

**RESOLUTION OF THE MISSION CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR THE PROTECTION OF STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND EDUCATORS THREATENED BY THE
DANGERS OF COVID-19 EPIDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Mission Consolidated Independent School District ("District") is entrusted to provide a safe learning environment for the students it serves; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the District is committed to providing a safe working environment for every employee of the District; and

WHEREAS, through our students and our employees we touch every life of every person who resides within the boundaries of the District; and

WHEREAS, all persons residing in every school district within Hidalgo County face an extraordinary threat which is unprecedented in modern times; and

WHEREAS, the fate of tens of thousands of our friends and neighbors is entrusted to elected leaders who must take extraordinary steps to deliver us to the other side of the COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, as of June 25, 2020, the United States Center for Disease Control has determined that long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put some members of racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting COVID-19 or experiencing severe illness, regardless of age; and

WHEREAS, The United States Center for Disease Control has observed that Hispanic or Latino persons have a hospitalization rate that is approximately **four times** that of non-Hispanic white persons; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic students represent 99.13% of the student population of Mission CISD; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, The Governor of Texas determined in Executive Order GA-08, that the continued health and safety of the people of Texas required the immediate and indefinite closure of public schools; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a total of 108 confirmed cases in the State of Texas and no cases had been reported in Hidalgo County Texas; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2020, The Texas Department of State Department of Health Services reported a total of 109,000 active cases of COVID-19 in the State of Texas which is a level of infection that is one-thousand times greater than the day on which the Governor ordered the closure of Texas Schools; and

WHEREAS on July 9, 2020, Hidalgo County Health authorities reported the diagnosis of 1,274 new cases of COVID 19 in a single day and also reported that the number of active infections had reached 4,375; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2020, the Texas Commissioner of Education issued School Year 2020-2021 Public Health Planning Guidance which directed all school districts to offer in-person instruction without any limits as to schoolhouse student population density; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner's Guidance stated that it would provide a distinct set of "requirements" for school districts located "in areas with high levels of community spread" but, provided no such requirements in the guidance; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Consolidated Independent School District, is located within Hidalgo County Texas, a community that is experiencing high levels of community spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the omissions of State Government in this regard leave only the elected officials of local government to respond to the threat COVID-19 poses to the members of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Judge, recognizing the dire nature of the COVID-19 disaster, formally requested the restoration of County's authority to protect the health and safety of its inhabitants; which authority the Governor limited by means of an executive order; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the Students, Families, Employees, and Community Members of the Mission Consolidated Independent School District from the dangers of COVID-19 infection is essential to carrying out the District's obligation to provide a free appropriate public education to the District's Students;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Board of Trustees will take all actions within its power to protect the Students, Families, Employees, and Community Members of the Mission Consolidated Independent School District from exposure to COVID-19;
2. That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent without further action of the Board of Trustees to petition state and local authorities to act to protect the Students, Families, Employees, and Community Members of the Mission Consolidated Independent School District from exposure to COVID-19;
3. That the District will support the efforts of Hidalgo County to restore the County's legal authority to act to protect the health and safety of the Students, Families, Employees, and Community Members of the Mission Consolidated Independent School District; and
4. That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to request that the County impose whatever facility occupancy restrictions it deems necessary to protect the health and safety of District Students and Staff while still permitting the District to provide in-person educational services to the children of essential workers and to children with special needs recognized under federal law.

Passed by a vote of 7 to 0 on July 10, 2020

Minnie R. Rodas
President, Board of Trustees

Vernice
Secretary, Board of Trustees