BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Richardson Independent School District
Richardson, Texas

Date: **October 29th, 2026**

Department: **Teaching and Learning Services & Human Resources**

Submitted by:
Jennifer Forshier, Executive Director of Multilingual Department
Dr. Kristin Leeper, Assistant Superintendent Teaching and Learning Services
Dr. Chris Goodson, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources

ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: **Bilingual/English Second Language Waiver**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.054 and 19 TAC §89.1207, school districts are required to request a Bilingual Education Exception and/or an ESL Waiver from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) if they are unable to provide the required number of appropriately certified teachers to serve Emergent Bilingual students. For the 2026–2027 school year, Richardson ISD has identified a shortage of certified bilingual and/or ESL educators in specific classrooms. In compliance with TEC §11.251, RISD Board of Trustees approval is requested to submit the waiver application to the TEA. This waiver allows the district to place uncertified teachers under an approved comprehensive action plan that includes targeted professional development, mentoring, and support to ensure student academic success while educators complete their certification requirements.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the waiver for BIL/ESL Exceptions and Waivers.

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President, Board of Trustees Secretary, Board of Trustees