



San Elizario ISD
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Cesar Morales, Executive Director of Athletics
Subject: Discussion and possible Board action regarding SB 401
Date: June 18, 2025

HISTORY:

In the 2024-25 school year, UIL required schools to decide by August 1st whether to allow homeschool participation, making those homeschool students eligible for varsity athletics participation.

Under this new law, homeschool students are eligible to participate in San Elizario ISD varsity athletics unless the school board decides to opt out.

After discussions with neighboring districts, it appears that many districts are moving toward adopting a policy to opt out of this law.

RATIONALE:

During the 89th Legislative Session, SB 401 was passed into law related to homeschool students participating in UIL activities.

The bill contains the following language related to an ISD's option:

“(c-2) Not later than the date specified under league rule, the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school may adopt a policy declining to grant non-enrolled students the opportunity to participate in league activities.”

This means a school is required to allow homeschool participation unless the school board adopts a policy to opt out of allowing it.

To review, ISDs must opt out of allowing homeschool participation by September 1, 2025, or homeschool students will be able to participate in UIL activities, as mandated by law.

This bill also provides additional opportunities for homeschool students to participate in UIL activities. Suppose the school where the student resides adopts a policy that prohibits participation. In that case, the student may join the school closest to the student's home address that allows homeschool participation:

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.



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BUDGET IMPACT:

No Budget Impact

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

The administrative recommendation is for the Board to approve one of the following options with the respective policy:

1. No Action needed as SB 401 requires school districts to allow homeschool students to participate in UIL activities.

OR

2. Action needed: As per SB 401, the District Board of Trustees must adopt a policy to opt out, declining to grant non-enrolled students' eligibility for participation in UIL curricular or extracurricular activities. See attached proposed Policy FD(LOCAL) and FM(LOCAL).which compliment each other. FM(LOCAL) also revises student absences related to participation in extracurricular activities.

For Approval? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please check one: ☐ Presentation ☐ Report ☐ Information

Please check if applicable: ☒ Attachment Included

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