

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

STATE OF TEXAS §
 § KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
COUNTY OF JASPER §

THIS SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT ("Contract") is made and entered into effective the 23rd day of January, 2026 ("Effective Date"), by and between the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Kirbyville Consolidated Independent School District (the "District") and Stephen Edwards (the "Superintendent").

WITNESSETH:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board and the Superintendent, for and in consideration of the terms hereinafter established and pursuant to Section 11.201(b) and Chapter 21, Subchapter E of the Texas Education Code, have agreed, and do hereby agree, as follows:

I. Term

1.1 **Term.** The Board, by and on behalf of the District, does hereby employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent does hereby accept employment as Superintendent of Schools for the District for a term of two years and seven months, commencing on January 23, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2028. The District may, by action of the Board, and with the consent and approval of the Superintendent, extend the term of this Contract as permitted by state law.

1.2 **No Tenure.** The Board has not adopted any policy, rule, regulation, law, or practice providing for tenure. No right of tenure is created by this Contract. No property interest, express or implied, is created in continued employment beyond the Contract term.

II. Employment

2.1 **Duties.** The Superintendent is the chief executive of the District and shall faithfully perform the duties of the Superintendent of Schools for the District as prescribed in the job description and as may be lawfully assigned by the Board, and shall comply with all lawful Board directives, state and federal law, district policy, rules, and regulations as they exist or may hereafter be amended. Specifically, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent to recommend for employment all professional employees of the District subject to the Board's approval. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to employ all other personnel consistent with the Board's policies. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to direct, assign, reassign, and evaluate all of the employees of the District consistent with Board policies and federal and state law. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to organize, reorganize, and arrange the staff of the District, and to develop and establish administrative regulations, rules, and procedures which the Superintendent deems necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the District consistent with the Board's lawful directives, the Board's policies, and state and federal law. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to accept all resignations of employees of the District consistent with the Board's policies, except the Superintendent's resignation, which may

only be accepted by the Board. The Superintendent shall perform the duties of the Superintendent of Schools for the District with reasonable care, diligence, skill, and expertise. All duties assigned to the Superintendent by the Board shall be appropriate to and consistent with the professional role and responsibility of the Superintendent.

2.2 Professional Certification. The Superintendent shall at all times during the term of this Contract, and any renewal or extension thereof, hold and maintain a valid certificate required of a superintendent by the State of Texas and issued by the State Board for Educator Certification or the Texas Education Agency and any other certificates required by law.

2.3 Reassignment. The Superintendent cannot be reassigned from the position of Superintendent to another position without the Superintendent's express written consent.

2.4 Board Meetings. The Superintendent shall attend, and shall be permitted to attend, all meetings of the Board, both public and closed, with the exception of those closed meetings devoted to the consideration of any action or lack of action on the Superintendent's Contract, or the Superintendent's evaluation, or for purposes of resolving conflicts between individual Board members, or when the Board is acting in its capacity as a tribunal. In the event of illness or Board-approved absence, the Superintendent's designee shall attend such meetings.

2.5 Criticisms, Complaints, and Suggestions. The Board, individually and collectively, shall refer in a timely manner all substantive criticisms, complaints, and suggestions called to the Board's attention either: (a) to the Superintendent for study and/or appropriate action, and the Superintendent shall refer such matter(s) to the appropriate District employee or shall investigate such matter(s) and shall within a reasonable time inform the Board of the results of such efforts; or, (b) to the appropriate complaint resolution procedure as established by District Board policies.

2.6 Indemnification. To the extent it may be permitted to do by applicable law, including, but not limited to Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code Chapter 102, the District does hereby agree to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify Superintendent from any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, judgments, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred in any legal proceedings brought against Superintendent in the Superintendent's individual or official capacity as an employee and as Superintendent of the District, providing the incident(s), which is (are) the basis of any such demand, claim, suits, actions, judgments, expenses and attorneys' fees, arose or does arise in the future from an act or omission of Superintendent as an employee of the District, acting within the course and scope of Superintendent's employment with the District; excluding, however, any such demand, claim, suits, actions, judgments, expenses and attorneys' fees for those claims or any causes of action where it is determined that Superintendent committed official misconduct, or committed a willful or wrongful act or omission, or an act or omission constituting gross negligence, or acted in bad faith; and excluding any costs, fees, expenses or damages that would be recoverable or payable under an insurance contract, held either by the District or by Superintendent. To the extent this Section 2.6 exceeds the authority provided and limitations imposed by Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Chapter 102, it shall be construed and modified accordingly. The provisions of this Section 2.6 shall survive the termination of this Contract.

III. Compensation

3.1 **Salary.** The District shall provide the Superintendent with an annual salary in the sum of One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$164,652). This annual salary rate shall be paid to the Superintendent in equal installments consistent with the Board's policies.

3.2 **Salary Adjustments.** At any time during the term of this Contract, the Board may, in its discretion, review and adjust the salary of the Superintendent, but in no event shall the Superintendent be paid less than the salary set forth in Section 3.1 of this Contract except by mutual agreement of the two parties. Such adjustments, if any, shall be made pursuant to a lawful Board resolution. In such event, the parties agree to provide their best efforts and reasonable cooperation to execute a new contract incorporating the adjusted salary.

3.3 **Vacation, Holiday and Personal Leave.** The Superintendent may take the same number of days of vacation authorized by policies adopted by the Board for administrative employees on twelve-month contracts, the days to be taken in a single period or at different times. The vacation days taken by the Superintendent will be taken at such time or times as will least interfere with the performance of the Superintendent's duties as set forth in this Contract. Accrued but unused vacation/non-duty and personal leave days shall accumulate and carry forward consistent with the policies adopted by the Board for administrative employees. The Superintendent shall observe the same legal holidays as provided by Board policies for administrative employees on twelve-month contracts. The Superintendent is hereby granted the same personal leave benefits as authorized by Board policies for administrative employees on twelve-month contracts. The Superintendent is not entitled to payment for unused leave at the separation of his employment with the District.

3.4 **Insurance.** The District shall pay the superintendent the same insurance premium/offset as every other employee in the district.

3.7 **Professional Growth.** The Superintendent shall devote the Superintendent's time, attention, and energy to the direction, administration, and supervision of the District. The Board, however, encourages the continued professional growth of the Superintendent through the Superintendent's active attendance at and participation in appropriate professional meetings at the local, regional, state and national levels. The Board shall encourage the use of data and information sources, and shall encourage the participation of the Superintendent in pertinent education seminars and courses offered by public or private institutions or by educational associations, as well as the participation in informational meetings with those individuals whose particular skills, expertise, or backgrounds would serve to improve the capacity of the Superintendent to perform the Superintendent's professional responsibilities for the District. In its encouragement of the Superintendent to grow professionally, the Board shall permit a reasonable amount of release time for the Superintendent as the Superintendent and the Board deem appropriate, to attend such seminars, courses or meetings. The District shall pay the Superintendent's membership dues to the American Association of School Administrators and the Texas Association of School Administrators, as well as other memberships necessary to maintain and improve the Superintendent's professional skills. The District shall bear the reasonable cost and expense for registration, travel, meals, lodging, and other related expenses for such attendance and membership subject to advance Board approval.

3.8 **Civic Activities.** The Board encourages the Superintendent to become a member of and participate in community and civic affairs, including the chamber of commerce, civic clubs, governmental committees, and educational organizations. The Board concludes that such participation will serve a legitimate purpose related to the educational mission of the District. The Superintendent may hold offices or accept responsibilities in these professional organizations, provided that such responsibilities do not interfere with the performance of his duties as Superintendent. Prior to engaging in these activities, the Superintendent will notify the Board in writing of the activity. The Board will notify the Superintendent if the activity presents a conflict or interferes with the performance of his duties as Superintendent. The District shall reimburse the Superintendent for the cost of membership in all local civic organizations in which the Superintendent participates and related travel outside of the District, subject to advance Board approval.

3.9 **Outside Consultant Activities.** The Superintendent may serve as a consultant or undertake speaking engagements, writing, teaching or other professional duties and obligations outside the District (referred to collectively herein as “Consulting Services”) that do not conflict or interfere with the Superintendent’s professional responsibilities to the District. Consulting Services provided by the Superintendent under the terms and conditions of this paragraph must be consistent with state and federal law.

3.10 **Expenses.** The District shall pay or reimburse the Superintendent for reasonable expenses (excluding travel and mileage expenses) incurred by the Superintendent in the continuing performance of the Superintendent’s duties under this Contract. The Superintendent shall comply with all procedures and documentation requirements in accordance with Board policies.

3.11 **Residence in the District:** As a condition of employment with the Kirbyville Consolidated Independent School District, except as provided below, the Superintendent shall reside within the geographic boundaries of the District at all times while employed by the District unless otherwise agreed upon by the Board.

3.12 **Technology.** The District shall provide a laptop computer, an iPad/tablet or other similar electronic device(s) (“Electronic Device”) for the Superintendent’s business and personal use, at the sole cost and expense of the District. The Superintendent may, in the Superintendent’s discretion, purchase new replacement Electronic Device(s) every two years during the term of this Contract, with Board approval, for the advantages offered by the then current computer technology. The Superintendent will comply with the District’s acceptable use policy.

3.13 **Texas Teacher Retirement System.** As a supplement salary, the District shall pay the Superintendent’s portion of the monthly contribution to the Texas Teacher Retirement System (“TRS”) in the percentage amount required by the Texas Teacher Retirement System for the account of the Superintendent. This additional salary supplement shall be paid to the Superintendent by regular monthly payroll installments and shall be reported as creditable compensation to TRS.

IV. Annual Performance Goals

4.1 **Development of Goals.** The Superintendent shall submit to the Board a preliminary list of goals for the District each year for the Board's consideration and adoption. The Superintendent and the Board shall then meet, and the Board shall approve or revise the list of goals. The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval a plan to implement the goals. The Superintendent and the Board shall meet biannually to assess the goals and may adjust or revise the goals either by action of the Board or upon recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the Board. The goals approved by the Board shall at all times be reduced to writing ("District Goals") and shall be among the criteria on which the Superintendent's performance is reviewed and evaluated. The Board agrees to work with and support the Superintendent in achieving the District Goals.

V. Review of Performance

5.1 **Time and Basis of Evaluation.** The Board shall evaluate and assess in writing the performance of the Superintendent at least once each year during the term of this Contract. The Board's evaluation and assessment of the Superintendent shall be reasonably related to the duties of the Superintendent as outlined in the Superintendent's job description and shall be based on the District's progress towards accomplishing the District Goals.

5.2 **Confidentiality.** Unless the Superintendent expressly requests otherwise in writing, the evaluation of the Superintendent shall at all times be conducted in executive session and shall be considered confidential to the extent permitted by law. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Board or the Superintendent from sharing the content of the Superintendent's evaluation with their respective legal counsel.

5.3 **Evaluation Format and Procedure.** The evaluation format and procedure shall be in accordance with the Board's policies and state and federal law. In the event that the Board determines that the performance of the Superintendent is unsatisfactory in any respect, it shall describe in writing, in reasonable detail-specific instances of unsatisfactory performance. The evaluation shall include recommendations as to areas of improvement in all instances where the Board deems performance to be unsatisfactory. A copy of the written evaluation shall be delivered to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have the right to make a written response to the evaluation. That response shall become a permanent attachment to the evaluation in the Superintendent's personnel file. Within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the written evaluation to the Superintendent, the Board shall meet with the Superintendent to discuss the evaluation. The Board shall devote a portion of, or all of, one executive session annually to a discussion of the working relationship between the Superintendent and the Board. It is also agreed that the Superintendent and Board will hold at least a semi-annual evaluation conference with a format agreeable to both sides. In the event the Board deems that the evaluation instrument, format, and/or procedure is to be modified by the Board and such modifications would require new or different performance expectations, the Superintendent shall be provided a reasonable period of time to demonstrate such expected performance before being evaluated.

VI. Extension or Nonrenewal of Employment Contract

6.1 **Extension/Nonrenewal.** Extension and/or nonrenewal shall be in accordance with Board policy, Texas Education Code Chapter 21, Subchapter E, and applicable law.

VII. Termination of Employment Contract

7.1 **Mutual Agreement.** This Contract may be terminated by the mutual agreement of the Superintendent and the Board in writing upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon.

7.2 **Retirement or Death.** This Contract shall be terminated upon the retirement or death of the Superintendent.

7.3 **Dismissal for Good Cause.** The Board may dismiss the Superintendent during the term of the Contract for good cause in accordance with state law and Board policy. In the event the Board proposes the termination of this Contract for good cause, the Superintendent shall be afforded all rights as set forth in the Board's policies, and state and federal law. The term "good cause" is defined in Kirbyville CISD Board Policy BJCF (LOCAL).

7.4 **Termination Procedure.** In the event that the Board terminates this Contract for good cause, the Superintendent shall be afforded all the rights as set forth in the Board's policies and state and federal law.

7.5 **Resignation of Superintendent.** The Superintendent may leave the employment of the District at the end of a school year without penalty by filing a written resignation with the Board. The resignation must be addressed to the Board and filed not later than the 45th day before the first day of instruction of the following year. The Superintendent may resign with the consent of the Board at any other time.

VIII. Miscellaneous


8.1 **Controlling Law.** This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Jasper County, Texas, unless otherwise provided by law.

8.2 **Complete Agreement.** This Contract embodies the entire agreement between the parties hereto and cannot be varied except by written agreement of the undersigned parties, except as expressly provided herein.

8.3 **Conflicts.** In the event of any conflict between the terms, conditions, and provisions of this Contract and the provisions of the Board's policies, or any permissive state or federal law, then, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the terms of this Contract shall take precedence over the contrary provisions of the Board's policies or any such permissive law during the term of the Contract.

8.4 **Savings Clause.** In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this Contract shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof, and this Contract shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein. All existing agreements and contracts, both verbal and written, between the parties hereto regarding the employment of the Superintendent have been superseded by this Contract, and this Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the parties unless amended pursuant to the terms of this Contract.


KIRBYVILLE CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 
Gary Fairchild, President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST.
By: 
Jason Loper, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executed this 23rd day of January, 2026.

SUPERINTENDENT

By: 
Stephen Edwards, Superintendent

Executed this 23rd day of January, 2026.