TOPIC: HB 5 Implementation Decisions

SUBMITTED BY: Superintendents of Region 4 School Districts

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature in passing and the Governor in signing HB 5 into state law established the need for providing more meaningful relevance and flexibility in courses and plans of study for students pursuing their high school graduation plans; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature in passing and the Governor in signing HB 5 into state law have affirmed the importance of having all students take courses that enable them to truly be college and career ready; and

WHEREAS, school districts work earnestly toward full compliance with the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements of No Child Left Behind; and

WHEREAS, teacher certification alone does not necessarily indicate teacher expertise and effectiveness for teaching certain career and technical education courses; and

WHEREAS, course flexibility for the Foundation Diploma in math, science, and English language arts will better assure meaningful relevance of studies for students; and

WHEREAS, defining "advanced" courses needs to go beyond the traditional sense of college preparedness to better assure our focus on individual student preparedness for being college and career ready; and

WHEREAS, approving as many courses as possible and appropriate for fulfilling Foundation and Endorsement course requirements no later than the January 2014 State Board meeting will enable students and districts to optimize high school education for the 2014–15 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Region 4 Superintendents urge the Texas State Board of Education to allow students and local school districts the flexibility of choosing among numerous courses to satisfy the requirements of the HB 5 Foundation Diploma and Endorsement Programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Region 4 Superintendents urge the Texas State Board of Education to not allow Highly Qualified Teacher requirements to impede or prevent their identification of the maximum course choices provided to students and districts in fulfilling the requirements of the Foundation Diploma and Endorsement Programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Region 4 Superintendents stand ready to work with, meet with, and support State Board members as needed to best assure the successful implementation of HB 5 for Texas public school children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the superintendents of school districts within Region 4 Education Service Center send a copy of this resolution to members of the Texas State Board of Education and the Texas Commissioner of Education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this resolution as of September 3, 2013.

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