



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. MICHELLE CAVAZOS

FROM: DR. ISMAEL GONZALEZ III

CC: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BRITTNEY SOLIZ SANDOVAL
DEBORAH GARZA
DR. MICHAEL NORRIS
PENNY ARMSTRONG
DR. WILLIAM STOUT

DATE: Monday, June 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Possible Action to Approve Acquiring Moak Casey & Associates for the Completion of an Efficiency Audit

PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1: EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE

N/A

PRIORITY 2: HIGH PERFORMING AND ENGAGED WORKFORCE

N/A

PRIORITY 3: QUALITY SERVICE AND IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

PRIORITY 4: EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DISTRICT AND CAMPUS OPERATIONS

4.1 Annually improve operational processes

4.2 Maintain fiscal viability; stewardship; and improve staff knowledge of sustainable budgeting processes

4.3 Ensure strategic alignment of resources

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Type: Action

An efficiency audit is an independent review of a school district's operations, fiscal management, and use of resources. The purpose is to provide the Board of Trustees and the public with information regarding whether the district is operating efficiently before asking voters to approve a maintenance and operations tax rate through a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE).

This requirement was added by House Bill 3 during the 86th Texas Legislature and is now found in Texas Education Code §11.184. The law requires a school district board of trustees to conduct an efficiency audit before seeking voter approval to adopt an M&O tax rate. The Legislative Budget Board also issued efficiency audit guidelines that auditors must use when completing the review. ([Legislative Budget Board](#))

The audit is not the same as the district's annual financial audit. The annual financial audit reviews financial statements and compliance. An efficiency audit is broader in purpose and is intended to review district operations, resource allocation, staffing, budgeting practices, fiscal management, and overall efficiency. The selected auditor must remain independent from the district, although the district may use the same firm that conducts its annual audit if independence requirements are met.

The timeline is also important. The Board must select the efficiency auditor no later than four months before the proposed VATRE election date. The audit must be completed no later than three months after the auditor is selected. The district must then hold an open meeting to discuss the results and post the audit results on the district website no later than 30 days before the election.

The reason this audit is necessary is transparency. Before voters are asked to consider approving additional M&O taxing authority, the district must provide independent information regarding how existing resources are being managed. The audit helps demonstrate whether the district has reviewed efficiencies, cost controls, staffing, operational practices, and fiscal management prior to pursuing additional voter-approved revenue.

For Gregory-Portland ISD, this requirement would be an important step if the Board chooses to continue exploring a VATRE. The efficiency audit would provide the Board, administration, taxpayers, and voters with an independent review of district operations and would support a transparent public process before any final election-related action is taken.

RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval of the engagement of ****Moak Casey & Associates**** to conduct the district's required Efficiency Audit in accordance with the Texas Education Code and applicable guidance issued by the Legislative Budget Board. The audit will provide an independent review of the district's operational and fiscal efficiency and satisfy statutory requirements associated with a potential Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE). Upon completion, the audit findings will be presented to the Board of Trustees and made available to the public as required by law.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AMOUNT AND FUNDING SOURCE (IF APPLICABLE):

Pending Proposal

Estimated Price Range \$25,000 - \$50,000

BOARD RELATED POLICY:

CCG (LEGAL)

BAA (LEGAL)

ACTION ITEM SUGGESTED MOTION (if applicable):

That the Board make a motion to approve the engagement of **Moak Casey & Associates** to conduct the District's Efficiency Audit and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to execute all necessary documents to complete the audit.