**ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**
**AGENDA ACTION SHEET**

Date: **Nov 11, 2026**

Subject: Discuss and consider approval of the 2026–2027 English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Waiver for Robstown ISD.

Administrator Responsible: Joshua Garcia

Position: Director of Teaching & Learning

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:
- ☐ Information Only
- ☑ Action Needed

B. Authority for this Action:
- ☐ Local Policy
- ☑ Law or Rule: Texas Education Code §29.054; 19 Texas Administrative Code §89.1207

C. Strategic Objective, Goal, or Need Addressed: Ensure continued access to appropriate instructional services for Emergent Bilingual students while strengthening teacher certification, instructional capacity, and English language development.

D. Summary:

The 2026–2027 ESL Program Waiver allows Robstown ISD to implement temporary alternative instructional methods when appropriately ESL-certified teachers are unavailable. The district will provide targeted professional development, instructional coaching, and language acquisition support while implementing recruitment and certification initiatives to reduce reliance on future waivers. Student progress will be monitored through TELPAS, LPAC reviews, and classroom assessments to ensure continued academic and linguistic growth.

Attachments:
2026-2027 Target Improvement Plan - San Pedro Fine Arts Academy

E. Alternatives Considered: Recruitment and reassignment of appropriately certified personnel have been considered. The waiver provides temporary flexibility while the district continues efforts to increase ESL-certified staffing.

F. Comments Received: No comments received at this time.

G. Administrative Recommendation: Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the 2026–2027 ESL Program Waiver for submission to the Texas Education Agency.

H. Fiscal Impact and Cost: Professional development and instructional support will be funded through existing district resources, including the designated portion of Bilingual Education Allotment funds.

I. Monitoring and Reporting Timeline: August 2026 - July 2027

Texas Education Agency

# Waivers

## 2026-2027 Application for Bilingual Exception / ESL Waiver

**Waiver ID: 91762**

### Application Information

**Category:** General
**Creator:** Joshua Garcia, District Editor
**Status:** Submitted to TEA
**Creation Date:** 10/22/2026
**Approving Superintendent:** Marc Puig
**Assigned To:**
**Creator Email:** joshua.garcia@robstownisd.net
**Approving Superintendent Email:** marc.puig@robstownisd.net

### Bilingual/ESL Contact

**Full Name:** Joshua Joshua Garcia
**Phone:** (361) 767-6600 **Ext:** 2074
**Email:** joshua.garcia@robstownisd.net

### LEA Information

**LEA:** ROBSTOWN ISD (178909)
**Address:** 801 N 1ST ST, ROBSTOWN, TX 78380-2608
**Phone:** (361) 767-6600 **Ext:** 2000

### HR Director Contact

**Full Name:** Diana Silvas
**Phone: Ext:**
**Email:** diana.silvas@robstownisd.net

### Chief Financial Officer Contact

**Full Name:** Eva Cisneros
**Phone: Ext:**
**Email:** eva.cisneros@robstownisd.net

### Special Instructions

A Local Education Agency (LEA), including school districts, open-enrollment charters, and districts of innovation are required to identify and serve emergent bilingual (EB) students through bilingual education, per Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1205. If the LEA does not have the appropriately certified educators for their required bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program, they will file the applicable bilingual exception or ESL waiver for the teachers and students impacted, per 19 TAC §89.1207.

This is a one-year provisional measure taken to report the current needs of the district and to specify the actions to be taken in order to secure the appropriately certified staff, provide training and support to the teachers under the exception/waiver, and verify the implementation of temporary alternative methods that meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of the emergent bilingual students and align as closely as possible to the required bilingual or ESL program. The district's bilingual/ESL program contact and/or the human resource contact person may complete and submit the exception/waiver application. The application includes a verification that the superintendent has reviewed and approved the application.

- The Alternative Methods Description shall include how the district is going to align the temporary methods as closely as possible to the required bilingual/ESL program to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students. Describe the activities and how they will aim to meet the expected goal during this year's cyclical process.
- The Action Plan shall include 3-5 measurable targeted activities planned for the school year to recruit, hire, and retain the appropriate certified teachers. A description of the activity and the goal will be included with the expected completion date during this year's cyclical process.
- The Comprehensive Professional Development Plan will include how the district plans to use the 10% of the Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds to prepare teachers under an exception or waiver with high-impact professional learning opportunities during this year's cyclical process.

To submit your Bilingual Exception/ESL Waiver Application you must provide the district Information on the TEAL Dashboard, including the Alternative Methods Description, a Comprehensible Professional Development Plan, and the Action Plan to actively recruit and retain bilingual/ESL teachers to avoid filing for a Bilingual Exception and/or ESL Waiver in subsequent years.

## ◆ Alternative Methods and Recruiting Activities

**1. BILINGUAL PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE METHODS DESCRIPTION.**

**Describe how the district plans to align the temporary alternative methods as closely as possible to the required bilingual program to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students. Be sure to describe the activities and how they will aim to meet the expected goal during this year's cyclical process separately by selecting "Add Activity Details" button. This data is mandatory only if you are requesting for BIL exception.**

ESL WAIVER ONLY - N/A

◆ Activity Details Summary

| Number | Activity Description | Plan/Goal of the Activity | Completion Date Range |
|---|---|---|---|

No activities found.

**2. ESL PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE METHODS DESCRIPTION.**

**Describe how the district plans to align the temporary alternative methods as closely as possible to the required ESL program to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students. Be sure to describe the activities and how they will aim to meet the expected goal during this year's cyclical process separately by selecting "Add Activity Details" button. This data is mandatory only if you are requesting for ESL waiver.**

Please see attached.

◆ Activity Details Summary

**3. ACTION PLAN WITH TARGETED RECRUITING ACTIVITIES.**

**Describe the district's action plan for the current school year. The plan should include 3-5 measurable targeted activities the district will complete during the year to recruit, hire, and retain appropriately certified teachers. A description of the activity and goal will be included with the expected completion date during this year's cyclical process. The activities should (1) demonstrate support for teachers seeking certification, including access to TEA's free certification resources, (2) reflect efforts to recruit certified teachers to the district, and (3) strengthen program implementation by preparing teachers under the bilingual exception or ESL waiver to better serve the needs of the district's emergent bilingual students. Provide the activity information separately by selecting "Add Activity Details" button.**

Please see attached.

▲ Activity Details Summary

| Number | Activity Description | Plan/Goal of the Activity | Completion Date Range | Person Responsible |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Provide targeted professional development focused on sheltered instruction, ELPS integration, TELPAS aligned strategies, and implementation of high-quality instructional materials, including Amplify K to 5, Bluebonnet Math, and HMH Into Science. Instructional coaches will provide individualized support, model effective practices, and monitor instructional implementation through PLCs and coaching. | Strengthen instructional effectiveness and ensure teachers under an ESL waiver are prepared to meet the linguistic and academic needs of EB students. Monitor professional development participation, co | May - July | District Leader |
| 2 | Provide certification support for teachers pursuing ESL certification through exam fee reimbursement, mentoring, access to certification preparation resources, and collaboration with ESC Region 2 certification specialists. Share TEA's free certification resources and explore Grow Your Own pathways for paraprofessionals and student teachers through local university partnerships. | Increase the number of appropriately certified ESL teachers and reduce reliance on future waivers. Monitor the number of teachers receiving certification support, participating in preparation activiti | May - July | Human Resources |
| 3 | Implement targeted recruitment efforts through job fairs, university partnerships, educator preparation programs, residency programs, district job postings, social media outreach, and statewide recruitment platforms. Explore additional recruitment opportunities, including international teacher programs, to address certification shortages. | Expand the applicant pool of appropriately ESL-certified teachers and fill identified vacancies. Monitor recruitment events, qualified applicants, interviews, and successful hires to evaluate recruitm | May - July | Human Resources |
| 4 | Implement mentorship and teacher recognition opportunities designed to support and retain appropriately certified ESL teachers. Provide opportunities for professional collaboration, instructional support, and recognition of teacher contributions to EB student success. | Improve retention of ESL-certified teachers through ongoing mentorship and recognition. Monitor participation in mentorship activities and review annual retention data to evaluate the effectiveness of | May - July | Human Resources |

**4. COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

**Include how the district plans to use the 10% of the Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds to prepare teachers under an exception or waiver with high-impact professional learning opportunities during this year's cyclical process.**

Robstown ISD will utilize 10% of its Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds to provide high-impact professional learning opportunities for teachers working under an ESL waiver during the school year. These efforts will strengthen instructional practices, build teacher capacity, and support the academic and linguistic development of emergent bilingual (EB) students. Professional learning will focus on five targeted areas: (1) Content-Based Literacy Instruction (CBLI) and ELPS integration, including sheltered instruction strategies and HQIM implementation; (2) personalized coaching and mentorship to support effective instructional practices; (3) monthly Collaborative Learning Communities (CLCs) focused on student data analysis, TELPAS growth, and instructional improvement; (4) technology-enhanced language

▲ Summary

# ESL Waiver Only

| Number Of | PK | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total | Program Models | Explanation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Students | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 62 | Content-Based ESL | Kinder (Content) 1-12 pull out |
| Classrooms | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 25 | | |
| Teachers | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 27 | Pull-Out ESL | |

**LEA Attachments (3)**

| Title | Type | Size | Date Added | Added By |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ESL PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE METHODS DESCRIPTION | PDF | 75.8 kb | 2026-10-22 | joshua.garcia4 |
| ACTION PLAN (RECRUITMENT) | PDF | 77.8 kb | 2026-10-22 | joshua.garcia4 |
| ESL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN | PDF | 76.8 kb | 2026-10-22 | joshua.garcia4 |

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