DISTRICT ISD

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

**Subject: Adoption of Resolution to Extend Benefits of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

I am asking the Board of Education to consider extending certain leave benefits for DISTRICT ISD staff who are required to quarantine — because of a COVID-19 diagnosis or because of close contact with an individual confirmed to have the virus — and are unable to work remotely. As of this date, Congress has not authorized an extension of leave benefit provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which expired Dec.31, 2020.

Out of the utmost concern for the safety of staff and students, I ask you to extend the ability of employees to avail themselves of up to 80 total hours (or 10 days) of emergency paid sick leave as originally provided by the FFCRA. The proposed extended leave time should apply through the remainder of the 2020–2021 school year.

Attached is a resolution the board can use to explain it finds a public purpose exists in extending the leave benefits to protect staff and students and supports the district’s goals of attracting and retaining employees. The resolution also authorizes the superintendent to determine whether and how to allow employees to continue to use the 80 hours of leave originally provided in the FFCRA, in accordance with any new legislation that may be approved by Congress after this resolution is acted on by the board.