



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC** Approval of Expedited State Waivers for the 2016-2017 School Year

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Superintendent's Office

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** March 23, 2016

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the following Expedited State Waiver applications in the following areas:

- **Early Release Waiver:** This waiver allows the District to conduct school for less than seven hours for a total of six days of student instruction to provide additional training in educational methodologies and/or to provide time to meet the needs of students and local communities. The District's high schools will have 6 early releases: January 11, 12, 13<sup>th</sup> and May 30, 31, June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow the high school students to take final exams. Middle and Elementary School students will observe an early release on June 1<sup>st</sup> to close out the 2016-2017 school year.
- **Modified Schedule/State Assessment Testing Days Waiver:** This waiver allows the district to modify the schedule of classes for students who are not being tested to report to and attend school after the state assessment testing period has ended; therefore, reducing the interruptions during testing period. Only the District's High Schools will utilize this waiver on the following dates: December 5-8, March 28<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1, May 3-4.
- **Timeline for Accelerated Instruction:** As part of the Student Success Initiative (SSI), districts and charter schools are required to provide accelerated instruction to students in grades 5 and 8 who do not demonstrate proficiency on the STAAR reading and/or mathematics tests. This accelerated instruction must occur after each administration of the test, including the third administration. A student may advance to or be placed in the next grade level only if (1) he or she completes all accelerated instruction required by the grade placement committee (GPC), and (2) the GPC determines, by unanimous decision, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next school year given additional accelerated instruction during the course of the year.

## RATIONALE:

To assist districts in meeting the accelerated instruction provision after the third administration of the test, the agency is allowing districts to apply for a waiver to adjust the timeline for providing accelerated instruction to students who fail the third administration. The waiver will be granted if districts meet certain conditions, including identifying and documenting the intensive instruction a student needs, targeting this instruction to the

reporting categories on which the student was weak, and ensuring that this instruction is completed during the first six weeks of school. In addition to this intensive accelerated instruction, districts must develop an accelerated instruction plan that will provide the student with ongoing instructional support during the entire school year.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION**

**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**