El Paso ISD Board of Trustees
Resolution on Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

WHEREAS, El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) can fulfill its educational mission only when students and staff are provided with safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments; and

WHEREAS, investments in cost effective and sustainable technologies are proven to increase long-term savings in the face of rising energy costs and that such savings could improve the fiscal outlook of the district – allowing reinvestments that would benefit students, teachers, and aid in the upkeep and modernization of facilities; and

WHEREAS, EPISD is an integral part of the community with nearly 7,000 employees and over 45,000 students; and

WHEREAS, environmental damage disproportionately impacts lower income communities. EPISD's commitment to equity requires attention to underinvested communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso enacted a Climate Action Plan which affirms the City's commitment to combat climate change by reducing carbon emissions in public buildings and expanding solar energy capacity;[1] and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the climate targets, all governmental entities within our region must commit to these goals and work together to achieve them; and

WHEREAS, EPISD students spend on average over 12,000 hours inside school buildings by the time they graduate high school[2]; and

WHEREAS, many schools across the district still rely on evaporative coolers. Evaporative cooling systems operate inefficiently in high temperatures, and uncomfortably hot classrooms significantly impact academic performance, and temperate classrooms can mitigate these impacts by 78%;[3] and

WHEREAS, the demand for graduates with skills and knowledge pertaining to climate, energy, and sustainability is growing, and the K-12 education system can prepare students for careers in

---

[1] https://elpasotexas.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=15306844&GUID=95F7015F-82C5-4EC8-8F38-B1ED0CDA7C95

[2] 1,200 hours every year is based on a typical school year of 180 days, with 6.64 hours per school day. See National Center for Education Statistics. (2008). Number of hours in the school day and average number of days in the school year for public schools, by state: 2007–08. Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). U.S. Department of Education Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/tables_list.asp. See also McFarland, J., Hussar, B., Wang, X., Zhang, J., Wang, K., Rathbun, A., Barmer, A., Forrest Cataldi, E., & Bullock Mann, F. (2018). The condition of education 2018 (NCES 2018-144). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED583502

[3] https://www.nber.org/papers/w24639

emerging and expanding fields such as renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, EPISD must be proactive in bringing additional funds into the district, maximizing the efficient and impactful use of public funds, and keeping public school dollars as close to students as possible; and

WHEREAS, a combination of both public and private grants, tax incentives, low cost financing, and technical assistance programs may be available to help entities transition to a cost efficient clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable and energy efficient school district means one where students, teachers, parents, and the broader community are connected to their local schools and that resilient, walkable schools are an important component towards the goal of a high quality and accessible public school system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that EPISD will strive to ensure that its schools are safe, healthy, and sustainable and that the goal of transitioning to clean, renewable energy sources is reached while also reducing net expenditures on all utilities. The Board of Trustees of EPISD hereby commits to aim for 100% renewable electricity and, if unfeasible, equivalent offsetting in all of its facilities and for all operations, resulting in a district powered entirely by renewable energy by 2050.

To help achieve this goal, EPISD will implement the following strategies, where financially feasible and subject to budget constraints:

1. Make immediate improvement in the lives of students and educators by
    a. Accelerating the district's heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) modernization projects to meet the urgent need of replacing outdated, failing, and insufficient cooling infrastructure.
    b. Within three months of the passage of this resolution, creating cooling plans for schools, which may include the deployment of portable AC units, shade structures, and hydration stations that ensure all students and employees have healthy learning and working conditions.
    c. Including climate-friendly, all-electric technologies such as heat pumps, in HVAC modernization projects.
    d. By August 2027, completing no fewer than 10 distinct projects that address heat in classrooms and student spaces, including air conditioning, shades, water stations, solar projects, heat pumps, and other initiatives that promote sustainable, healthy learning environments and energy efficient facilities.
    e. By the end of the 2028-29 school year, replacing all evaporative coolers with energy efficient HVAC solutions.

2. For the Superintendent to assign sustainability management duties as necessary within six months of the passage of this resolution to oversee and carryout the district's clean energy and overall sustainability strategy, to include working with other governmental

agencies and entities and community partners to identify and apply for funding opportunities for sustainability projects, and presenting quarterly reports to the Board on the district's progress toward the goals of this resolution.

3. By September 2026, create a Board Advisory Committee on Environment & Sustainability in accordance with BDF (Local) policy.
    a. The Board of Trustees will select 3 of its members to serve on the committee and the Superintendent will appoint 4 members of the community to serve on the committee.
    b. This committee will monitor the district's sustainability initiatives and progress towards achieving the goals of this resolution.
        i. To this end, district staff will present on the progress to meet the goals of this resolution at quarterly committee meetings.
        ii. The committee will meet quarterly, starting in Q3 of 2026. The meetings will be open to the public, comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act, be video recorded, and maintain minutes available to the public.
        iii. The committee shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory and shall not assume administrative duties or responsibilities. The committee shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board. To be binding, all such committee recommendations must be reported to the Board at a regular or special meeting for approval and entry into the minutes as a public record.

4. Work with and expand upon the existing benchmarking process to set long-term goals to achieve a district powered entirely by renewable energy and equivalent offsetting by 2050 by
    a. Increasing reliance on power from clean, renewable sources – including electricity generated by equipment installed on district property – with the goal of powering all district operations exclusively with renewable energy.
    b. Requiring as part of any new construction or renovation of district buildings, installing, maintaining, or replacing electrical equipment — including HVAC systems, water heaters, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, solar panel carports, and cooking equipment — with sustainable technologies where applicable. Specifically, all new schools built or remodeled moving forward should adhere to both Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. In the case of LEED standards, the district shall adhere to Silver ratings or above, aiming for the highest possible standard where financially feasible.
    c. Transitioning the entire district vehicle fleets to zero-emissions vehicles as each vehicle reaches the end of its life cycle.
        i. Select zero-emission vehicles for purchase or lease whenever a suitable vehicle exists for a district need, and wherever necessary infrastructure (e.g., electric vehicle charging stations) is accessible, or can be readily developed.
        ii. If these conditions cannot be met, select vehicles with the lowest-possible emissions immediately upon passage of the resolution.

d. Implementing financially feasible, student-focused measures to reduce waste across the district.
    i. Establish recycling and composting programs at all campuses to divert at least 50% of the district's inorganic waste from landfill by 2030.
    ii. Utilize 100% compostable plates, trash bags, and utensils by the soonest possible date.
    iii. Design and implement a strategy to consistently reduce food waste across the district, establishing partnerships with local food banks and community resource centers, where feasible.

5. Create a long-term sustainability plan for EPISD, to include:
    a. Within one year of assigning sustainability management duties, completion of a clean energy evaluation process for all capital improvement, infrastructure, operational, and organizational budgeting processes, with the benchmarks to be included in the next Facilities Master Plan.
    b. Requiring all new facility builds to be powered by 100% renewable energy or built in conjunction with projects that entirely offset the nonrenewable energy consumption of new builds, where feasible.
    c. Requiring new roof construction to be assessed for rooftop solar and implemented, where feasible.

6. Student Learning and Career & Technical Education Programs
    a. Making best and reasonable efforts to use local, building and construction trades union labor to complete projects.
    b. Partnering with local building and construction trades, teachers, counselors, and students to support curriculum development, internships, apprenticeships, and Career-Connecting Learning programming that prepare students for careers in environmentally focused, emerging and expanding fields such as renewable energy and sustainable technologies, using bonafide U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) apprenticeship programs, where feasible.

7. Reporting:
    a. The district shall fully comply with the reporting obligations set forth above and provide all information and records necessary to demonstrate the feasibility of sustainable infrastructure implementation efforts and their cost efficiency, and their fidelity to the objectives of this resolution.
    b. The district shall report annually to the Board of Trustees on the projects implemented and their specific return-on-investment.

[signatures on next page]

SIGNED this 21st day of April, 2026.

By:_____
Leah Hanany, President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

By:_____
Alex Cuellar, Secretary, Board of Trustees

CERTIFICATE FOR RESOLUTION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented to the Board of Trustees of the El Paso Independent School District during a meeting on April 21, 2026. A quorum of the Board of Trustees being then present, it was then duly moved and seconded that the Resolution be adopted, and such Resolution was then adopted according to the following vote:

Ayes: 7 Nays: Ø Abstentions: Ø

To certify which, witness my hand and the official seal of the District this 21st day of April, 2026

_____
Leah Hanany, President, Board of Trustees

Approved as to Form:

_____
Jeanne C. Collins, General Counsel
Signed: Friday, April 10, 2026