



Resolution Supporting Litigation Against the Texas Education Agency Challenging Lack of Transparency in Calculation of School District Accountability Ratings

WHEREAS, the A–F Accountability System is a statewide rating system established by the Texas Education Agency (“TEA”) that evaluates the academic performance of Texas public schools and assigns letter grades A–F to districts and campuses; and

WHEREAS, the TEA has substantially changed the accountability ratings system in a manner that will impact every school district and campus in the state, meaning that the ratings expected to be issued in Fall 2023 for the 2022–2023 school year will be based on a different set of rules than previous A–F ratings, and making it impossible to compare the ratings issued by the TEA in 2022 and 2023 side by side; and

WHEREAS, the changes made by TEA to College, Career, and Military Readiness (“CCMR”) Indicators are applied to graduating classes who have already graduated from Richardson Independent School District (“RISD”) and nothing can be done to proactively address these changes with the graduating classes that the changes will be initially applied to; and

WHEREAS, in violation of state law, in the 2022-2023 school year, the Commissioner failed to provide school districts “a document in a simple, accessible format that explains the accountability performance measures, methods, and procedures that *will* be applied” for the 2022-2023 school year; and

WHEREAS, in violation of state law, in the 2023-2024 school year, the Commissioner has failed to provide school districts “a document in a simple, accessible format that explains the accountability performance measures, methods, and procedures that *will* be applied” for the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the A-F Accountability System is to provide transparency and clarity for schools, parents and the community at large about the performance of Texas public schools in relation to state expectations; and

WHEREAS, contrary to the purpose of transparency regarding school performance, the ratings intended to be issued by the Commissioner under the 2022-2023 school year will give the appearance that schools with higher levels of student achievement are actually declining in performance; and

WHEREAS, the District has been harmed by the lack of advance notice of the criteria and methods the TEA is applying as part of the A–F Accountability System for the 2022–2023 school year, because the District does not know the expectations set by the State of Texas for school districts and has been unable to adjust to the TEA’s new accountability measures and allocate District resources in a manner required to meet state standards; and

WHEREAS, the recent announcement by TEA that the calculation of Domain 2a-Academic Growth and Domain 3-Closing the Gaps is being recalibrated further adds to the uncertainty about the new accountability measures and causes further delay of the issuance of the 2022–2023 A–F Accountability Ratings;

WHEREAS, the Richardson Independent School District’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) understands that certain school districts throughout the state are joining a lawsuit against the Commissioner of Education Mike Morath, captioned as *Kingsville Independent School District, et al. v. Mike Morath, in his Official Capacity as Commissioner of Education*, Civil Action No. D-1-GN-23-004675, in the 419th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas (the “Lawsuit”) to challenge the lack of transparency in the criteria used as part of the A–F Accountability System and to prohibit the TEA from issuing performance ratings for the 2022–2023 school year that are based on measures, methods, and procedures that were not provided to school districts prior to the start of the 2022–2023 school year, in violation of state law; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Richardson Independent School District adopts this resolution to authorize the RISD Administration to join the litigation against the TEA as a plaintiff to challenge TEA’s failure to provide RISD advance notice of the accountability performance measures, methods, and procedures that are being applied as part of the A-F Accountability System for the 2022-2023 school year before the start of that school year, in violation of state law. The Board authorizes the RISD Administration to engage legal counsel to represent the RISD in the lawsuit against the TEA.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of Richardson Independent School District at an open meeting of the Board on this 14th day of September, 2023

By: Regina Harris 9/14/2023
Name: Regina Harris Date Signed
Title: President, RISD Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

By: Chris Poteet 9/14/2023
Name: Chris Poteet Date Signed
Title: Secretary, RISD Board of Trustees