

BRAZOSPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

October 19, 2026



BOARD: Consent

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing State Waiver Applications for Remote Conferencing Instruction for Virtual Speech-Language Therapy Services for the 2026–2027 School Year

BOARD POLICY: EHAB (Legal / Local); FEC (Legal)

DISTRICT GOAL: BISD will provide a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure every student will be Future-Ready.

FISCAL NOTE: N/A (Contract Providers already budgeted)

Background Information:

- **Legal Mandate for Services:** Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Texas Education Code, the District is obligated to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment to all eligible students with disabilities. This includes speech-language therapy services for qualifying students..
- **Staffing Shortages & Solution:** Texas public school districts continue to face severe, documented staffing shortages of qualified, licensed Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). To ensure continuous implementation of IEP services, the District utilizes licensed SLPs licensed to deliver synchronous, interactive audio-visual telepractice.
- **Attendance & Waiver Requirements:** Under Texas law, speech-language therapy is an instructional service that generates FSP attendance and special education contact hour funding. Under 19 TAC §129.1025 and Section 12.4 of the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook, districts must now obtain an approved Remote Conferencing Waiver from the Commissioner of Education to generate state ADA and special education contact hours for services delivered virtually by off-site clinicians.
- **Board Approval Requirement:** Local Board of Trustees approval of a formal Resolution is a mandatory prerequisite required by TEA prior to submitting General Waiver applications under Texas Education Code.
- Brazosport ISD currently anticipates that 75-100 students will be supported by remote conferencing services for speech therapy.

Our Vision: Brazosport ISD.....Setting the Standard for Educational Excellence

Administrative Considerations:

- It is the administration's recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the presented **Resolution Authorizing State Waiver Applications for Remote Conferencing Instruction for Virtual Speech-Language Therapy Services for the 2026–2027 School Year**, granting authority to:
 1. Submit General Waiver requests to the Texas Education Agency waiving standard face-to-face attendance accounting rules for eligible virtual speech-language therapy services.
 2. Delegate authority to the Superintendent of Schools and Executive Director of Special Services to prepare, execute, and submit all necessary student-level waiver applications and assurances via the TEA Login (TEAL) system.
 3. Record and report special education contact hours in TSDS PEIMS retroactively upon waiver approval by the Commissioner of Education.

Communication Deployment:

- Board Meeting minutes

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Respectfully submitted,

Brian Cole
Deputy Superintendent