



Bilingual Exceptions & English Second Language Waivers

Oct. 29, 2026



RICHARDSON ISD NORTH STAR GOAL: EVERY STUDENT, TEACHER, AND LEADER WILL MEET OR EXCEED THEIR ACADEMIC GROWTH GOALS.



RICHARDSON ISD'S **NORTH STAR GOAL**

Every student, teacher and leader
will meet or exceed their
academic growth goals.

Annual Requirement from TEA

Annual Program Evaluation: Conduct and present an annual Bilingual/ESL program evaluation to the Board, as required by TAC §89.1265 and TEC §29.053.

Exception & Waiver Requirements: Follow TAC §89.1207 requirements to address bilingual and ESL teacher certification shortages.

TEA Reporting: Submit exceptions and waivers to identify staffing needs and ensure compliance.

Continuous Improvement: Use the exception and waiver process to support teacher certification, program implementation, and improvement.

Ongoing Monitoring: Evaluate progress and adjust supports throughout the school year.



Richardson ISD Demographics

From Fall 2025-26 Snapshot

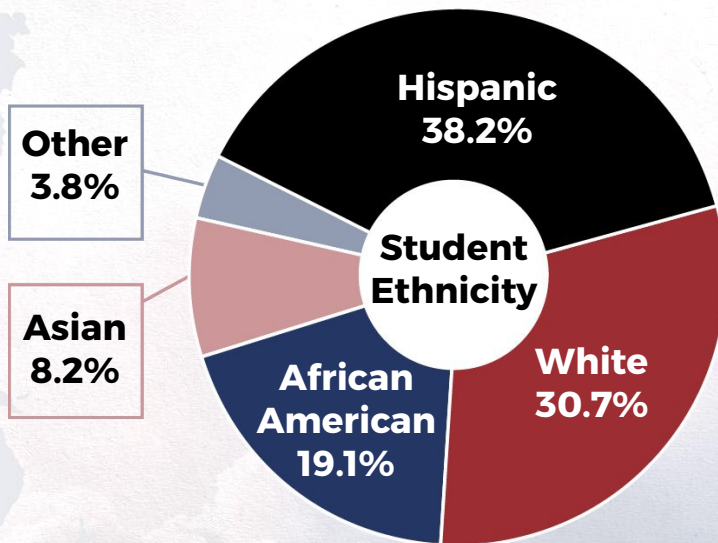
RISD is home to

11,507 emergent bilingual students

who speak *more than 85 different languages and dialects.*

The top languages spoken in RISD after English include:

1. Spanish
2. Pashto
3. Amharic
4. Arabic
5. Farsi



TEA Waiver/Exception Rationale and Impact

- Districts are required to submit a waiver to the Texas Education Agency for any non certified teacher.
 - A teacher must earn their content certification prior to earning their ESL/Bil certification. So they could be content certified, but just missing the ESL/Bilingual certification.
 - The required action plan included in the waiver/exception submission ensures that our students and teachers are supported while teachers work towards full certification (Bilingual or ESL).



Language Support Exceptions/Waivers: Where we are

Bilingual Exceptions and ESL Waivers being filed:

	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BIL	8	12	18	13	5	12	17							
ESL	19	23	25	21	22	20	20	7	6	6	2	3	4	3

Celebration: ESL waivers have decreased by 84! Targeted teacher support for test prep and Language Acquisition Teachers reviewing practice test data with teachers has led to more passing results.

Opportunities: BIL exceptions have increased as more teachers are working toward their certification and increased numbers of students have moved to self-contained Special Education classes to focus on individual learning needs.



The Cyclical Process for Waiver/Exceptions

Where we are going & What is the plan?

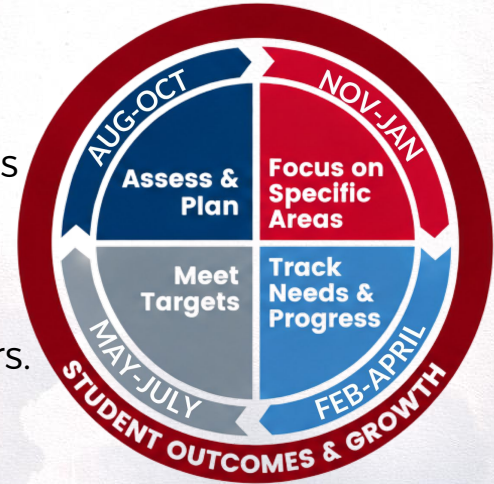
Student Growth: Prioritize continuous academic and linguistic growth for all learners.

Professional Learning: Target teacher certification success to reduce numbers of needed waivers.

Curriculum & Instruction: Embed language supports through HQIM and campus Language Acquisition Teachers.

Staffing & Program Support: Recruit and retain highly qualified, certified teachers to reduce numbers of waivers needed.

Student Enrichment: Provide ongoing enrichment opportunities for all learners to ensure targets are being met



Thank you!

Questions?



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