

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2021

Texas COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel

Attn: Imelda Garcia, Chair

Texas Department of State Health Services

PO Box 149347

Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Panel Members:

Chair Imelda Garcia

Sen. Lois Kolkhorst

Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.

Rep. Stephanie Klick

Rep. Senfronia Thompson

Dr. David Lakey

Dr. Gerald Parker

Dr. John Zerwas

W. Nim Kidd

Stephen Williams

Casie Stoughton

Dr. Paul McGaha

David Gruber

Dr. Manda Hall

Dr. Stephen Pont

Dr. Jennifer Shuford

Dr. Ryan Van Ramshorst

Dear Chair Imelda Garcia and Members of the COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel:

The undersigned members of the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing efforts to distribute critical COVID-19 vaccines, while prioritizing the most vulnerable Texans and those at greatest risk of infection who are serving in frontline professions vital to our state's successful operation and recovery.

The SBOE represents districts across the entire State of Texas and is charged with oversight of the Texas public school system. We, the undersigned members, believe it would be neglectful not to highlight the challenges our schools continue to face as districts manage increased in-person instruction. Fully reopening Texas depends on our ability to continue to ensure a focus on academic recovery, which we believe requires a healthy and safe classroom environment.

In many parts of Texas, the pandemic has placed tremendous and sustained stress on efforts to staff classrooms – efforts which have been exacerbated by quarantines necessitated by COVID-19 exposures and a shortage of available full-time teachers and substitutes. This has compounded the challenge of safely and reliably providing access to campus, and ensuring that students are getting the classroom experience they deserve and that teachers want to provide. Every one of us strongly believes the panel should consider offering immunization to all teachers and school staff in order to safeguard our academic recovery while preventing further, uncontrolled outbreaks.

The undersigned members of the Texas State Board of Education respectfully urge you to add **public school teachers and staff** to Phase 1B and immediately allow all the aforementioned who wish to be immunized to be granted access under the current distribution phase.

Thank you again for your incredible work under trying circumstances. Each of us is hopeful that the approval of additional vaccines will help speed the effort to provide vaccines to all Texans, especially our public school teachers and staff. The undersigned members of the State Board of Education are ready, willing, and able to assist. Together, we look forward to charting a winning course to help improve more rapidly our state's academic and economic recovery.

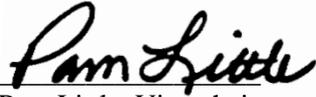
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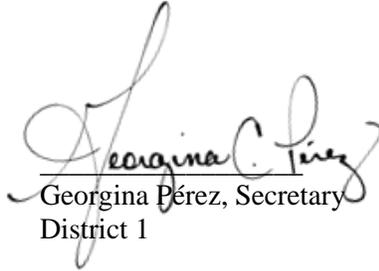
Dr. Keven Ellis, Chair

Texas State Board of Education

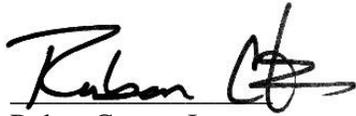
TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



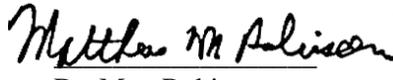
Pam Little, Vice-chair  
District 12



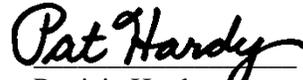
Georgina Pérez, Secretary  
District 1



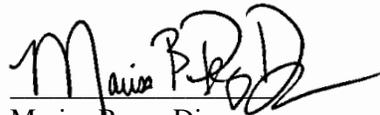
Ruben Cortez, Jr.  
District 2



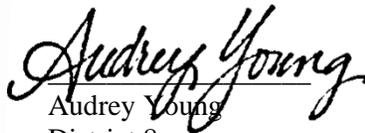
Dr. Matt Robinson  
District 7



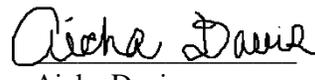
Patricia Hardy  
District 11



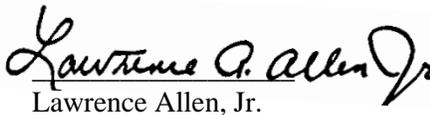
Marisa Perez-Diaz  
District 3



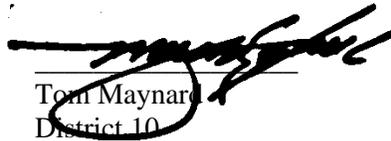
Audrey Young  
District 8



Aicha Davis  
District 13



Lawrence Allen, Jr.  
District 4



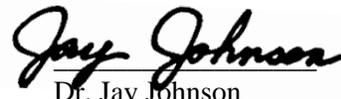
Tom Maynard  
District 10



Sue Melton-Malone  
District 14



Rebecca Bell-Metereau  
District 5



Dr. Jay Johnson  
District 15