

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Richardson Independent School District
Richardson, Texas**

Date: October 15, 2026

Department: Early Childhood and Extended Learning Services

Submitted by: Katy.Phinney, Executive Director Early Childhood and
Extended Learning Services, Dr. Kristin Leeper,
Assistant Superintendent Teaching and Learning

ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Pre-K Partnership Pass Through Waiver

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under Texas Education Code (TEC) §§ 29.1533 and 29.171, Prekindergarten (Pre-K) partnerships foster collaboration between local school districts and private child care or Head Start programs to expand access to high-quality early childhood education. Following updates under House Bill 2 (HB 2) to TEC §29.153(i), school systems are required to pass through at least 85% of funding to their private Pre-K partners; however, our district's current Head Start partnership model with Child Care Group at Esperanza Community Center at Dobie directly provides three certified teachers to support classrooms rather than passing through 85% of direct cash funding. Because this staffing structure does not meet the strict 85% financial pass-through threshold, district administration is requesting Board approval to submit a Pre-K Partnership Pass-Through Waiver application to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) ahead of the October 30, 2026 deadline, maintaining full statutory compliance for the 2026–2027 school year while TEA completes its formal rulemaking process.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the following resolution:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Richardson ISD has proposed to apply for the Pre-K Partnership Pass-Through Waiver;

WHEREAS, Richardson ISD proposes to maintain this waiver for the 26-27 school year

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Agency requires that the Board of Trustees of the local school district approve the state waiver;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Richardson Independent School District approves the Pre-K Partnership Pass-Through Waiver request.