

# Friendswood Independent School District

## 2025 Annual Financial Management Report School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas “FIRST”

For the Year Ending August 31, 2024



Thad Roher, Superintendent

Amber Petree, Chief Financial Officer

**Friendswood Independent School District  
2025 Annual Financial Management Report  
School FIRST  
For the Year Ending August 31, 2024**

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**Friendswood Independent School District  
2025 Annual Financial Management  
Report – School FIRST**

**Introduction**

During the 77th regular session of the Texas legislature (2001), Senate Bill 218 was passed and Governor Perry signed it into law shortly thereafter. This law requires each school district to prepare an annual financial management report within two months of the date of issuance of the final School FIRST ratings. The District received official notification of the 2024-2025 Final School FIRST rating on September 9, 2025. This rating is based upon analysis of school year data for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024.

The purpose of the financial accountability rating system is to ensure that school districts will be held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and achieve improved performance in the management of their financial resources. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to manage their financial resources better in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. The system also discloses the quality of local management and decision-making processes that impact the allocation of financial resources in Texas public schools. An evaluation of the long-term effectiveness of the system should disclose a measurable improvement in the quality of Texas public schools' decision-making processes.

The primary reporting tool is the Financial Accountability Ratings Worksheet. This worksheet was originally developed by representatives of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Business & Education Council (TBEC) and the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). It is administered by the TEA and calculated on information submitted to the Agency via our PEIMS submission each year.

Under School FIRST, every school district in Texas is required to prepare an annual financial management report that includes the following:

- The district's financial management performance rating provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) based on its comparison with indicators established by the Commissioner of Education for the state's new Financial Accountability System;
- The district's financial management performance under each indicator for the current and previous years' financial accountability ratings;
- Additional information required by the Commissioner of Education (disclosures)

Starting with the 2007 calendar year, the financial management report must contain certain required disclosures, in accordance with Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 109, Budgeting, Accounting, and Auditing Subchapter AA, Commissioner's Rules Concerning the Financial Accountability Rating System. These disclosures are as follows:

1. A copy of the Superintendent's current employment contract (this can be satisfied by placing the contract on the district website);
2. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of total reimbursements received by the superintendent and each board member;
3. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of the dollar amount compensation and/or fees received by the Superintendent from another school district or any outside entity in exchange for professional consulting and/or other personal services;
4. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of the total dollar amount by the executive officers and board members of gifts that had an economic value of \$250 or more;
5. A summary schedule for the fiscal year of the dollar amount by board member for the aggregate amount of business transactions with the school district.
6. Additional information that the district's board of trustees deems useful.

Currently, the worksheet consists of 21 Indicators: 4 critical indicators, 7 ceiling indicators, 9 10-point indicators, and 2 5-point indicator. Indicator #4 is both a critical and ceiling indicator. A "No" response in Indicators #1, #2, #3, or #4 will automatically result in a rating of Substandard Achievement, so these first four Indicators are of utmost importance.

In summary, Friendswood ISD received the rating of "A = Superior Achievement", scoring a 90 out of a possible 100 on the financial accountability worksheet. FISD received an A = Superior Achievement with 92 points last year. The worksheet itself follows, along with an explanation of each indicator, the indicator goal, and FISD's performance this year as compared to last year. Finally, as in accordance with Title 19, the required disclosures are included at the back of the report.

**2024-2025 Ratings based on School Year 2023-2024 Data - District Status Detail**

<b>Name:</b> FRIENDSWOOD ISD(084911)	<b>Publication Level 1:</b> 8/8/2025 12:54:09 PM
<b>Status:</b> Passed	<b>Publication Level 2:</b> 8/8/2025 4:49:42 PM
<b>Rating:</b> A = Superior Achievement	<b>Last Updated:</b> 8/8/2025 4:49:42 PM
<b>District Score:</b> 90	<b>Passing Score:</b> 70

#	Indicator Description	Updated	Score
1	Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district's fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Yes
2	Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Yes
3	Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (= person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Yes
4	Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? (If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail critical indicator 4. If the school	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Yes  Ceiling Passed

	district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement, even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days.)		
			1 Multiplier Sum
5	Was the total net position in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Position (net of accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds, net pension liability, and other post-employment benefits) greater than zero? (If it is not, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement, unless the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership. If the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Ceiling Passed
6	Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balances over 3 years less than a 25 percent decrease or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balances exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Ceiling Passed
7	Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	10
8	Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	8

9	Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	10
10	This indicator is not being evaluated.		10
11	Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	4
12	What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	8
13	Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	10
14	Did the school district not have a 15 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass this indicator.	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	10
15	Was the school district's ADA within the allotted range of the district's biennial pupil projection(s) submitted to TEA? If the district did not submit pupil projections to TEA, did it certify TEA's projections? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	5
16	Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails indicator 16, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Ceiling Passed
17	Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds and free from substantial	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Ceiling Passed

	doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails indicator 17, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)		
18	Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	10
19	Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government Code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end?	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	5
20	Did the school district's administration and school board members discuss any changes and/or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget?	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Ceiling Passed
21	Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year for an over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship?	4/23/2025 6:09:50 PM	Ceiling Passed
			90 Weighted Sum
			1 Multiplier Sum
			(100 Ceiling)
			90 Score

**Determination Of Rating**

**A.** Did the school district fail any of the critical indicators 1, 2, 3, or 4? If so, the school district's rating is **F for Substandard Achievement** regardless of points earned.

**B.** Determine the rating by the applicable number of points.

<b>A = Superior Achievement</b>	90-100
<b>B = Above Standard Achievement</b>	80-89
<b>C = Meets Standard Achievement</b>	70-79
<b>F = Substandard Achievement</b>	<70

**No Rating = A school district receiving territory that annexes with a school district ordered by the commissioner under TEC 13.054, or consolidation under Subchapter H, Chapter 41. No rating will be issued for the school district receiving territory until the third year after the annexation/consolidation.**

The school district receives an **F** if it scores below the minimum passing score, if it failed any critical indicator 1, 2, 3, or 4, if the AFR or the data were not both complete, or if either the AFR or the data were not submitted on time for FIRST analysis.

**Ceiling Indicators**

Did the school district meet the criteria for any of the following **ceiling indicators** 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 20, or 21? If so, the school district's applicable maximum points and rating are disclosed below. Please note, an F = Substandard Achievement Rating supersedes any rating earned as the result of the school district meeting the criteria of a ceiling indicator.

<b>Determination of rating based on meeting ceiling criteria.</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Maximum Rating</b>
<b>Indicator 4</b> (Timely Payments) - School district was issued a warrant hold.	95	A = Superior Achievement
<b>Indicator 5</b> (Total Net Position) - Negative total net position and do not have 7% or more or 1.000 or more increase in growth in students in membership over 5 years.	79	C = Meets Standard Achievement
<b>Indicator 6</b> (Average Change in Fund Balance) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement

<b>Indicator 16</b> (PEIMS to AFR) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
<b>Indicator 17</b> (Material Weaknesses) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	79	C = Meets Standard Achievement
<b>Indicator 20</b> (Property Values and Tax Discussion) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
<b>Indicator 21</b> (FSP Repayment Plan) - Response to indicator is <i>Yes</i> .	70	C = Meets Standard Achievement

## Overview of the Worksheet

### Critical Indicators

Indicators 1 through 4 are considered critical indicators. Any “No” response in one of these categories is a signal indicator of fiscal distress. These four indicators revolve around the audit report, timely debt and payroll-related payments and the auditor’s findings.

#### Indicator #1

**Indicator:** Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district’s fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?

**Indicator Goal:** To ensure the district’s financial report is filed by the deadline.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. Like last year, the District met this requirement. The annual financial report was received by the Texas Education Agency before the required deadline of January 28, 2025.

#### Indicator #2

**Indicator:** Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole?

**Indicator Goal:** To determine whether the annual financial report is free from material misstatement.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. Like last year, the District received an unqualified opinion in its annual financial report.

#### Indicator #3

**Indicator:** Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator seeks to confirm that the District has timely paid all bills/obligations, including financing arrangements to pay for school construction, school buses, photocopiers, etc.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. Like last year, FISD made all required bond payments on time.

#### Indicator #4

**Indicator:** Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other governmental agencies?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator seeks to confirm the District fulfilled its obligation to the TRS, TWC and IRS to transfer payroll withholdings and to fulfill any additional payroll-related obligations required to be paid by the District.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. Like last year, FISD made all payroll-related payment obligations on time.

#### All Other Indicators

#### Indicator #5

**Indicator:** Was the total unrestricted net position balance (net of the accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds) in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Positions greater than zero?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator determines if the total net position in the governmental activities column of the Statement of Net Position as reported in the Annual Financial Report is greater than zero. A positive net position demonstrates financial solvency.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. Like last year, FISD passed this ceiling indicator.

#### Indicator #6

**Indicator:** Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balances over 3 years less than a 25 percent decrease or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balances exceed 75 days of operational expenditures?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures the percentage change in fund balance to see whether the fund balance is declining too quickly, and if it is declining, whether sufficient fund balance remains to operate for at least 75 days.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. FISD fund balance has remained fairly constant over 3 years and held 79.39 days of operational expenditures for 2023-24.

### Indicator #7

**Indicator:** Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures how long in days after the end of the fiscal the school district could have disbursed funds for its operating expenditures without receiving any new revenues. Districts must have more than 90 days to receive all 10 points, and points decrease by 2 as the number of days' decreases.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. FISD earned 10 points on this indicator which is the same compared to the prior year. 98.6514 days this year and 116.0911 days last year.

### Indicator #8

**Indicator:** Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures whether the school district had sufficient short-term assets at the end of the fiscal year to pay off its short-term liabilities. To earn the maximum of 10 points, current assets must be more than 3 times current liabilities, and points decrease by 2 as the ratio decreases.

**FISD Answer:** 2.5488; therefore, FISD earned 8 points on this indicator. Current Assets 55,856,928 / Current Liabilities 21,914,685 = 2.5488. Last year, Current Assets 78,008,931 / Current Liabilities 22,796,087 = 3.422. FISD earned 10 points on this indicator last year.

### Indicator #9

**Indicator:** Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days?

**Indicator Goal:** To determine if the District spent more than it earned. The school district will automatically pass this indicator if it had at least 60 days' cash on hand.

**FISD Answer:** 10 of 10 points. FISD passed the cash on hand this year and both parts of this indicator both last year; expenditures exceeded revenues, and the District had 98.6514 days' cash on hand this year and 116.0911 days' cash on hand last year.

### Indicator #10

**Indicator:** Did the school district average less than a 10 percent variance (90% to 110%) when comparing budgeted revenues to actual revenues for the last 3 fiscal years?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures how accurately the district forecast projected revenue by comparing budgeted revenue submitted through PEIMS October of the fiscal year to actual revenues submitted after close of the fiscal year.

**Answer:** This indicator continues to be paused for the 2024-25 rating period.

### Indicator #11

**Indicator:** Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency?

**Indicator Goal:** This question seeks to determine the amount of long-term debt relative to total assets. Fast growth districts pass this indicator if their enrollment has increased more than 10% in 5 years. To receive all 10 points, the long-term debt (net of pension liability) cannot be >60% of total assets, and points decrease as the percentage increases.

**FISD Answer:** 84.90% therefore, the District received 4 points on this indicator. LT Liabilities 199,040,823 / Total Assets 234,435,112 = .8490. FISD received 4 points with 87.15% on this indicator last year.

### Indicator #12

**Indicator:** Was the debt per \$100 of assessed property value ratio sufficient to support future debt repayments?

**Indicator Goal:** To determine the District's ability to make its debt principal and interest payments due during the year. A ratio of  $\leq 4$  earns all 10 points, and the points decrease by 2 as the ratio increases.

**Answer:** FISD received 8 points both this year and last year. FISD's debt service coverage ratio was 4.2490 this year and 4.6369 last year.

### Indicator #13

**Indicator:** Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio?

**Indicator Goal:** To determine whether the district's administrative costs are in an acceptable range for its size. For FISD, a ratio of <10% earns all 10 points, and the points decrease by 2 as the percentage increases.

**FISD Answer:** 10 of 10 points. FISD's administrative cost ratio is 9.63%. Last year, our ratio was 9.03% which also earned 10 points.

### Indicator #14

**Indicator:** Did the school district not have a 15 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? (If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass yes or no this indicator.)

**Indicator Goal:** To determine that if student enrollment is declining by more than 15%, staff are also decreasing proportionately, over a 3-year period.

**FISD Answer:** FISD received 10 points both this year and last year. FISD's enrollment did not decline.

### Indicator #15

**Indicator:** Was the school district's ADA within the allotted range of the district's biennial pupil projection(s) submitted to TEA? If the district did not submit per pupil projections to TEA, did it certify TEA's projections?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures how well the district was able to project average daily attendance for the coming biennium for payment purposes. Projected ADA is compared to actual.

**FISD Answer:** 5 out of 5 points. The District's variance was 1.66%. This indicator was not last year due to the impact of COVID-19 on school district attendance.

### Indicator #16

**Indicator:** Did the comparison of PEIMS data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function?

**Indicator Goal:** To determine whether the quality of data reported to TEA through PEIMS and in the annual financial report submission are consistent. If the variance is greater than 3%, districts fail this indicator.

**FISD Answer:** Like last year, FISD passed this ceiling indicator. The District's variance was 0.00011%.

### Indicator #17

**Indicator:** Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds?

**Indicator Goal:** To determine whether the district has established and maintains effective internal control over its financial reporting.

**FISD Answer:** Yes. Like last year, the annual financial report did not disclose any instances of material weaknesses in internal controls.

### Indicator #18

**Indicator:** Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds?

**Indicator Goal:** An audit finding of material non-compliance could indicate a risk of internal weaknesses and signal that public funds are not being properly handled.

**FISD Answer:** Like last year, FISD did not have any audit findings of material non-compliance and received all 10 points on this Yes or No indicator.

### Indicator #19

**Indicator:** Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures whether the district is complying with legal requirements related to financial transparency by posting all required information.

**FISD Answer:** FISD is in compliance with all required website postings and earned the maximum 5 points on this indicator.

### Indicator #20

**Indicator:** Did the school board members discuss the district's property values at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator measures whether the school board had the opportunity to consider the impact of changes in local, state, and federal funding.

**FISD Answer:** FISD school board members discussed property values within 120 days of the budget adopted and passed this ceiling indicator.

### Indicator #21

**Indicator:** Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship?

**Indicator Goal:** This indicator determines if the district has an adjusted repayment schedule for an overallocation of FSP funds.

**FISD Answer:** FISD did not receive an adjusted repayment schedule and passed this ceiling indicator.

## REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

### Summary Schedule of Reimbursements as of August 31, 2024

Name	Meals	Lodging	Transportation	Fuel	Other	Total
Thad Roher	614.45	3,402.50	1,390.47	196.62	947.44	6,551.48
Beau Egert	15.03					15.03
Rebecca Hillenburg					75.00	75.00
Ralph Hobratschk						0.00
Tony Hopkins	102.50					102.50
David Montz	17.21					17.21
Laura Seifert	10.83				75.00	85.83
Niki Rhodes	7.04					7.04
<b>Total</b>						6,854.09

*Other includes registration fees and hotel internet services.*

### Business Transactions Between School Districts and Board Members for FY 2024

There were no business transactions between the District and any board member for FY 2024.

### Superintendent Outside Compensation

Superintendent Thad Roher, did not receive any outside compensation or fees for Professional Consulting or other personal services for the twelve-month period ended August 31, 2024.

### Superintendent's Contract

The Superintendent's current contract is posted on the District's website at [www.myfisd.com](http://www.myfisd.com).

### Executive Officer and Board of Trustees Gifts

The Superintendent and Board Members did not receive any gifts that had an economic value of \$250 or more in aggregate for the twelve-month period ended August 31, 2024 from an outside entity that received payments from Fisd in the prior fiscal year or from competing vendors that were not awarded contracts in the prior fiscal year.

SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT  
BETWEEN  
FRIENDSWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AND  
THAD J. ROHER

This Employment Contract is made and entered into this 21st day of July, 2025, by and between the Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as Board) of the Friendswood Independent School District (hereinafter referred to as District) and Thad Roher (hereinafter referred to as Superintendent).

Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code and the general laws of the State of Texas, for the consideration herein specified, the Board and Superintendent hereby agree as follows:

1. **TERM**

The Board, by and on behalf of the District, hereby employs, and the Superintendent hereby accepts employment, as Superintendent of Schools for a term commencing August 1, 2025, and ending July 31, 2028 (3 years). The Board may consider the extension of this Contract each year following its annual evaluation and assessment of the Superintendent's performance, or at any other time determined by the Board. However, there is no requirement or duty for the Board to extend this Contract.

2. **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Certification.** The Superintendent shall maintain at all times during the term of this Contract valid and appropriate certification or permits to act as a Superintendent of Schools in the state of Texas as prescribed by the laws of the state of Texas and the rules and regulations of the Texas Education Agency and/or the State Board of Educator Certification, and shall provide evidence of such certification or permits to the Board upon request at any time. The

Superintendent also shall provide evidence of educational attainment, degrees earned, previous professional experience, and other records required for the personnel files of the District. Failure to maintain valid and appropriate certification or permits shall render this Contract void, and any material misrepresentation in any records provided to the District shall be grounds for termination.

**B. Duties.** The Superintendent shall faithfully perform the duties of Superintendent of Schools for the District as prescribed by law, Board policies, and in the job description, and as may be assigned by the Board from time to time. The Superintendent shall comply with all Board directives, policies, rules, and regulations, and state and federal laws, as they exist or may hereinafter be amended or adopted during the term of this Contract. The Superintendent agrees to devote his full time, energy, and skill to the performance of these duties in a faithful, diligent, conscientious, and efficient manner.

Superintendent shall have charge of the administration of the schools under the direction of the Board. He shall be the chief executive officer of the District; shall direct and assign teachers and other employees of the schools under his supervision; shall organize, reorganize and arrange the administrative and supervisory staff, including instruction and business affairs, as best serves the District; shall select personnel in accordance with Board policy; shall from time to time suggest regulations, rules and procedures deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the school district; and in general perform all duties incident to the office of the Superintendent and such duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time. All duties assigned to the Superintendent by the Board should be appropriate to and consistent with the professional role and responsibility of the Superintendent.

**C. Board/Superintendent Relationship.** Members of the Board, individually and collectively, shall promptly refer all criticisms, complaints, and suggestions about the operation and administration of the school district called to their attention to the Superintendent for study and recommendation. The Superintendent shall have the right to attend all Board meetings and all Board and citizen committee meetings, except closed meetings of the Board involving the evaluation of the Superintendent or duties of the members of the Board.

**D. Outside Activities.** The Superintendent shall devote his time, attention, and energy to the business of the school district. However, he may serve as a consultant to other districts or educational agencies, lecture, engage in writing activities, and speaking engagements with prior approval of the Board, provided that such activities do not interfere with the performance of his duties as Superintendent. If such activities take place on one of the two hundred thirty-one (231) work days upon which his salary is predicated, the Superintendent shall pay any honorarium received to the District. Otherwise, any honorarium shall be retained by the Superintendent.

**E. Reassignment.** The Superintendent is employed specifically and solely to perform the duties of Superintendent of Schools for the District and may not be reassigned from the position of Superintendent to any other position in the District except by mutual written agreement of the parties.

### **3. PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF SUPERINTENDENT**

The Board encourages the continuing professional growth of the Superintendent through his participation in the following:

- a. the operations, programs, and other activities conducted or sponsored by local, state and national school administrators and school board associations (*e.g.*, TASA and TASB conventions);
- b. seminars and courses offered by public or private educational institutions;
- c. informational meetings with other persons whose particular skills or backgrounds would serve to improve the capacity of the Superintendent to perform his professional responsibilities for the Board; and
- d. Travel to other institutions.

The Board shall permit a reasonable amount of release time for the Superintendent, as it deems appropriate, to attend to such matters and shall pay for the necessary fees for travel and attendance expenses, as approved by the Board in the annual budget.

#### **4. COMPENSATION.**

**A. Salary.** The Board shall pay the Superintendent an annual salary of \$242,500.00 (Two hundred Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars) for the first year of this contract. Such salary shall be paid to the Superintendent in equal installments in accordance with Board policy governing payment of salary to other professional staff members in the District. The Board shall have the right to adjust the salary of the Superintendent at any time during the term of this Contract, provided that no such adjustment shall reduce the annual salary herein set forth unless the same be part of a uniform plan affecting salaries of all employees of the District. Any adjustment in salary made during the term of the Contract may be in the form of an amendment and may become part of the Contract.

**B. Texas Teachers Retirement System.** For performance of Superintendent duties, the District shall supplement the Superintendent's salary by an amount equal to \$1,000 (one

thousand) per month, as partial reimbursement for the Superintendent's portion of the monthly member contribution to the Texas Teacher Retirement System ("TRS") beginning on the first day of the term and continuing for each payroll during the term of this Contract, including any extensions thereof. This additional salary supplement for services rendered shall be paid to the Superintendent in regular monthly payroll installments.

**5. MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS**

**A.** The Superintendent shall receive the same number of personal and local leave days per year as are afforded to other professional employees of the District employed pursuant to 231-day contracts. The Board shall provide the Superintendent, at District expense, with employee benefits, including medical insurance protection in the District's group benefits programs, as are provided to other professional employees of the District. He shall also be entitled to such other benefits as agreed to in this Contract.

**B.** The Board shall pay the Superintendent's membership dues to the American Association of School Administrators, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and other professional groups approved by the Board to maintain and improve his professional skills, as permitted by state law and as approved by the Board in the annual budget.

**C.** Recognizing the importance of a strong working relationship between the schools and the community, the Board shall pay reasonable dues, membership fees, and related expenses for the Superintendent's membership in service and civic associations as approved by the Board in the annual budget.

**D.** The Board shall pay or reimburse the Superintendent for reasonable and necessary expenses approved by the Board and incurred by the Superintendent in the continuing performance of his duties under this Contract.

**E.** The Superintendent will be reimbursed by the District on a per-mile basis for business travel in the Superintendent's personal automobile to destinations outside the District and outside of Region IV ESC in accordance with District policy, the same as for other administrative employees on twelve-month contracts.

**F.** The Board is requiring the Superintendent to take two consecutive weeks out of the district during the summer period to be used for vacation, planning, and visioning in an effort to rest and reflect on the upcoming year

## **6. RESIDENCE**

The Superintendent agrees to maintain his principal residence within the District continuously throughout the term of his employment as Superintendent.

## **7. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY**

**A.** The District shall indemnify, defend, and hold the Superintendent harmless regarding any claims, demands, duties, actions or other legal proceedings against the Superintendent in his individual or official capacity for any act or failure to act involving the exercise of judgment and discretion within the normal course and scope of his duties as Superintendent of the District, to the extent and to the limits permitted by law. This paragraph does not apply if the Superintendent is found to have acted with gross negligence or with intent to violate a person's clearly established legal rights or to have engaged in criminal conduct, nor does it apply to criminal investigations or proceedings. The District may, at its sole option, fulfill its obligation under this paragraph by purchasing appropriate insurance coverage for the benefit of the Superintendent or by including the Superintendent as a covered party under any insurance coverage purchased for the protection of the Board and the professional employees of

the District. No individual member of the Board shall be personally liable for indemnifying and defending the Superintendent under this paragraph.

**B.** The Board shall not be required to pay any costs of any legal proceedings in the event the Board and the Superintendent are adverse to each other in any such proceedings.

**C.** The Superintendent shall fully cooperate with the District in defense of any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, and legal proceedings brought against the District.

## **8. MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMINATION**

In light of the unique nature of the professional duties of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board shall, at its expense, provide a complete medical and dental examination of the Superintendent once each year. For each year of employment as Superintendent, the Board will receive a report from a physician on the continued physical fitness of the Superintendent to perform his duties. If there is a change in the health of the Superintendent such that he no longer has the same continued physical fitness to perform his duties, the examining physician shall provide notice to the Board within 30 days of the examination. Any report shall be given directly and exclusively by the examining physician of the Superintendent. Any report shall be confidential.

## **9. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Board and Superintendent shall meet annually, at a date and time determined by the Board, to establish Board goals and objectives for the District for the ensuing school year. Said goals and objectives shall be reduced to writing and shall be among the criteria by which the Superintendent is evaluated as hereafter provided.

## **10. EVALUATION**

The Board shall evaluate and assess the performance of the Superintendent in writing each year during the term of this Contract, and at such times as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board. The meetings at which the Board evaluates and assesses the performance of the Superintendent will be held in closed session unless the Board and the Superintendent mutually agree that they should be held in open session. The evaluation and assessment of performance shall be in accordance with the Board's policies and state and federal law and shall be related to the duties of the Superintendent as prescribed by law, Board policies, and in the Superintendent's job description.

## **12. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

This Employment Contract may be terminated by:

A. **Mutual Agreement of the Parties.**

B. **Retirement of Superintendent.**

C. **Death of Superintendent.**

D. **Disability of Superintendent.** Should the Superintendent become unable to perform any or all of the duties of his position by reason of illness, accident or other cause, and said disability exists after all accrued sick leave has been exhausted, the District may make appropriate deduction from the Superintendent's annual base salary for any additional days in which the Superintendent is unable to perform the duties of his position. If such disability continues for a continuous period of one hundred eighty (180) days, or if such disability is permanent or irrevocable as determined by a physician mutually acceptable to the Board and the Superintendent, the Board may, at its option, terminate this Contract, whereupon the respective rights, duties and obligations herein stated shall terminate.

If a question arises concerning the capacity of the Superintendent to return to his duties, the Board may require the Superintendent to submit to a medical examination to be performed by a doctor licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas. The Board shall select the physician who shall conduct the examination. The examination shall be done at the expense of the Board. The physician shall limit the report to the issue of whether the Superintendent has a continuing disability that prohibits him from performing any or all of his duties.

**E. Discharge for Good Cause.** Good cause for termination shall constitute conduct which is prejudicial to the Board, including but not limited to neglect of duty or breach of contract, inefficiency or incompetency, or any other conduct that may constitute good cause as determined under state law or Board policy. Reasons for a proposed termination for good cause shall be given in writing, and the Superintendent shall be entitled to all procedural and substantive rights as set forth in the Board's policies and applicable state and federal law. If the Superintendent chooses to be represented by legal counsel in any such proceedings, he shall bear any costs therein involved.

**F. Renewal/Non-renewal.** Renewal or non-renewal of this Contract shall be in accordance with Board policy and applicable law.

### **13. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

If, during the term of this Contract, it is found that a specific provision of the Contract violates or is unenforceable under federal or state law, the remainder of the Contract shall not be affected by such a ruling and shall remain in full force and effect.

### **14. CONTROLLING LAW**

This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the state of Texas, and it shall be performed in Galveston County, Texas, unless otherwise provided by law. Venue for any dispute concerning the interpretation and/or enforcement of this Contract shall be in Galveston County, Texas.

**15. COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENT**

This Contract embodies the entire understanding and agreement of the parties, and supersedes all other agreements and understandings, both written and oral. Any additions, deletions, or modifications to the terms and conditions of this Contract, including but not limited to changes in the term of the Contract or the annual base salary of the Superintendent, shall be made only by written amendment signed by both parties.

**16. MULTIPLE ORIGINALS**

This Contract is executed in two (2) originals, one for the Board and one for the Superintendent, each of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board has caused this Employment Contract to be approved on its behalf by its duly authorized President, and the Superintendent has approved this Employment Contract, effective on the day and year specified in section 1 above.

Friendswood Independent School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Hopkins, President  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thad Roher, Superintendent  
Date \_\_\_\_\_