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MAY 09 2016

*CMK*

Commissioner Mike Morath

1701 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • tea.texas.gov

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

May 2, 2016

Subject: Preliminary Notification of Potential Chapter 41 Status for 2016–2017

To the Administrator Addressed:

This letter is preliminary notification of your district's Chapter 41 status for the 2016–2017 school year. It allows your district to move forward with election preparation, if necessary.

Based on the district's preliminary property value for tax year 2015, as provided by the Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division (PTAD), and the projected number of resident students in weighted average daily attendance (WADA) for the 2016–2017 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) estimates that your district's wealth per resident WADA will exceed the equalized wealth level (EWL) of \$319,500 per WADA as established by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §41.002(a)(3).

There are three EWLs currently in effect. The first EWL is applied to the tax effort associated with a district's compressed tax rate (CTR). A district's CTR is its 2005 adopted maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate multiplied by the state compression rate. For 2016–2017, the state compression rate is **66.67** percent. The first EWL is \$514,000 per WADA, which is equivalent to the yield provided by the basic allotment.

The second EWL is determined by the funding provided to property-poor school districts for their tax effort that exceeds their CTRs. If the state's equalization program for property-poor school districts is funded to provide tax revenue equivalent to that raised by the Austin Independent School District on the first six pennies of tax effort that exceed the CTR, then property-wealthy school districts are allowed to retain all of the revenue on the equivalent tax effort.

The third EWL is set in statute at \$319,500 per WADA, and it applies to any tax effort that exceeds a district's CTR plus six cents. Final determination of whether a school district will be required to make recapture payments on the third EWL is based on the district's actual tax effort and the extent to which it exceeds the district's CTR. A district whose identified wealth level falls between \$319,500 and \$514,000 per WADA will not pay recapture unless the district's adopted M&O tax rate exceeds the CTR plus six pennies, but the district is still considered a Chapter 41 district because its EWL exceeds the statutory limit of \$319,500.

Districts whose wealth per WADA exceeds the EWL will be required to reduce their wealth per WADA for the 2016–2017 school year using one or more of the statutory options available. In accordance with the TEC, §41.004, the TEA will officially notify your district of its Chapter 41 status by July 15, 2016, after final property values for tax year 2015 are certified by the PTAD.

At that time, the TEA will provide the *Manual for Districts Subject to Wealth Equalization (Chapter 41) 2016–2017* and other administrative details.

This preliminary notification is informational only and does not require a response by the district. **The official notification in July, however, does require a response by the district informing the TEA of the option the district intends to exercise to equalize the district's wealth level and whether the district charges tuition to nonresident students. Only after the TEA has approved the district's plans may the district proceed with adopting a tax rate for the coming school year.**

#### ***Estimates for 2016–2017***

The enclosed printout provides information about the calculations affecting your district. The printout calculates wealth per WADA assuming no tuition is charged to educate nonresident students, and calculates wealth per WADA assuming tuition is charged. If tuition is charged, the WADA of those students for whom tuition is charged is subtracted from the district's Chapter 42 WADA to derive Chapter 41 WADA. You are receiving this letter because at least one of these calculations of wealth per wada exceeds \$319,500 based on current estimates.

A printout is enclosed: "tuition" and "no tuition" at the third EWL of \$319,500 per WADA.

#### ***Districts New to Chapter 41 Status***

Under current law, a district with property wealth per WADA above the EWL has the following five options available to reduce its wealth per resident student:

- 1) Consolidate with another district,
- 2) Detach property,
- 3) Purchase attendance credits from the state (Option 3),
- 4) Contract to educate nonresident students (Option 4), and/or
- 5) Consolidate tax bases with another district.

In the past, most districts have selected Option 3 or Option 4 or a combination of both options. An election is required when exercising any form of Option 3 or Option 4. In 2006, the Texas Legislature authorized Chapter 41 districts to offset their costs of recapture against new state funding, which is provided for the purposes of property tax relief (see the TEC, §42.2516). Subsequently, the legislature passed additional provisions that allow a Chapter 41 district to forgo the requirement to conduct an election to authorize one or more options if the Chapter 42 funding for the school year exceeds the recapture costs for that same year (see the TEC, §42.2516[f]). These provisions allow a district to offset its recapture costs against its Chapter 42 funds. As a result, if your district is notified of its Chapter 41 status for the first time in the 2006–2007 school year or later, it can take advantage of these offset provisions without the need to conduct an election.

Additional information about elections, as well as sample ballot proposition language, is provided in the *Manual for Districts Subject to Wealth Equalization 2016–2017 School Year*. You may also wish to call the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-8683 or visit

that office's website at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/> for assistance with election calendars and procedures.

***Final Determination Regarding Payment of Recapture Costs***

The TEA will make a final determination regarding the payment of recapture costs based on the 2016 tax rate levied by your district, the amount of local M&O taxes collected by your district in 2016–2017, your district's final property value for tax year 2015, and its final 2016–2017 WADA.

For additional information, please see the Chapter 41 Wealth Equalization web page at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=25769817562>, or contact Kim Wall in the State Funding Division by telephone at (512) 463-4809 or by email at [kim.wall@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kim.wall@tea.texas.gov).

Sincerely,



Amanda Brownson  
Director of State Funding

AB/kw  
Enclosures

**TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY: Division of State Funding**  
**Preliminary notification to districts: 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**  
 Exceeding the equalized wealth level of \$ 319,500

CDN=021901 DISTRICT NAME=COLLEGE STATION ISD

REPORT 1: TUITION CHARGED FOR NONRESIDENT STUDENTS	
(A) 2015 Preliminary State Certified Property Value	\$7,679,110,158
(B) Estimated 2015-2016 Chapter 42 WADA	14,746,299
(C) Transfers in ( 2015-2016 PEIMS nonresidents )	116
(D) 2015-2016 PEIMS enrollment	12,874
(E) Chapter 42 WADA to enrollment ratio ( B / D )	1.145
(F) WADA adjustment for transfers in ( C X E )	132,870
(G) Estimated 2016-2017 Chapter 42 WADA	14,961,961
(H) Estimated 2016-2017 Chapter 41 WADA ( G - F ) *(Note 1)	14,829,091
(I) Estimated Chapter 41 2016-2017 wealth per WADA ( A / H )	\$517,841
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REPORT 2: NO TUITION CHARGED FOR NONRESIDENT STUDENTS	
(A) 2015 Preliminary State Certified Property Value	\$7,679,110,158
(B) Estimated 2016-2017 Chapter 42 WADA	14,961,961
(C) Transfers in ( 2015-2016 PEIMS nonresidents )	116
(D) Estimated 2016-2017 Chapter 41 WADA ( same as B ) *(Note 2)	14,961,961
(E) Estimated Chapter 41 2016-2017 wealth per WADA ( A / D )	\$513,242

\*Note 1: WADA (H) represents the WADA of all students being educated by the district, less the WADA of any non-resident students being charged tuition.

\*Note 2: WADA (D) represents the WADA of all students being educated by the district.

Also Note: Calculated values are estimates until data items are final

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SUPERINTENDENTS OFFICE

# Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits

This agreement is entered into pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 41, Subchapters A and D, and rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized by the TEC, §41.006. The purpose of this agreement is to enable the district to reduce its wealth per weighted student to a level that is not greater than the equalized wealth level as determined by the commissioner of education in accordance with the TEC, §41.002.

The school year to which this agreement applies is 2016-2017 (the "school year").

The agreement is for College Station Independent School District ("the district"), with a county-district number of 021-901, to purchase attendance credits from the state for the school year.

This agreement is subject to the approval of the voters of the district as provided by the TEC, §41.096. The board of trustees of the district agrees to submit to the commissioner of education, on request, a certified copy of the board minutes showing the canvass of the election.

Initial payments will be based on the commissioner's estimate of the cost of each credit using the district's projected maintenance and operations tax revenue and the estimated number of students in weighted average daily attendance for the school year (TEC, §41.093). The district agrees to make the payments in accordance with the schedule specified in the TEC, §41.094.

The actual cost of each credit will be determined by the commissioner in accordance with the TEC, §41.093, when final data on the district's maintenance and operations tax revenue and the number of students in weighted average daily attendance for the school year are available. If that amount is less than the amount paid by the district through August 15 of the school year, the difference will be refunded. If that amount is greater than the amount paid, the district shall remit an amount equal to the difference for deposit in the state treasury to be used for the Foundation School Program.

The cost of purchased attendance credits will be reduced for county appraisal district costs. The reduction will be computed in accordance with the TEC, §41.097. If the reduction exceeds the cost for the school year, the difference will be carried forward and applied to each subsequent year's cost until the total amount of the reduction has been exhausted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President, Board of Trustees

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secretary, Board of Trustees

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Superintendent

**Dr. Clark Ealy**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name of Superintendent

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commissioner of Education or Designee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Texas Education Agency

Commissioner Mike Morath

1701 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • [tea.texas.gov](http://tea.texas.gov)

June 15, 2016

#021-901

Dr. Clark Ealy, Superintendent  
College Station Independent School District  
1812 Welsh Avenue  
College Station, TX 77840-4851

Re: Chapter 41 Intent

Dear Dr. Ealy:

Thank you for informing us of the College Station Independent School District's intent to exercise Option 3 in order to equalize its wealth for the 2016-2017 school year.

Please be advised that a signed Option 3 **Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits** must be received by September 1, 2016, in order for the district to qualify for the early agreement credit.

The district may proceed with its tax rate adoption process.

Please refer to the *Manual for Districts Subject to Wealth Equalization* for information regarding other fiscal, procedural, and administrative requirements for Chapter 41 districts. Questions should be addressed to Kim Wall by email at [kim.wall@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kim.wall@tea.texas.gov) or by phone at (512) 463-4809.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kara Belew'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kara Belew  
Deputy Commissioner for Finance