

## **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING THE A–F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the A–F Accountability System is a statewide rating system established by the Texas Legislature to provide information about the academic performance of Texas public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature, in Texas Education Code §39.054, has granted broad authority to the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency (“the Commissioner”) to “adopt rules to evaluate school district and campus performance and assign each district and campus an overall performance rating of A, B, C, D, or F”; and

**WHEREAS**, the current A–F accountability system was designed by the current Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Education Agency (“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

**WHEREAS**, despite the lack of a requirement in the statute that the Commissioner change the accountability system on any particular schedule, the Commissioner has stated that the A–F accountability system should be revised every five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the changes made by the Commissioner are intended to be applied to graduating classes who have already graduated from Plano Independent School District (“the District”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner intends to release ratings for the 2022-23 school year long after August 15 and still with an unknown date using retroactive updates to the accountability system that would lower the rating of thousands of schools; 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner still has not finalized the rules and methodologies that will be used to evaluate schools for the 2022-2023 school year or the 2023-2024 school year; 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 District is being harmed by the lack of advance notice of the criteria and methods 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 schools districts and has thus been unable to adjust to TEA’s new accountability measures and allocate District resources in a manner required to meet state standards; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the retroactively-applied changes in the accountability system, despite improvements in student achievement, the District expects campus and District ratings to drop; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plano Independent School District’s Board of Trustees (“the Board”) acknowledges and understands that the Commissioner’s post-hoc changes to the accountability system send a negative and demoralizing message to educators who have achieved growth in their students’ performance, but may still see their campuses hit with a lower accountability rating as a result of the Commissioner’s unfair changes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes the A–F Accountability System should be adjusted to raise standards, but only with appropriate advance notice; 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 misleading appearance that schools with higher levels of student achievement are actually declining in performance; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure of the Commissioner to comply with state law and provide an explanation of the measures, methods, and procedures to be used during the 2022-2023 school year prevented the District from appropriately adjusting its practices and allocation of resources in accordance with state expectations; and

**WHEREAS**, the retroactive application of new measures, methods, and procedures without the required advance notice represents harm to the District and its community because it gives the misleading appearance of declining school performance which impacts enrollment, property values, the application of potential sanctions by the Commissioner, and the effective use of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, over 60 Texas school districts representing over 25% of Texas public school students have filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction to prevent the Commissioner from issuing new ratings using the retroactively applied, yet-to-be-finalized, measures, methods, and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board agrees with the arguments laid out in the lawsuit and believes the intention of the Commissioner to issue ratings using retroactively applied, yet-to-be-finalized measures, methods, and procedures to be in contravention of state policy regarding the A–F accountability system and in violation of the law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. All the above-referenced paragraphs, findings, and recitals are incorporated into and made part of this resolution.
2. The Plano Independent School District Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to take the necessary steps to join the litigation challenging the Commissioner’s failure to provide Texas school districts advanced notice of the measures, methods, and procedures to be used in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years prior to the start of each of those school years in violation of state law.
3. The Plano Independent School District Board of Trustees urges the Commissioner to comply with state law and issue ratings for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years utilizing the existing measures, methods, and procedures of which school districts had notice in accordance with state law.

Adopted by the vote of the majority of members of the Board of Trustees of the Plano Independent School District present and voting at an open meeting of the Board on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 at which a quorum was present.

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Nancy Humphrey, Board President

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Jeri Chambers, Board Secretary