

# Hitchcock Independent School District

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Meeting Date:** March 23, 2026

**Presented by:** Dr. Darryl J. Henson, Superintendent of Schools

**Subject:** Donation: Airway Clearance Devices

### Consent Item

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In response to the tragic choking incident recently reported in Alvin ISD and the critical importance of student safety, a member of our Hitchcock community has stepped forward to purchase and donate Airway Clearance Devices (ACDs) for every campus in the district. This donation is intended to provide our staff with a final, non-invasive line of defense when standard protocols, such as the Heimlich maneuver, fail to dislodge an obstruction. By accepting these devices, Hitchcock ISD will not only enhance its emergency preparedness but also align itself with the safety standards being adopted by districts across the state.

The donated devices are suction-based units specifically designed to clear a victim's airway without pushing the obstruction further into the lungs. These portable, non-powered tools use a patented one-way valve system to create high-intensity suction, pulling the blockage upward and out of the throat. Each donated kit includes both pediatric and adult-sized masks, ensuring that every individual on our campuses, from our youngest students in Head Start to our high school seniors and staff, is protected by this technology. The devices are simple to operate, requiring no batteries or electrical power, making them highly reliable in the high-stress environment of a cafeteria or classroom emergency.

This donation directly supports the district's compliance with Texas House Bill 549 (The Westyn Bryan Mandrell Act), which took effect on September 1, 2025. This legislation requires Texas public schools to have at least one airway clearance device available on campus, provided they are acquired through donation or specific funding. Furthermore, the law provides clear liability protections for school districts and employees who use these devices in good faith during an emergency. By strategically placing these units in cafeterias and high-traffic eating areas, Hitchcock ISD can ensure that a life-saving response is always within reach during the most vulnerable moments of the school day.

We respectfully request that the Board formally accept this donation to allow for the immediate procurement and distribution of these units. Integrating these devices into our campus safety plans, alongside proper staff orientation, will provide our educators with the tools they need to act decisively and our parents with the peace of mind that their children are in the safest possible hands.

**BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:**

I move that the Board approve the donation of the Airway Clearance Devices as presented.

**POLICY AUTHORIZATION:**

CDC(LOCAL)

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Dr. Darryl J. Henson, Superintendent

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

**ENCLOSURES:**