

Beeville ISD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: June 19, 2012 Presented By: Nancy Jones

Subject: Evaluation of Waivers Related Page(s) _____

ACTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: BISD had five waivers this school year. A brief description/evaluation of each is listed below:

1. Modified Schedule for TAKS days for AC Jones was allowed. The arrangement allowed the students to test in classrooms versus testing in the auditorium or gym.

Evaluation:

The modified schedule only applied to grades 10, 11 and 12. Round robin sessions on STAAR mathematics, science, and social studies, along with fitness assessment sessions and self-esteem sessions were held. TAKS results were mixed. However, with the complexity of administering all of the tests to so many different groups of students, the flexibility of late entry for students greatly helped AC Jones with administering the TAKS tests. Preliminary passing rates for BISD tenth grade students on TAKS were as follows: Mathematics 50%; English Language Arts 80%; Science 50%; Social Studies 83%. Preliminary passing rates for BISD eleventh grade students on TAKS were as follows: Mathematics 74%; English Language Arts 85%; Science 84%; Social Studies 93%. These results include TAKS and TAKS Accommodated tests.

2. Six early release dates were allowed. They were on November 11, December 16, January 13, February 24, and May 18.

Evaluation:

All of the early release days were valuable to the staff of BISD. The early release day at the end of the first semester were extremely valued by the teachers. This day allowed the teachers to complete necessary work to complete the semester, such as permanent records and final semester grades for students. The early release on May 18, allowed teachers, administrators and other staff members to prepare for the start of the Optional Flexible School Year Program. The other four days allowed teachers to work on their campus with the grade level or department to improve instruction.

3. Pregnancy Related Services (PRS) were allowed to be given to small groups of students who gathered at school versus individual one-on-one services being given in the homes of the mothers.

Evaluation:

Serving students in need of Pregnancy Related Services at home allows the district to use a half time teacher to provide these services. There were 123 home visits to PRS students during the year. This number includes 1 and 2 hour PRS instructional home visits. The maximum number of students served in a week was four.

4. Alternative Education Program Attendance is a waiver to allow the academic recovery program at the New Horizons program at A.C. Jones to take student attendance at flexible hours.

Evaluation:

1. Students that attend the New Horizons program are not the typical, average student; they are primarily non-traditional individuals, who perform better in a non-traditional, flexible academic environment that also provides flexibility in the attendance schedule.
2. The AC Jones High School Campus Improvement Plan reflects the need to create individual student academic schedules for students who are at-risk or in danger of dropping out that take into consideration the student's academic, family, and health needs.
3. Full time students must attend school for 240 minutes per day in order to be counted present for the day. Student attendance is based on the actual number of hours / minutes a student is in attendance. The students are required to use a time clock to clock in and clock out in order to maintain accurate documentation of attendance on a daily basis.
4. Attendance rates for New Horizons are 85.5% on average. This is a similar rate from the attendance rates at The Academy at Maddera, where the Alternative Education Program was housed in previous years.
5. The average number of class credits earned per student is 7 per student. This is up from 3.38 in 2009-2010 when the program was The Academy at Maddera. The total number of semester credits completed this year is 755. There have been a total of 61 students who have graduated from this program this year.
6. This program has helped approximately 15 % of ACJ students who were at-risk for some reason. It has generated 17 graduates internally and 44 early graduates. There are currently assigned 16 in-cohort zero students trying to pass TAKS and 12 out-of-cohort students trying to pass TAKS. Half of those students failing TAKS are failing in only one subject – Math.
7. The New Horizons program cost is approximately \$175,000. There are 2 teachers (math and social studies) there full-time. The program desperately needs at least 2 more full-time teachers (English and science) because there are not enough teachers to be able to create pull-out sessions for TAKS and EOC test preparations. In addition, because there are both in-cohort students and out-of-cohort students enrolled in the program, students range in age from 16-21 and up.

8. All students graduate from this program on a recommended graduation plan unless they were previously on a minimum plan when enrolled at ACJHS.
9. Compared to the Academy at Madderra, the AC Jones New Horizons Program had ever bit as successful a year, catering to a wider range of student scheduling needs with far fewer personnel resources. New Horizons remains a cost effective program to address At-Risk students, providing the necessary resources to improve their academic completion, even up to graduation.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Waiver Evaluations

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: *Sample Motion* I move to approve the waiver evaluations.