

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION PROCESS**

WHEREAS, public education and the educated citizenry created by public education are the greatest safeguards to the State of Texas and the continuation of a free society; and the institution of public education is best protected by a robust and informed electorate; and

WHEREAS, exercising one's right to vote is a civic duty that should be encouraged and promoted; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Richardson Independent School District seeks to create a culture of voting and encourage all District employees to model responsible citizenship for the benefit of students; and

WHEREAS, creating a culture of voting and participation in the electoral process supports the Board's mission, beliefs, strategic objectives, and strategies; and

WHEREAS, sections 276.001 and 276.004 of the Texas Election Code protect an employee's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, section 13.046(d) of the Texas Election Code supports efforts to encourage participation in the voting process by requiring the District to distribute an officially prescribed registration application to each student who is or will be 18 years of age or older during that year; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Code seeks to encourage and educate public school students on the importance of democracy and civic responsibility through the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Social Studies;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is mindful that public funds or resources may not be used for political advertising and nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the use of public funds or resources for political advertising;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Richardson Independent School District –

- adopts each statement in the Preamble above;
- supports a culture of voting and seeks to encourage maximum participation by District employees and eligible students in the election process;
- authorizes the administration to take further steps to encourage maximum participation by District employees and eligible students in the election process, which may include (without limitation):
 - creating and distributing District communications that promote and inform employees and eligible students of the importance of voting;
 - creating and distributing District communications that inform employees and eligible students about when and where they may vote;

- creating and distributing District communications that encourage employees and eligible students to learn about candidates' positions on public education;
- implementing administrative procedures that provide time during the early voting period for employees to vote; and
- encouraging District and campus coordination with volunteer community and civic organizations, such as the PTA, Chamber of Commerce, and retired educators' groups, to encourage and facilitate the District's efforts to promote a culture of voting;

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Richardson Independent School District on this 22day of February, 2024.

By: Regina Harris
Name: Regina Harris
Title: President, Board of Trustees

Attest:

By: Chris Poteet
Name: Chris Poteet
Title: Secretary, Board of Trustees