork or Other)*

5. STAFF RECOGNITION(S) - *(Vision and Goals)*

5.1. Recognition of Dr. Maria Filomena Leo, Former La Joya ISD Superintendent of Schools, *presented by Blanca E. Cantú, Director of Communications & Public Relations*

5.2. Recognition of Mr. Emilio Cantú, Former La Joya ISD Mariachi Director, *presented by Blanca E. Cantú, Director of Communications & Public Relations*

5.3. Recognition of Ruben Adame, Fine Arts Director, Inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, *presented by Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief of Academic Advancement & School Performance*

5.4. Recognition of Parent, Family and Community Liaisons, and Public School Volunteers (April 20-24), *presented by Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief of Academic Advancement & School Performance*

5.5. Recognition of National School Lunch Hero Day: May 1, 2026, *presented by S.P. Pierson, Chief of Operations & Infrastructure*

5.6. Recognition of the La Joya ISD Public Relations & Communications Office, *presented by Blanca E. Cantú, Director of Communications & Public Relations*

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE(S)/ANNOUNCEMENTS - *(Vision and Goals)*

6.1. Update on Head Start Partnership & Next Steps, *presented by Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership*

7. LONE STAR GOVERNANCE - (*Progress and Accountability*)

7.1. Focused Quality Seats Analysis with Annual School Plan Updates, *presented by Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Daniel King, Executive Director of Region One ESC & Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership*

7.2. Lone Star Governance Time Use Tracker Report - April 8, 2026, *presented by Ms. Mari Elizondo, School Board Administrative Assistant*

7.3. Monthly TEA Conservator's Report, *presented by Dr. Sylvia Ibarra, TEA Conservator*

8. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S) - (*Systems and Processes*)

To promote efficient meetings, the Board may act on more than one item by a single vote through the use of a consent agenda. The consent agenda shall be comprised of items specified in this Section for which the Superintendent anticipates no board deliberation prior to action being taken on the item and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. At the request of any member of the School Board, any item on the consent agenda shall be removed from the consent agenda and given individual deliberation and action. Requests for the removal of an item from the consent agenda are to be made to the presiding officer at the time that the consent agenda is up for consideration.

8.1. Academics & School Leadership:

8.1.1. Approval of MOU Between Hidalgo County and La Joya ISD for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

8.1.2. Head Start Partnership Non-Renewal and Transition Plan for 2026-2027 School Year

8.2. Approval of Minutes:

8.2.1. Regular Meeting April 8, 2026

8.3. Business, Finance & Administrative Services:

8.3.1. Approval of Budget Amendment 2026-10 as of April 2026

8.4. Lone Star Governance:

8.4.1. Approval of Report on Focused Quality Seats Analysis with Annual School Plan Updates

8.4.2. Approval of the Lone Star Governance Time Use Tracker Report - April 8, 2026

9. CLOSED SESSION - (*Synergy and Teamwork*)

Closed Meeting will be held for the purposes authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.001, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.129, and 551.0821 et seq. concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act, including but not limited to the sections and purposes listed below.

9.1. Consultation with the Board's Attorney. (Texas Government Code 551.071: For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters

authorized by law; and Texas Government Code 551.129: For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney by telephone conference call.)

9.2. Discuss Personnel Matters and Board and Superintendent Duties. (Texas Government Code 551.074: For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee, including Board Operating Procedures and Self-Assessment.)

9.3. Discuss Property Matters. (Texas Government Code 551.072: For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.)

9.4. Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit Findings. (Texas Government Code 551.076: To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or a security audit.)

9.5. Personally Identifiable Information About Public School Students. (Texas Government Code 551.0821: For the purpose of deliberating a matter regarding a public-school student, if personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed.)

9.6. Pursuant to Texas Government Codes 551.071 and 551.074: Deliberate and consult with legal counsel regarding administration's recommended contract actions, including recommendations to propose and finalize nonrenewals and propose and finalize terminations for employees holding Chapter 21 contracts.

10. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION - (*Systems and Processes*)

11. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEM(S) - (*Systems and Processes*)

11.1. Consider and Take Possible Action to Adopt and Authorize Implementation of Program Change Impacting Multiple Campuses and District-level Departments, *Item Lead: Ms. Jaime Miller, Chief of Human Capital & Talent Development*

11.2. Consider and Take Possible Action to Propose Nonrenewals of Chapter 21 Term Contracts and Designate Hearing Officer for Nonrenewal Hearings, *Item Lead: Ms. Jaime Miller, Chief of Human Capital & Talent Development*

11.3. Consider and Take Possible Action to Propose and Finalize Mid-contract and End-of-year Terminations of Chapter 21 Probationary Contracts, *Item Lead: Ms. Jaime Miller, Chief of Human Capital & Talent Development*

12. CALENDAR - (*Other*)

12.1. April 20-24, 2026: Public School Volunteer Week

12.2. April 22, 2026: Administrative Professionals Day

12.3. April 28, 2026: School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

12.4. April 30, 2026: Día del Niño

12.5. May 2026: Mental Health Awareness Month

12.6. May 1, 2026: National Principals' Day

12.7. May 1, 2026: School Lunch Hero Day

12.8. May 1, 2026: National Space Day - Space Exploration Night

12.9. May 3-9, 2026: Teacher Appreciation Week (Day May 6, 2026)

12.10. May 5, 2026: National Foster Care Day

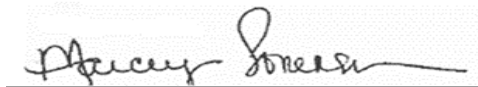
12.11. May 5-6, 2026: LJISD Wellness Softball Tournament

12.12. May 6, 2026: School Nurse Day

12.13. May 6, 2026: Regular Board Meeting

13. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS - *(Other)*

14. ADJOURNMENT - *(Synergy and Teamwork)*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marcey Sorensen", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

Posted: April 16, 2026

By: Mari Elizondo @ 4:30 p.m.



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 1 - Excellence in Leadership

Agenda Category: Staff Recognition

Item Title: Recognition of Dr. Maria Filomena Leo, Former La Joya ISD Superintendent of Schools

BACKGROUND:

We honor the life and legacy of Dr. Maria Filomena Leo who made a lasting impact on La Joya ISD. Her dedication, passion, and commitment to our students, staff, and community will always be remembered.

RATIONALE:

In honor of her leadership, service, and profound impact on La Joya ISD and the community she served. Her legacy lives on through the students, educators, and families she inspired.

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		N/A


RECOMMENDATION:

Recognition of Dr. Maria Filomena Leo, Former La Joya ISD Superintendent of Schools

Initiated by: 
Blanca E. Cantu, Public Relations & Comms Director

Reviewed by: _____
N/A

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____
N/A

Executive Cabinet Review by: 
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 1 - Excellence in Leadership

Agenda Category: Staff Recognition

Item Title: Recognition of Mr. Emilio Cantu, Former La Joya ISD Mariachi Director

BACKGROUND:

We honor the legacy of a beloved former Fine Arts Mariachi Director whose passion and dedication inspired generations of La Joya ISD students. His impact will continue to live on through the arts and the many lives he touched.

RATIONALE:

Mr. Emilio Cantú dedicated decades of his life to La Joya ISD starting in 1982, serving our students and community with passion and purpose as the La Joya HS Mariachi Director. At a time when Mariachi programs were rare, he helped lay the foundation for what would become one of the most respected and influential Mariachi traditions in the Rio Grande Valley and across the State of Texas. Mr. Cantu believed deeply in the power of music to give students a sense of identity, pride, and belonging.

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		N/A

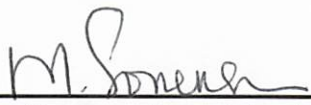
RECOMMENDATION:

Recognition of Mr. Emilio Cantu, Former La Joya ISD Mariachi Director


Initiated by: 
Blanca E. Cantu, Public Relations & Comms Director

Reviewed by: _____
N/A

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____
N/A

Executive Cabinet Review by: 
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 1 - Excellence in Leadership

Agenda Category: Staff Recognition

Item Title: Recognition of Ruben Adame, Fine Arts Director Inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame

BACKGROUND:

Phi Beta Mu is an international honorary bandmasters fraternity that recognizes outstanding band directors for their contributions to music education. The Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame honors individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, dedication, and excellence in the field of instrumental music education. Induction into this prestigious organization is one of the highest honors bestowed upon band directors in the state of Texas.

Mr. Ruben Adame, Fine Arts Director from the district has been selected for induction into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame in recognition of their distinguished career, commitment to student success, and significant impact on band programs and music education.

RATIONALE:

The recognition of staff achievements aligns with the district’s commitment to celebrating excellence and highlighting the accomplishments of employees who positively impact student learning and extracurricular success. Honoring this individual before the Board of Trustees acknowledges their dedication, brings pride to the district, and serves as an inspiration to students and staff alike.

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		Certificate

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees recognize Mr. Ruben Adame, Fine Arts Director, for his induction into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. This distinguished honor reflects his exceptional leadership, dedication, and significant contributions to music education.

Initiated by: Anna Marie Candelario
Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief of Academic Advancement and School Performance

Reviewed by: Anna Marie Candelario
Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy of Academic Advancement and School Performance

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____
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Approved for Submission to the Board of Education:

Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

Executive Cabinet Review by: Dr. Derek Little
Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academic and School Leadership



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 1 - Excellence in Leadership

Agenda Category: Staff Recognition

Item Title: Recognition of Parent, Family and Community Liaisons and Public School Volunteers (April 20-24, 2026)

BACKGROUND:

La Joya ISD celebrates National Parenting Education Day by recognizing the crucial role families play in student learning. Parent, Family, and Community Liaisons connect schools and families, offering education, resources, and engagement. This honors the dedication of liaisons and volunteers in supporting student success and highlights the district's commitment to strong partnerships.

RATIONALE:

Recognizing National Parenting Education Day highlights the essential role of Parent, Family, and Community Liaisons in enhancing family engagement at La Joya ISD. Their efforts empower families to actively participate in education, building strong school-family partnerships and demonstrating the district's commitment to collaborative student success

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
0	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		Certificates

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board recognize the Parent, Family, and Community Liaisons of La Joya ISD in observance of National Parenting Education Day for their dedication to strengthening family engagement and supporting student success across the district.

Initiated by: Anna Marie Candelario
Ms. Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief of Academic Advancement & School Performance

Reviewed by: Anna Marie Candelario
Ms. Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief of Academic Advancement & School Performance

Approved for Submission to the Board of Education:

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____

M. Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

Executive Cabinet Review by: Dr. Derek Little
Dr. Derek Little Chief of Academics and School Leadership



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 5 - Operational Excellence and Financial Stability

Agenda Category: Staff Recognition

Item Title: Recognition of National School Lunch Hero Day: May 1, 2026

BACKGROUND:

National School Lunch Hero Day is a nationwide celebration that recognizes the hard work and dedication of school nutrition professionals who ensure students have access to healthy and nutritious meals each day. Child Nutrition Services staff play a critical role in supporting student wellness, learning, and overall school success by providing balanced meals in a safe and welcoming environment. This recognition allows the district to express appreciation for the commitment, teamwork, and service our cafeteria teams provide to thousands of students across the district every day.

RATIONALE:

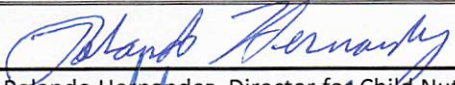
Recognizing National School Lunch Hero Day provides the district an opportunity to formally acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Child Nutrition Services staff who play a vital role in supporting student health and academic success. Their daily efforts ensure that students receive nutritious meals in a safe and welcoming environment. This recognition helps promote employee morale, appreciation, and continued commitment to serving the students and families of the district.

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		School Lunch Hero Appreciation Day Media Release

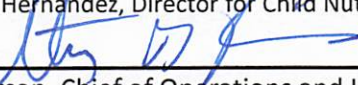
RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of the recognition of National School Lunch Hero Day May 1, 2026

Initiated by: 

Rolando Hernandez, Director for Child Nutrition Services


**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**

Reviewed by: 

S.B. Pierson, Chief of Operations and Infrastructure



Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

**BF& A
Reviewed
by:** 

**Executive
Cabinet
Review by:** S. B. Pierson, Chief of Operations and Infrastructure

SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

La Joya Independent School District to Honor the School Lunch Heroes Serving Healthy Meals *Celebrating School Lunch Hero Day on May 1, 2026*

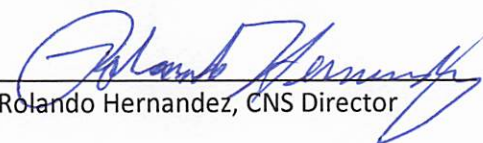
Between preparing delicious food, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, La Joya Independent School District nutrition professionals have a lot on their plate. To celebrate their hard work and commitment, La Joya Independent School District schools will celebrate School Lunch Hero Day on May 1. This day, celebrated annually since 2013, was designated by The School Nutrition Association and Jarrett Krosoczka, author of the “Lunch Lady” graphic novel series. School Lunch Hero Day provides an opportunity for parents, students, school staff and communities to thank those who provide healthy meals to nearly 30 million of America’s students each school day.

All across the school district, school nutrition professionals will be honored and recognized by students, school staff, parents, and the community. We will celebrate School Lunch Hero Day across the district by recognizing our Child Nutrition teams at each campus. Cafeteria staff will be honored with certificates of appreciation, small tokens of gratitude, and campus-wide announcements highlighting their dedication and hard work. Students and staff will be encouraged to create thank-you cards and posters to display in the cafeteria areas. Social media posts will also be shared to publicly recognize and showcase our School Lunch Heroes and the positive impact they make every day.

“School nutrition employees must balance many roles and follow numerous federal, state and local regulations to ensure safe and healthy meals are available in schools. School Lunch Hero Day provides the opportunity for the community to thank these hardworking heroes for their dedication to fueling our students for success,” said Rolando Hernandez, CNS Director.

Federal nutrition standards ensure that school cafeterias always offer low-fat or fat-free milk, fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein. School meals also meet limits on calories, sodium and unhealthy fats. The importance and nutritional value of school meals are well documented. For many children, school lunch is the most important and nutrient-rich meal of their day.

Get the details about School Lunch Hero Day at www.schoolnutritionhero.com. To learn more about the school nutrition program for La Joya Independent School District, visit www.lajoyaisd.com.


Rolando Hernandez, CNS Director



The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 50,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. To find out more about today’s school meals, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SchoolMeals.



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 1 - Excellence in Leadership

Agenda Category: Staff Recognition

Item Title: Recognition of the La Joya ISD Public Relations & Communications Office

BACKGROUND:

We are proud to recognize our Public Relation & Communications team for their outstanding achievement in earning multiple awards from both TSPRA and American Advertising Federation.

RATIONALE:

These honors reflect their creativity, dedication, and commitment to excellence in story telling our district’s story and serving our community. Their work continues to set a high standard and bring great pride to our organization.

BUDGET:

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Vendor</i>
N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Purchasing Mechanism</i>		<i>Additional Documentation</i>
N/A		N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Recognition of the Public Relations & Communications Office


Initiated by: 
Blanca E. Cantu, Public Relations & Comms Director

Reviewed by: _____
N/A

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____
N/A

Executive Cabinet Review by: 
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 3 - Thriving Students

Agenda Category: Consent Item

Item Title: Approval of MOU Between Hidalgo County and La Joya ISD for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP)

BACKGROUND:

Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code requires the Hidalgo County Juvenile Board (HCJB) to establish and operate a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for students who are expelled from school for offenses outlined in Section 37.007. The JJAEP provides a structured educational setting for students while ensuring continuity of academic instruction and behavioral support.

La Joya Independent School District collaborates with Hidalgo County through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the placement and educational services of expelled students assigned to the JJAEP.

RATIONALE:

MOU ensures compliance with state law while providing a clear framework for cooperation between Hidalgo County and La Joya ISD. This agreement supports the educational needs of expelled students by maintaining access to instruction in a structured environment and promotes student success, safety, and accountability. Approval of this MOU allows the district to continue meeting legal requirements and uphold its commitment to providing appropriate educational services for all students.

BUDGET:

Cost \$3000.00	Funding Source 199-95-6299-00-901-6-99-000	Vendor Hidalgo County JJAEP
Purchasing Mechanism N/A		Additional Documentation Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of MOU between Hidalgo County and La Joya ISD for Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) Agreement

Initiated by: Anna Marie Candelario
Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief Academics
Advancement and School Performance

Reviewed by: Anna Marie Candelario
Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief Academics
Advancement and School Performance.

BF&AS
Reviewed by: Mirgitt Crespo
Mirgitt Crespo, Chief of Business and Administration
Services

Executive
Cabinet
Review by: Dr. Derek Little
Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics and School Leadership

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**

Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

STATE OF TEXAS

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§

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS AND LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

This Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter, "Agreement" is made on this _____ day of _____, 20____ by and between **THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS** by and through its **HIDALGO COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD**, hereinafter referred to as "HCJB", with administrative offices located at 1001 N. Doolittle Road., Edinburg, Texas, 78540, and **LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**, hereinafter referred to as "District", located at 201 E. Expwy 83, La Joya, Texas 78560; referred to collectively as "the Parties".

I. Background and Purpose

1.1 Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code requires that the HCJB establish and operate a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program ("JJAEP") for youth who are expelled from school for the offenses described in Section 37.007 (a), (d), and if applicable under Texas Education Code §37.007(e), § 37.007(i) or §37.304. School districts may contract with the HCJB for placement of students in the JJAEP who are expelled from school for the offenses described in Texas Education Code §37.007 (b), (c) (f) and (e) if not officially arrested, charged and referred to HCJB under Texas law. School districts may also place students in the JJAEP pursuant to other provisions of the Texas Education Code (§37.0081 and §37.305). Unless otherwise stated, all references to section and chapter numbers are to the Texas Education Code.

1.2 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to set forth the duties and responsibilities of HCJB and the District regarding the operation of the Hidalgo County JJAEP and to comply with the requirements of Section 37.011 (k), (l), and (m).

II. Goals

2.1 The major goals for the JJAEP are: (1) to provide a continuum of educational services to students; (2) to establish consistency, predictability, and appropriateness of student placement following expulsions from regular schools or alternative education programs; (3) to return students to a regular school setting when appropriate; (4) to impress upon youth that there are progressive sanctions for misconduct in the public school setting; and (5) to provide educational options for the juvenile courts.

III. Student Eligibility

3.1 Attendance at the JJAEP for the category of students described in subsections A ("Category A") and D ("Category D"), excluding D (3) below, of this section is mandatory. For the categories of students described in subsections B ("Category B"), C ("Category C") and D (3) of this section, the District may elect whether or not to enroll these students in the JJAEP. By completing the appropriate portions of Attachment "A" hereto, the District must indicate which categories of students may attend the JJAEP. If the District elects not to offer the JJAEP as a post-

expulsion placement option for Category B and C students who are under the age of eighteen (18), the JJAEP is not responsible for the education of these students.

- A. Students shall be placed in the JJAEP in those cases where they are expelled and have been officially charged, arrested and referred to the Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation Department for committing one of the offenses enumerated under Section 37.007(a), (d), (e) or (i) ("Category A - mandatory offenses"). Students who are charged with and expelled for Category A offenses, but who have not had a finding entered by the Court regarding delinquency, are included in the Category A definition. JJAEP funding for Category A students is provided to the HCJB by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department ("TJJD").

- B. If a student is expelled from the District for committing a Category A offense but
 - (1) is not charged, arrested and referred to the Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation Department for an offense listed in Section 37.007 (a), (d), (e) or (i);
 - (2) a determination is made under Family Code Section 53.01 that the person referred to juvenile court was not a "child" as that term is defined by Family Code Section 51.02(2);
 - (3) a determination is made that no deferred prosecution or formal court proceedings will be initiated against the child;
 - (4) the court or jury finds that the child did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision and the case has been dismissed with prejudice; or
 - (5) the child was adjudicated but no disposition was or will be ordered by the court the student may be readmitted to the District at the District's discretion and in accordance with the requirements of this Memorandum of Understanding. Such students are referred herein to as having committed Category B - discretionary, non-court ordered offenses. The District shall fully and fairly examine the circumstances surrounding the case of each such student, and, where appropriate, consult with the District Attorney's Office, the Juvenile Probation Department and the student's parents. Following this examination, the District is authorized to admit the student unconditionally, to admit the student to a District alternative education program, or, pursuant to the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, provide that the student continue the student's placement at the JJAEP for the remaining period of the student's expulsion or for a minimum period of six (6) weeks, whichever is greater. JJAEP funding for Category B students shall be provided by the District.

- C. A student may be expelled from the District
- (1) for committing an offense described in Section 37.007 (b) or (f), or for engaging in serious misbehavior covered by Section 37.007 (c); or
 - (2) after an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Section 37.0081 ("Category C offenses"). The District has attached as Attachment "B" hereto those categories of conduct the District has defined in the District's student code of conduct as constituting serious misbehavior for which a student may be placed in the JJAEP. JJAEP funding for Category C students is provided by the District.
- D. Pursuant to Section 37.303, on receiving notice under Article 15.27, Code of Criminal Procedure, or Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, that a student is required to register as a sex offender under that chapter, the District shall, in the case of (1) and (2) below, and may, in the case of (3) below, remove the student from the regular classroom and shall place the student in the JJAEP if:
- (1) the student is under any form of court supervision, including probation, community supervision or parole; or
 - (2) the student is not under any form of court supervision and District determines that the student's presence in the regular classroom (i) threatens the safety of other students or teachers, (ii) will be detrimental to the educational process or (iii) is not in the best interests of the District's students; or.
 - (3) the student is not under any form of court supervision but the District did not make the determination set forth in (2) above.

3.2 Students who commit Category B and C offenses on or after the beginning of the District's **2026-2027** academic year may attend the JJAEP in accordance with the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding. Students expelled for Category A offenses in 3 but who were expelled by the District prior to the beginning of the District's **2026-2027** school year and who were adjudicated and placed on probation under Family Code Section 54.04, or who were placed on deferred prosecution under Family Code Section 53.03, shall attend the JJAEP for the remainder of their expulsion period or for the period the student is on court-ordered probation or deferred prosecution. JJAEP funding for these students is reimbursed by the TJJD.

3.3 Students expelled from the District for Category A offenses in **2026**, but who were expelled prior to the beginning of the District's **2026-2027** school year and who were neither adjudicated and placed on probation under Family Code Section 54.04, nor placed on deferred prosecution under Family Code Section 53.03, shall attend the JJAEP for the remainder of their expulsion period or for the period the student is subsequently placed on court ordered probation or

deferred prosecution and shall be funded by appropriations provided by the TJJD, unless the District is notified by a representative of the HCJB that (1) no deferred prosecution or formal court proceedings will be initiated involving the child; or (2) the court or jury finds that the child did not engage in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision and the case has been dismissed with prejudice. In these cases the District may provide for the student's continued placement in the JJAEP as a Category B student for a minimum period of at least six (6) weeks.

3.4 Category D students shall be placed with the JJAEP as required by subchapter I of Chapter 37, and funding for such students shall be as set forth in such subchapter.

3.5 The District may expel a student who has been identified as a qualified disabled student under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) only after a duly constituted Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee determines that the alleged misconduct is not related to the student's disabilities. After making such a determination the District's ARD committee shall determine what services, if any, are necessary to comply with IDEA. The District shall remain responsible for making available the special education services necessary to implement the student's individual education plan (IEP). The District may make such services available in conjunction with the JJAEP or at a separate time and location, at the discretion of the District. If the District chooses to make such services available in conjunction with the JJAEP, the District shall use reasonable cooperation with the JJAEP to minimize disruption of the JJAEP. If the District requires the student to leave the JJAEP for education services, the IEP will include the need for transportation as a related service. A representative of the JJAEP may attend the ARD committee meeting. If a JJAEP facility is located within the District, the District is not required to provide any services to students assigned to the JJAEP facility who are not residents of the District, unless under contract with the student's home school district, the District assumes responsibility for IDEA compliance.

3.6 If the JJAEP suspects that a student who has not been previously qualified as a student with disabilities under IDEA may be eligible for services under IDEA in the future, it shall refer the student to the student's school district of residence for referral and evaluation in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations.

3.7 Any student who does not meet the eligibility requirements of this Memorandum of Understanding is not entitled to educational services by the JJAEP.

3.8 The District may at all times exercise any discretion available under the law. This Agreement does not in any way diminish or restrict any of the District's authority to determine appropriate student discipline or placement. The parties will communicate with each other in good faith to address any issues arising out of placement decisions.

IV. Juvenile Probation

4.1 By executing this Memorandum of Understanding, the District does not authorize any court to order a student expelled under Section 37.007 (a), (d),(e) or (i) to attend a regular program, a regular campus, or a District alternative education program as a condition of probation, nor shall any court be authorized to order a student expelled under Section 37.007 (b), (c) or (f),

where the District has stipulated that such student shall be placed in the JJAEP in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding, to attend a regular program, a regular campus, or a District alternative education program as a condition of probation. Both the District and the HCJB agree that no court has such authority pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

V. Expedited Processing

5.1 Consistent with the Texas Education Code, the parties hereto agree to use their best efforts to expedite the administrative and judicial processing of all cases related to this Memorandum of Understanding.

VI. Funding

6.1 Funding for the JJAEP is provided by the state through the TJJJ for all Category A students who must attend the JJAEP, and the District shall not assume any financial liability for such students. The District may contract with the HCJB to provide an educational placement for all Category B and Category C students, according to the terms and conditions set forth in Attachment "A" hereto, the contents of which are incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding. Funding for the JJAEP with respect to Category D students is provided pursuant to Section 37.310.

VII. Responsibilities of the HCJB

7.1 The HCJB shall establish and operate the JJAEP as required by Section 37.011 and in accordance with applicable local, state and federal law. Other than for transportation services for Category B and C students attending the JJAEP (unless transportation is provided by the HCJB in accordance with section 8.1 hereof), and for providing the services described on Attachment "C" hereto for the transitioning of expelled students to the District prior to completion of the student's placement in the JJAEP, the District is not responsible for any aspect of the operation of the JJAEP unless expressly provided in this Memorandum of Understanding. The HCJB is not responsible for providing services to any student for whom it does not receive funding from either the TJJJ or the District.

VIII. Transportation Services

8.1 Unless otherwise notified by HCJB in writing, the District shall be responsible for providing transportation services for Category B and C students attending the JJAEP who reside within the boundaries of the District.

IX. Emergency Closure

9.1 In the event either the District or the JJAEP is closed due to disaster, flood, extreme weather condition or other calamity, ("Emergency Closure Days") the District shall provide the HCJB within ten (10) days of receipt the following:

- A. notification to HCJB of any waiver(s) filed by the District relating to Emergency Closure Days; and
- B. Updates and/or written status reports concerning any and all waivers filed by District relating to Emergency Closure Days.

X. Terms and Conditions of Entrance

10.1 Upon placement of a student in the JJAEP, the District shall forward to the JJAEP the same records it is required to forward to another public school when a student transfers, including, but not limited to, the following student records:

- A. For students in middle school, the student's Middle School Plan;
- B. For students in grades 9-12, the student's Graduation Plan;
- C. The student's current transcript including all achievement test records;
- D. Withdrawal form, which shall indicate the student's list of current courses in which they are enrolled, the earned grade and the textbook and other instructional resources being used with that subject;
- E. The student's Texas Assessment of Knowledge Skills summary sheet, as applicable;
- F. The student's previous year's attendance record;
- G. The student's current year's attendance record; and
- H. The student's IEP, in accordance with section 3.5 of this Memorandum of Understanding.

XI. Length of Student Placement

11.1 Unless otherwise provided for in this Memorandum of Understanding, each student who is expelled for Category A offenses must immediately, or as soon as practical, attend the JJAEP until: (1) the student completes the court-imposed requirements or as otherwise provided in Section 37.011(i); or (2) it is determined that the court will not exercise jurisdiction over the student based on the criteria set forth in Section 52.041 (c) and (d), Family Code.

11.2 Category B and C students identified in section 3.1B and C(1) hereof shall attend the JJAEP for the period of the individual student's expulsion; provided, however, that the student will remain in the JJAEP for a minimum period of at least six (6) weeks. Category C students identified in section 3.1C (2) shall attend the JJAEP until such time as designated in Subsection 37.0081(d).

11.3 Category D students identified in section 3.1D (1) hereof shall attend the JJAEP for at least one semester. If a student transfers to the District during the student's mandatory placement in an alternative education program pursuant to Section 37.304(a), the District may require the student to complete a semester in the JJAEP in addition to the time spent in the alternative education program in the district from which the student transfers or may count any time spent in an alternative education program in the district from which the student transfers toward the mandatory placement requirement. Category D students identified in section 3.1D(3) whom the District places in the JJAEP shall attend the JJAEP for one semester. The District shall convene a committee as required pursuant to Section 37.306 to determine whether Category D students shall remain in the JJAEP.

11.4 In the event any applicable law requires placement of a student in the JJAEP for a longer period than set forth above in this article VII, such placement shall be extended as so required by applicable law. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement, including, but not limited to provisions specifying a length of placement, the District may at any time exercise any authority it may have to require a placement for a term of any length that is deemed appropriate by the District. This Agreement does not in any way diminish the District's ability to determine and impose a placement for a term of any length. The parties will communicate with each other in good faith to address any issues arising out of placement decisions.

XII. Special Populations

12.1 JJAEP, in collaboration with the District, shall ensure that a student with a disability who receives special education services is provided educational services that will support the student in meeting the goals identified in the student's Individualized Education Program ("IEP") established by a duly constituted Admission, Review, and Dismissal ("ARD") committee in accordance with Section 37.004 of the Education Code. The District must provide JJAEP with the most recent full and complete ARD meeting paperwork, the manifestation determination ARD meeting paperwork, and the most recent evaluation of eligibility for special education services for each eligible student. JJAEP shall maintain these documents for each eligible special education student enrolled at JJAEP.

12.2 JJAEP, in collaboration with the District, shall ensure that a student who is non-English speaking or who speaks English as a second language is provided ESL services and instruction appropriate to meet the student's needs as determined by a Language Proficiency Assessment Committee ("LPAC"). The District must provide JJAEP with documentation of LPAC determinations for each eligible student. JJAEP shall maintain this documentation for each eligible non-English speaking student and each student who speaks English as a second language.

12.3 JJAEP, in collaboration with the District, shall ensure that a student who is eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is provided services and instruction appropriate to address the student's needs as determined by a Section 504 committee. The District must provide JJAEP with documentation of Section 504 eligibility determinations for each eligible student. JJAEP shall maintain this documentation for each eligible Section 504 student.

XIII. Administration of the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (“STAAR”), End Of Course (“EOC”) and Any and All State Required Tests

13.1 In accordance with Section 37.011, the following responsibilities are assigned for administering the STAAR, EOC and all other state required assessments (the “Assessments”) as applicable, to students enrolled in the JJAEP:

- A. The District shall be responsible for securing and delivering to the JJAEP director or the director’s designee all secured test materials at least one day before the day in which the Assessments, as applicable, are to be administered.
- B. The JJAEP shall be responsible for acquiring all non-secured test materials which shall be made available to students enrolled in the JJAEP on the day the Assessments, as applicable, are to be administered.
- C. The JJAEP shall be responsible for administering the Assessments, as applicable, to those students enrolled in the JJAEP.
- D. The District shall be responsible for retrieving at the JJAEP site all Assessments, as applicable, answer sheets and other secured test materials attributed to the District’s students which are enrolled at the JJAEP.
- E. The JJAEP shall be responsible for returning all non-secured material to the appropriate TEA contracted agent.

XIV. Terms and Conditions of Exit

14.1 Upon JJAEP’s determination of the date of a student’s release from JJAEP, in accordance with Section 37.023 of the Education Code, JJAEP shall, as soon as practicable, provide written notice of that date to the student’s parent or guardian and the administrator of the campus to which the student intends to transition. In addition, JJAEP shall provide the campus administrator with an assessment of the student’s academic growth while attending JJAEP and the results of any assessment instruments administered to the student.

14.2 A teacher employed by the JJAEP who holds a certification granted under Section 21.003(a) must review all academic work of the student prior to the student’s exit from the JJAEP and return to the District, and must certify completion of course work based upon a determination that the student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills for a course at the seventieth percentile pursuant to Section 28.002 of the Education Code. In accordance with Section 37.011(d), such certification must be accepted by the District and all course credit earned by the student while at the JJAEP shall be reflected on the student’s District transcript.

XV. Confidentiality

15.1 The Parties understand and acknowledge that some of the information provided under the Agreement (the "Data") may be subject to statutory prohibitions to disclosure and as such, shall not be disclosed to any party not subject to this Agreement. Both Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of the information in the same manner as the original custodian of records is so required. Both Parties agree and acknowledge that they may be required to maintain confidentiality of the information under the laws of the State of Texas and the United States, including FERPA. The Parties will coordinate in good faith to ensure compliance with FERPA in all respects.

Under this Agreement, JJAEP is a "school official" under FERPA and has a legitimate educational interest in personally identifiable information from education records because JJAEP:

- Provides a service or function for which the District would otherwise use employees.
- Is under the direct control of the District with respect to the use and maintenance of education records.
- Is subject to the requirements of FERPA governing the use and redisclosure of personally identifiable information from education records.

Other than as expressly set forth in the Agreement, the Parties shall not, without the express prior written consent of the other Party: (a) transmit the Data to any contractors or subcontractors located outside the United States, (b) distribute, repurpose or share the Data with any other party (other than as required by applicable law), (c) use the Data in, with, through or in connection with any artificial intelligence program or to train such artificial intelligence program, (d) use the Data or any portion thereof to inform, influence or guide marketing or advertising efforts or to develop a profile of a student or group of students, (e) use the Data or any portion thereof for any other purpose than is required to fulfill the services contemplated in the Agreement between the Parties, or (f) use any de-identified Data for internal product development, improvement or research.

The Parties acknowledge that they will each be responsible for any action in violation of this Agreement by its respective employees, subcontractors, agents and any other authorized individuals.

The Parties will maintain the confidentiality of any and all Confidential Information obtained from the other Party in connection with the Agreement. The Parties will ensure each of its respective employees, subcontractors, agents, and any other authorized individuals maintain the confidentiality and security of the Confidential Information. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "Confidential Information" shall include all Data and the information contained in the Data, other than (i) such portion of the Data that was in the public domain at the time the Data was provided to the applicable receiving Party; and (ii) such portion of the Data that is legally required to be disclosed under the Texas Public Information Act.

If either Party becomes aware of a disclosure or security breach concerning any Data covered by this Agreement, such Party shall immediately notify the other Party and take immediate steps to limit and mitigate the damage of such security breach to the greatest extent possible.

The Parties acknowledge and agree that in the event that either Party (a) discloses any Data,

Confidential Information, or any portion of either the Data or the Confidential Information to third parties; (b) uses the Data, Confidential Information, or any portion of either the Data or Confidential Information in a manner that violates this Agreement; or (c) otherwise breaches any provision of this Agreement, the nonbreaching Party may pursue all rights and remedies to which it is entitled under law, including, but not limited to, specific performance.

Further, either Party will immediately inform the other Party in writing of any request by any person, entity or governmental authority for access to or use of the Data, unless expressly prohibited by applicable law. The Party providing such notice will not respond in any way for such requests for access to or use of the Data (unless expressly required by applicable law).

XVI. Liabilities

16.1 This Agreement is not intended to extend the liability of the Parties beyond that provided by law. Neither party waives, nor shall be deemed to have hereby waived, any immunity or defenses that would otherwise be available to it against claims arising from third parties. The parties do not intend that any non-party, including, but not limited to, any student, parent, or other person or entity, have any right to enforce any part of this Agreement.

XVII. Miscellaneous

17.1 **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and, obligations and undertakings of each of the parties to this Agreement shall be performable in Hidalgo County, Texas.

17.2 **Nature of Relationship:** Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be deemed or construed to create the relationship of principal and agent or that of partnership or joint venture or any association between the Parties, and any intention to create a joint venture or partnership relationship between the Parties hereto is hereby expressly disclaimed. The Parties shall maintain exclusive control, direction and management of their own employees, and the other shall have no rights with respect thereto.

17.3 **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement contains the entire Agreement of the parties with respect to the matters covered by its terms. No other agreements, statement or promise made by any party or to any employee, officer or agent of any party, that is not contained in this Agreement, will be of no force or effect, unless the same be in writing, dated subsequent to the date hereof and duly executed by the parties hereto.

17.4 **Additional Documents:** The Parties agree that they will use reasonable, good faith efforts to execute each such other and further instruments and documents as, are, or may, become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement, including, but not limited to collaboration in the creation of shared forms.

17.5 **Modification:** This Agreement shall constitute the entire understanding of the Parties and shall supersede any prior agreement. This Agreement may be modified at any time in writing only by the mutual consent of both parties. Changes shall be in the form of a modification and shall become effective upon signature by authorized individuals representing both Parties.

17.6 If any provision, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Memorandum of Understanding, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof continue in full force and effect.

17.7 This Memorandum of Understanding is executed in multiple originals, each of which shall have the full force and effect of an original document, and each of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

17.8 **Non-Discrimination:** The Agreement, all related activities and programs offered under this Agreement by the Parties shall be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against any person on a basis prohibited by applicable law or HCJB and/or District policy, including and without limitation to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, age, veteran status, or disability.

17.9 **Authority to Execute:** The execution and performance of this Agreement by the Parties has been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of the participating Parties in accordance with its terms.

XVIII. Term of Agreement

18.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is effective **August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027.**

XIX. Notices

19.1 All notices or other writing required under this Agreement shall be deemed to have been made when sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the following address:

**TO LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT:**
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent
201 E. Expwy 83
La Joya, Texas 78560

TO COUNTY OF HIDALGO:
Judge Mario E. Ramirez, Jr.,
Juvenile Justice Center
Attn: Maryann Denner
Director / Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
1001 N. Doolittle Road,
Edinburg, Texas 78540

EXECUTED this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

JUDGE MARIO E. RAMIREZ, JR., JUVENILE
JUSTICE CENTER OF HIDALGO COUNTY

By: _____
Maryann Denner, Director and
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

HIDALGO COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

By: _____
Hon. Fernando Mancias, 93rd District Court
Juvenile Department Overseer

LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent

ATTEST:

Attachment "A"

**LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Reservation of Student Spaces and Schedule of Payments for JJAEP
School Year 2026-2027**

The La Joya Independent School District (the "District") reserves the number of spaces for the 2026-2027 students identified as Category B and Category C students using the following chart. "Yes" entries in the option selections column indicate that these students will be placed in the JJAEP. If the "No" option is selected, the JJAEP is not responsible for the education of students in these categories.

Please identify the number of full time equivalent spaces that the District wishes to reserve for the entire year, which may vary from the number of individual students who are expelled during the year.

Category of Students	Optional Selections Yes/No	Number of Student Spaces Anticipated/Reserved
Total Number of Student Spaces Anticipated for Category A Offenses (Mandatory)		
Category B Offenses (FALL SEMESTER, Only) (Optional - Students expelled for mandatory reasons but who cannot or will not be adjudicated for that offense)		
Category B Offenses (SPRING SEMESTER, Only)		
Category C Offenses (FALL SEMESTER, Only) (Optional - Students expelled for 37.007 (b), (c), and (e) student code of conduct violation)		
Category C Offenses (SPRING SEMESTER, Only)		
Total Number of Student Spaces Reserved for Category B and C Students		

The District agrees to budget \$115.00 per student per enrolled day for the 2026-2027 school year for each non-mandatory (Category B and Category C) student space reserved in the JJAEP, the total budgeted amount being _____. The budgeted amounts will be paid by the District to the JJAEP in two equal installments for student spaces reserved. The Fall semester installment shall be due on or before **September 1, 2026**. The Spring Semester installment shall be due on or before **January 4, 2027**. Payments must be made to the Hidalgo County Treasurer, 2810 S. Business Hwy 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539-6243.

At the end of the school year, the JJAEP shall refund to the District the sum of **\$115.00** per student day paid by District to reserve student spaces for which no student was assigned by District to such space for any day during such school year, provided, however, that the District shall not be refunded any sums of money for any day a student of District was assigned to such space but the student did not attend. Any remaining funds held by the JJAEP shall be distributed to the HCJB and these funds shall be used at the HCJB's discretion for JJAEP programmatic and administrative purposes.

With the prior approval of the JJAEP, the District may enroll additional Category B and Category C students in the JJAEP in excess of the number of those student spaces reserved at a rate of **\$150.00** per student per enrolled day for each student placement in excess of spaces reserved.

In the event the JJAEP or the District's participation in the program is terminated prior to **July 31, 2027**, the JJAEP shall refund to the District all funds paid by District to reserve student spaces for which no student was assigned by District to such space for any day during such school year, provided, however, that District shall not be refunded any sums of money for any day a student of District was assigned to such space but the student did not attend.

Pursuant to Section 37.0081(g) of the Education Code, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, with respect to each of the District's Student's placed under Section 37.0081 of the Education Code with the JJAEP, the District shall reimburse the JJAEP for the actual cost incurred each day for the student while the student is enrolled in the JJAEP. The amounts paid as specified in the prior paragraphs of this Attachment shall be considered an estimate, and any adjustment to the amounts actually paid shall be made promptly upon the determination by the HJCB of the actual cost incurred by the JJAEP based on the HCJB's annual audit.

Attachment "B"

**District's Definition of Serious or Persistent Misbehavior
Page 3, Section 3.1 C.**

Attachment "C"

**Plan for the Transitioning of Expelled Students Prior to
Completion of JJAEP Placement
Page 8, Section 14.1 & 14.2**



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 3 - Thriving Students

Agenda Category: Consent Item

Item Title: Head Start Partnership Non-Renewal and Transition Plan for 2026–2027 School Year

BACKGROUND:

Hidalgo County Head Start has notified La Joya ISD of its decision to terminate the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), effective June 30, 2026. This partnership has historically supported Pre-Kindergarten services across select district campuses. As a result, the Head Start program will no longer operate within La Joya ISD beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.

RATIONALE:

Data from recent years indicates a decline in enrollment at partnership campuses, decreasing from 544 students in 2024–2025 to 503 students in 2025–2026—a reduction of 41 students across four campuses. This trend reflects a reduced need for a dual-service delivery model. La Joya ISD has the capacity, staffing, and infrastructure to independently serve all eligible Pre-K students. The district will continue to provide comprehensive early childhood services aligned with its academic goals and strategic priorities.

BUDGET:

Cost Click here to enter \$ amt.	Funding Source Click here to enter text.	Vendor
Purchasing Mechanism Click or tap here to enter text.	Additional Documentation Tab sheet	

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is submitted for Board information and discussion regarding the non-renewal of the Head Start partnership and the district’s transition plan to ensure continuity of high-quality Pre-K services for all students.

Initiated by: Myra Ramos
Myra Ramos, Executive Director of Early Learning

Reviewed by: Derek Little
Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership

BF&AS
Reviewed by: Mirgitt Crespo, Chief of Business & Administrative

Executive Cabinet
Review by: Derek Little
Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**

Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

OXFORD & GONZÁLEZ

Attorneys at Law

BRINKLEY L. OXFORD (1946-2004)
RICARDO GONZÁLEZ, P.C.

124 S. 12th Avenue
P. O. DRAWER 630
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539-78540

Telephone (956) 383-5654
Fax (956) 381-0002

April 2, 2026

Via Certified Mail: 9589 0710 5270 0086 9412 25

Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools
La Joya ISD
200 W. Expwy 83
La Joya, Texas 78560

RE: Termination of Memorandum of Understanding

Dear Dr. Sorenson,

Our firm is the legal counsel for the Hidalgo County Head Start Program. The Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court and the Head Start Policy Council have instructed me to provide notice that The Hidalgo County Head Start Program is terminating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with La Joya ISD, executed on June 12, 2024. On March 25, 2026, the Hidalgo County Head Start Policy Council terminated the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"). On March 26, 2026, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court voted to terminate the MOU.

This letter serves as official notice of termination of the MOU by the Hidalgo County Head Start Program. For purposes of termination the Hidalgo County Head Start Program will consider the MOU terminated effective **June 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** Central Standard Time, as provided in the June 12, 2024, MOU.

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program will work with La Joya ISD to operate in compliance with all relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies as described in the MOU with all termination activities. Irma Peña, Head Start Executive Director will reach out to you and your leadership team via email to discuss the logistics of the termination activities. The Hidalgo County Head Start Program staff will notify the parents that are currently enrolled in Head Start and will notify Head Start employees only.

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program considers the relationship with La Joya ISD valuable and wishes to maintain an amicable and collegial association.

Sincerely yours,


Ricardo Gonzalez

Head Start Program Attorney
Hidalgo County Head Start Program

Cc: Irma Peña, Head Start Executive Director
Email: Irma.Pena@hchsp.org
Judge Richard Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge
Email: countyjudge@co.hidalgo.tx.us
Rene Torres, Head Start Policy Council Chairperson
Email: Pc.renetorres@hchsp.org

RG:aa



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 4 - Community, Trust, Unity, and Partnership

Agenda Category: Consent Item

Item Title: Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting April 8, 2026

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the meeting minutes is to provide a legally binding official record that demonstrates the school district’s compliance with the association’s bylaws and established procedures.

RATIONALE:

Approval is needed for the following: Regular Meeting April 8, 2026

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		April 8, 2026 Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting April 8, 2026

Initiated by: Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

Reviewed by: _____

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____

Executive Cabinet Review by: MS
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**

Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SCHOOL BOARD
LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

A Regular Meeting of the School Board of **LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** was held on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM**, in the Staff Development Center Board Room at Nellie Schunior Administration Building, 200 W. Expwy 83, La Joya, TX 78560. A quorum of the Board and the presiding officer were present at this location. Any Board members participating by videoconference will be in accordance with Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code.

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken, are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - (Other)

Alyssa Peña, Vice-President, School Board, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL & DECLARE QUORUM - (Other)

Present: Jessica Ochoa, Dr. Carlos Margo, Alyssa Peña, Celso Gomez Jr., Dr. Rosalva Hernandez, and Valeria Vega

Absent: Julian Alvarez III

Alyssa Peña, Vice-President, School Board, declared a quorum

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, Alyssa Peña, Vice-President, School Board - (Other)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - (Synergy and Teamwork or Other)

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julian Alvarez III, President, School Board, walked in at 6:03 p.m. and continued with the meeting

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE(S)/ANNOUNCEMENTS - (Vision and Goals)

5.1. Budget Priorities 3 and 4, *presented by Ms. Mirgitt Crespo, Chief of Business, Finance & Administrative Services*

5.2. Summer Programs Overview, *presented by Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership, and Anna Marie Candelario, Deputy Chief of Academic Advancement & School Performance*

6. LONE STAR GOVERNANCE - (Progress and Accountability)

6.1. Enrollment and Transfers Update, *presented by Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership*

Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools, walked in at 6:12 p.m.

6.2. CPM 1: Student Achievement Conditions; 1.1 Strategic Academic Interventions; 1.2 North Star Goal, *presented by Dr. Derek Little, Chief of Academics & School Leadership*

6.3. Lone Star Governance Time Use Tracker Report - March 25, 2026, *presented by Ms. Mari Elizondo, School Board Administrative Assistant*

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S) - (Systems and Processes)

To promote efficient meetings, the Board may act on more than one item by a single vote through the use of a consent agenda. The consent agenda shall be comprised of items specified in this Section for which the Superintendent anticipates no board deliberation prior to action being taken on the item and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. At the request of any member of the School Board, any item on the consent agenda shall be removed from the consent agenda and given individual deliberation and action. Requests for the removal of an item from the consent agenda are to be made to the presiding officer at the time that the consent agenda is up for consideration.

A motion was made by **Dr. Rosalva Hernandez** to approve the Consent Agenda from 7.1 to 7.6. Seconded by **Jessica Ochoa**. And the motion carried unanimously.

7.1. Academics & School Leadership:

7.1.1. Approval of Revision to Student Transfer Policy FDB (Local)

7.1.2. Approval of MacBook Air Laptops through Choice Partners. At the cost of \$113,730.00 with Apple Inc.

7.1.3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Angels of Love

7.1.4. Approval of Additional Services through Staffing Contract for Special Education Department CSP# 2026-27. At the cost of \$160,990.00 with Presence Learning, Inc., New York, NY

7.2. Approval of Minutes:

7.2.1. Regular Meeting March 25, 2026

7.3. Business, Finance & Administrative Services:

7.3.1. Approval of Ratification and Budget Increase of the Independent Auditor Services RFQ #2024-59 Renewal. At the cost of \$25,000.00 with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, McAllen, Texas

7.3.2. Approval of February 2026 Tax Collector's Report

7.4. Human Capital & Talent Development:

7.4.1. Approval of Contract for JG Consulting for Professional Services. At the cost of \$54,400.00 with JG Consulting

7.5. Lone Star Governance:

7.5.1. Approval of Report on CPM 1: Student Achievement Conditions; 1.1 Strategic Academic Interventions; 1.2 North Star Goal

7.5.2. Approval of the Lone Star Governance Time Use Tracker Report - March 25, 2026

7.6. Operations & Infrastructure:

7.6.1. Approval of Ratification of Change Order No. 1 and Budget Increase for the La Joya ISD - Sports Complex Softball Field Synthetic Turf Surfacing Project. At the cost of \$225,000.00 with Fielder's Choice, Inc., Pasadena, Texas

7.6.2. Approval of Purchase for AXIS View Station Answering Units through Purchasing Cooperatives. At the cost of \$51,825.00 with Janga Technology, McAllen, Texas

8. CLOSED SESSION - (*Synergy and Teamwork*)

Closed Meeting will be held for the purposes authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.001, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.129, and 551.0821 et seq. concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act, including but not limited to the sections and purposes listed below.

Julian Alvarez III, President, School Board, called the meeting into Closed Session at 7:16 p.m. under the section Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.001, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.129, and 551.0821 et seq. concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act, including but not limited to the sections and purposes listed below.

- 8.1. Consultation with the Board's Attorney. (Texas Government Code 551.071: For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law; and Texas Government Code 551.129: For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney by telephone conference call.)
- 8.2. Discuss Personnel Matters and Board and Superintendent Duties. (Texas Government Code 551.074: For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear complaints or charges against a public officer or employee, including Board Operating Procedures and Self-Assessment.)
- 8.3. Discuss Property Matters. (Texas Government Code 551.072: For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.)

8.4. Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit Findings. (Texas Government Code 551.076: To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or a security audit.)

8.5. Personally Identifiable Information About Public School Students. (Texas Government Code 551.0821: For the purpose of deliberating a matter regarding a public-school student, if personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed.)

9. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION - (*Systems and Processes*)

Julian Alvarez III, President, School Board, called the meeting out of Closed Session at 7:27 p.m.

10. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEM(S) - (*Systems and Processes*)

Julian Alvarez III, President, School Board, started hearing at 7:28 p.m.

10.1 Hearing to Consider Recommendation of Independent Hearing Examiner Regarding Proposed Termination of Pedro Zurita Pursuant to Board Policy DFD. (The Board may go into closed session to deliberate and discuss this matter with legal counsel pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074.)

Julian Alvarez III, President, School Board, called the meeting into Closed Session at 7:57 p.m.

Julian Alvarez III, President, School Board, called the meeting out of Closed Session at 9:31 p.m.

10.1. A motion was made by Alyssa Peña to adopt the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law that Good Cause Exists to Terminate Pedro Zurita's Contract with the District. Seconded by Dr. Carlos Margo. And the motion carried unanimously.

11. CALENDAR - (*Other*)

11.1. April 2026: Autism Month, School Library Month, National Poetry Month, and Annual Elementary Field Day Month

11.2. April 15, 2026: Purple Up Day for Military Kids

11.3. April 15, 2026: District Safety & Security Committee Meeting

11.4. April 20-24, 2026: Public School Volunteer Week

11.5. April 21, 2026: Title III Parent and Community Engagement

11.6. April 22, 2026: Administrative Professionals Day

11.7. April 22, 2026: Regular Board Meeting

12. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS - (*Other*)

13. ADJOURNMENT - (*Synergy and Teamwork*)

A motion was made by **Celso Gomez Jr.** to adjourn the meeting at **9:36 p.m.** Seconded by **Valeria Vega.** And the motion carried unanimously.

Julian Alvarez III
President, School Board

Celso Gomez Jr.
Secretary, School Board



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

District Priority: Priority 5 - Integrity & Accountability

Agenda Category: Consent Item

Item Title: Approval of Budget Amendment 2026-10 as of April 2026

BACKGROUND:

Fund adjustments are needed between functions within the General fund. All adjustments are necessary as part of the normal course of District operations and are reported in accordance with state requirements.

RATIONALE:

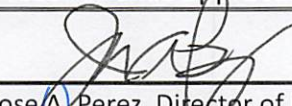
Budget amendments are required to be approved by the Board between function levels within the budget. These changes are typically the result of unforeseen expenditures in certain categories and must be adjusted between functions to maintain legal compliance.

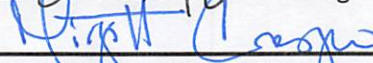
BUDGET:

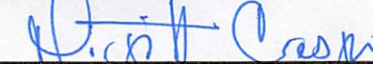
Cost N/A	Funding Source N/A	Vendor N/A
Purchasing Mechanism N/A	Additional Documentation Budget Amendment form	

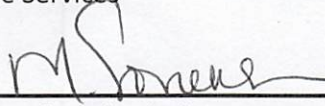
RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval.

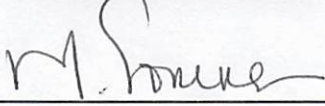
Initiated by: 
Jose A. Perez, Director of Budget

Reviewed by: 
Mirgitt Crespo, Chief of Business, Finance & Administrative Services

BF&AS Reviewed by: 
Mirgitt Crespo, Chief of Business, Finance & Administrative Services

Executive Cabinet Review by: 
Click or tap here to enter text.

Approved for Submission to the Board of Education:


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE BY OBJECT AND EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION - GENERAL FUND (FUNDS 152 - 199)
BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED APRIL 30, 2026

	ORIGINAL ADOPTED BUDGET	2025-2026 AMENDED BUDGET	ADJUSTMENTS BY OBJECT/FUNCTION	2025-2026 AMENDED BUDGET 4/30/2026
REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCE SOURCES:				
5700 LOCAL SOURCES				
Local Tax Collections	17,872,386	25,122,386	-	25,122,386
Other Local Revenues	8,450,000	5,200,000	-	5,200,000
TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES	26,322,386	30,322,386	-	30,322,386
5800 STATE PROGRAM	228,611,009	237,892,240	-	237,892,240
5900 FEDERAL PROGRAM	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	256,433,395	269,714,626	-	269,714,626
EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES:				
11 Instruction	145,723,720	149,673,124	137,800	149,810,924
12 Instructional Res. & Media Services	5,966,034	6,233,496	(1,000)	6,232,496
13 Curriculum Dev. & Inst. Staff Dev.	6,348,620	7,949,925	29,930	7,979,855
21 Instructional Adm.	4,205,601	4,680,399	-	4,680,399
23 School Adm.	14,505,394	15,683,230	(16,602)	15,666,628
31 Guidance, Counseling, & Evaluation	7,986,830	8,353,852	(142,271)	8,211,581
32 Social Work	1,864,184	1,790,720	-	1,790,720
33 Health Services	2,566,964	2,750,928	-	2,750,928
34 Student Transportation	6,900,857	7,054,018	-	7,054,018
35 Food Service	-	530,000	-	530,000
36 Co curricular Activity	9,248,966	9,445,881	(145,590)	9,300,291
41 General Adm.	11,092,793	11,826,502	3,000	11,829,502
51 Plant Maintenance & Operations	28,339,485	28,479,859	(1,559)	28,478,300
52 Security & Monitoring Services.	4,262,850	4,544,660	136,292	4,680,952
53 Data Processing Services	1,617,896	1,737,477	-	1,737,477
61 Community Services	27,178	84,532	-	84,532
71 Debt Service	3,652,014	3,652,014	-	3,652,014
81 Facilities Acquisition and Const.	-	3,120,000	-	3,120,000
93 Payments to Member District's for SSA	-	-	-	-
95 Payments to Juvenile Justice Alt Ed.	-	-	-	-
99 Intergovernmental Charges	556,000	556,000	-	556,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	254,865,386	268,146,617	-	268,146,617
DIFFERENCE	1,568,009	1,568,009	-	1,568,009



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 4 - Community, Trust, Unity and Partnership

Agenda Category: Consent Item

Item Title: Approval of Report on Focused Quality Seats Analysis with Annual School Plan Updates

BACKGROUND:

This report is provided to the School Board in alignment with the Lone Star Governance Board Monitoring Schedule.

RATIONALE:

Approval will ensure we are in compliance with the Lone Star Governance Texas Framework as well as prove transparency on strategic actions taken in alignment with GPMs 1-3 focused on accountability and student success.

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of Report on Focused Quality Seats Analysis with Annual School Plan Updates.

Initiated by: Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**

Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

Reviewed by: _____

BF&AS
Reviewed by: _____

MS

Executive
Cabinet
Review by: Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 4 - Community, Trust, Unity and Partnership

Agenda Category: Consent Item

Item Title: Approval of the Lone Star Governance Time Use Tracker Report - April 8, 2026

BACKGROUND:

The most effective school boards focus on improving student outcomes and codify their commitment to this by tracking how they spend their time during board meetings, spending upwards of 50% of their time discussing student outcomes. When we track how we spend our time, our board behaviors begin to become more closely aligned with our values. By adopting a vision, mission, goals, goal progress measures and constraints that are focused on improving student outcomes, we have shared what is important to us with our community and board behaviors should reflect such a focus by spending at least 50% of their time discussing student outcomes.

RATIONALE:

Approval of the LSG Board Monitoring Schedule will ensure we are in compliance with the Lone Star Governance Texas

BUDGET:

Cost	Funding Source	Vendor
N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchasing Mechanism		Additional Documentation
N/A		Time Use Tracker Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of the Lone Star Governance Time Use Tracker Report - April 8, 2026.

Initiated by: *Mari Elizondo*
Mari Elizondo, School Board Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by: _____

BF&AS
Reviewed by: _____

Executive
Cabinet
Review by: *MS*
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:

Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

TIME USE TRACKER		April 8, 2026		QTR:	Date:	04/08/26
Framework Pillars	Student Outcome Minutes	Adult Behavior Minutes	The board tracks its time spent during public authorized meetings			Other Topic Minutes
Vision and Goals	44		← Minutes setting student outcome goals			
			← Minutes setting constraints or theories of action			
Progress and Accountability			← Minutes receiving, discussing, and voting on Student Outcome Goal Monitoring Reports according to the board adopted Monitoring Calendar			
		35	← Minutes receiving, discussing, and voting on Constraint Monitoring Reports according to the board adopted Monitoring Calendar			
			← Minutes evaluating the superintendent on student outcome goals, GPMs, constraints, and CPMs			
		2	← Minutes performing board self-evaluations using the LSG Integrity Instrument			
Systems and Processes	Minutes discussing, debating, and voting on other agenda items (including consent agenda items) →					24
Advocacy and Engagement			← Minutes hosting two-way communication meetings on student outcome goals, constraints, theories of action and/or progress toward student outcome goals			
			← Minutes recognizing the accomplishments of students and staff regarding progress on student outcome goals			
Synergy and Teamwork	Minutes fulfilling statutorily required public hearings, forums, and comments Minutes fulfilling statutorily required or Lone Star Governance workshops Minutes in closed session as permitted by law					
Other	Any time spent on an activity that does not meet the conditions listed above →					5
TOTALS	44	37	110			29
<p>Use For Student Outcome and Adult Behavior Minutes Percentage Calculation: $\frac{81}{110} \times 100 = 73.64\%$ % Student Outcome and Adult Behavior Minutes</p> <p>Use For Student Outcome Minutes Percentage Calculation: $\frac{44}{110} \times 100 = 40.00\%$ % Student Outcome Minutes</p>						

Trustees Present	Trustees Absent	% Attendance
7		100.00%

Count of 'Other' Agenda Items
1

Goals Discussed	Goals on Target	% on Target
0	0	0.00%

Consent Items	Consent Items Removed	% Remaining on Consent Agenda
12	0	100.00%

GPMs Discussed	GPMs on Target	% on Target
0	0	0.00%



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 4 - Community, Trust, Unity and Partnership

Agenda Category: Action Item

Item Title: Consider and Take Possible Action to Adopt and Authorize Implementation Program Change Impacting Multiple Campuses and District-level Departments

BACKGROUND:

La Joya ISD is engaged in a comprehensive review of academic and operational programs to ensure alignment with Board priorities, TEA requirements, and evolving student and community needs.

RATIONALE:

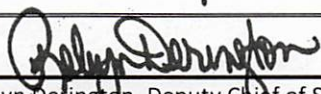
The proposed program change is necessary to improve consistency of practices across campuses, eliminate duplication of efforts, and enhance coordination between central office and school-based staff.


BUDGET:

Cost N/A	Funding Source N/A	Vendor N/A
Purchasing Mechanism N/A		Additional Documentation N/A


RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends to Consider and Take Possible Action to Adopt and Authorize Implementation Program Change Impacting Multiple Campuses and District-level Departments.

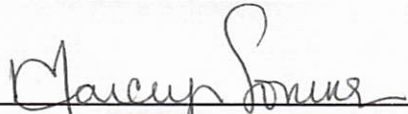
Initiated by: 
Robyn Derington, Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives & Talent Development

Reviewed by: 
Robyn Derington, Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives & Talent Development

BF&AS
Reviewed by: _____

Executive Cabinet
Review by: 
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 4 - Community, Trust, Unity and Partnership

Agenda Category: Action Item

Item Title: Consider and Take Possible Action to Propose Nonrenewals of Chapter 21 Term Contracts and Designate Hearing Officer for Nonrenewal Hearings

BACKGROUND:

The administration has reviewed Chapter 21 term contract employees to determine staffing needs for the 2026–2027 school year and identified positions recommended for nonrenewal in alignment with district instructional, programmatic, and organizational priorities.

RATIONALE:

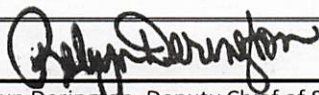
Proposing nonrenewals of selected Chapter 21 term contracts and designating a hearing officer for any requested nonrenewal hearings is necessary to comply with statutory requirements and Board policies, ensure due process, and align staffing with student and program needs.

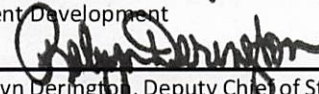
BUDGET:

Cost N/A	Funding Source N/A	Vendor N/A
Purchasing Mechanism N/A	Additional Documentation N/A	

RECOMMENDATION:

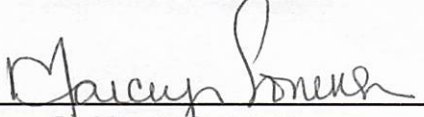
Administration recommends to Consider and Take Possible Action to Propose Nonrenewals of Chapter 21 Term Contracts and Designate Hearing Officer for Nonrenewal Hearings.


Initiated by: 
Robyn Derington, Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives & Talent Development

Reviewed by: 
Robyn Derington, Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives & Talent Development

BF&AS
Reviewed by: _____

**Approved for Submission
to the Board of Education:**


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

**Executive
Cabinet
Review by:** 
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools



La Joya Independent School District Board Agenda Item Submission

Board of Education Meeting: April 22, 2026

Strategic Priority: Priority 4 - Community, Trust, Unity and Partnership

Agenda Category: Action Item

Item Title: Consider and Take Possible Action to Propose and Finalize Mid-contract and End-of-year Terminations of Chapter 21 Probationary Contracts

BACKGROUND:

The administration has conducted a review of Chapter 21 probationary contract employees to determine employment needs for the remainder of the 2025–2026 school year and for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year in alignment with district staffing plans and performance expectations.

RATIONALE:

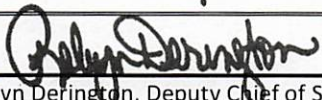
Proposing and finalizing mid-contract and end-of-year terminations of identified Chapter 21 probationary contracts is necessary to ensure appropriate staffing levels, support instructional quality, and maintain fiscal and organizational efficiency in accordance with applicable Board policies and statutory timelines.

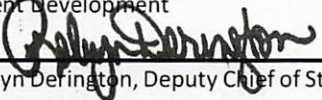
BUDGET:

Cost N/A	Funding Source N/A	Vendor N/A
Purchasing Mechanism N/A	Additional Documentation N/A	

RECOMMENDATION:

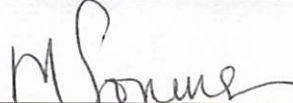
Administration recommends to Consider and Take Possible Action to Propose and Finalize Mid-contract and End-of-year Terminations of Chapter 21 Probationary Contracts.

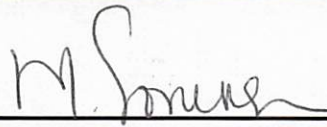
Initiated by: 
Robyn Derington, Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives & Talent Development

Reviewed by: 
Robyn Derington, Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives & Talent Development

BF&AS Reviewed by: _____

Approved for Submission to the Board of Education:


Dr. Marcey Sorensen
Superintendent of Schools

Executive Cabinet Review by: 
Dr. Marcey Sorensen, Superintendent of Schools
