

NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Subject: Navarro ISD Bilingual Program Exception and ESL Program TEA Waivers

Date: October 26, 2026

Administrator Responsible/Position: Wendy McMullen, Chief Academic Officer

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☐ Information Only

☒ Action Needed

☐ Receive Input

B. Authority for This Action:

☐ Local Policy

☒ Law or Rule

☐ N/A

C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:

☒ Strategic Plan

☒ District/Campus
Improvement
Plan

☒ Other

Priorities

☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.

☒ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.

☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.

☒ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.

☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

Board Goals for 2023-2028

☒ **Goal 1*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☒ **Goal 2*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☒ **Goal 3*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

D.

Summary: Texas schools need a bilingual program waiver when they cannot provide appropriately certified teachers for their emergent bilingual (EB) students. This waiver, known as a Bilingual Exception, allows a district to operate an alternative program while it works to hire or train certified staff. It serves as a temporary measure to inform the Texas Education

Agency (TEA) of the need for certified teachers, outline the district's plan to secure them, and ensure alternative methods meet needs of emergent bilingual students during the program transition year. A district must also file an ESL Waiver if it cannot provide the required ESL program to one or more Emergent Bilingual students because the assigned classroom teacher does not hold the proper Texas ESL certification. This applies to both elementary and secondary grade levels.

Background Information:

Navarro ISD has experienced steady enrollment growth within its Emergent Bilingual (EB) program. The district has officially reached the state-mandated threshold of 20 or more EB students in a single grade level, triggering a Texas Education Agency (TEA) requirement to implement a bilingual education program for grades PK–5. In anticipation of this transition, the district leadership team has proactively initiated recruitment and planning efforts. For the 2026–2027 school year, Navarro ISD will submit a Bilingual Exception waiver for grades 1–5 due to a shortage of certified bilingual educators. This transition period will be utilized to aggressively recruit certified personnel and establish the structural groundwork required to fully launch an expanded bilingual program for the 2027–2028 school year. Additionally, the district will submit an English as a Second Language (ESL) program waiver for the Junior High campus. Under state guidelines, an ESL waiver must be filed if an uncertified teacher is assigned to provide the required English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) or content-area instruction to emergent bilingual students.

E. Comments Received:

☒ LT

☒ DEIC

☒ Other

All agenda items are reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

F.

Administrative Recommendation:

Authorize the district to submit a Bilingual Program Exception Waiver and an ESL program Waiver to the Texas Education Agency for the 2026–2027 school year.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost:

☒ Budget

☐ Bond

Amount: N/A

☐ Grant/Special Funds

☐ Other

H.

Exhibits: Bilingual Exception and ESL Program Waiver Information, Annual Bilingual/ESL Program Evaluation Report

“I move to approve/disapprove/postpone”

I. Action: I move to approve for the district to submit a Bilingual Program Exception Waiver and an ESL Program Waiver to the Texas Education Agency for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by:_____

Second by:_____

FOR: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

AGAINST: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

ABSTAIN: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

MOTION CARRIED/DENIED/POSTPONED