SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: November 16, 2026

Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Agenda Item Title: ESL Waivers and Bilingual Exceptions

From/Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Gutierrez, Deputy Superintendent

Additional Presenters if Applicable: Rocio Gutierrez-Ochoa, Bilingual & ESL Director

Description: The district is requesting approval to apply for ESL waivers and bilingual exceptions for the 2026–2027 school year. These waivers and exceptions are necessary due to the current shortage of certified bilingual and ESL teachers. Despite ongoing recruitment, certification support, and professional development efforts, some classrooms continue to be staffed by teachers who are not yet fully certified in the required language programs. Approval of these waivers and exceptions will ensure the district remains in compliance with Texas Education Agency (TEA) requirements while continuing to provide instructional support and certification pathways for teachers working toward full bilingual or ESL certification.

Historical Data: SSAISD has applied for bilingual exceptions and ESL waivers yearly due to a shortage of bilingual and ESL certified teachers.

Recommendation: Approve the list of names to submit to TEA for approval of ESL waivers and bilingual exceptions.

Purchasing Director and Approval Date: N/A

Funding Budget Code and Amount: N/A

Goal 2: SSAISD will recruit, retain, and develop a collaborative and highly effective staff.

ESL Waivers Needed for the 26-27 School Year

South San Antonio ISD	Number of Teachers
Elementary Campuses	64
Middle School Campuses	4
High School Campus	7
Total	75

Bilingual Exceptions Needed for the 26-27 School Year

South San Antonio ISD	Number of Teachers
Elementary Campuses	1
Total	1