



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: 8th Grade Social Studies Exploros Program: Public Hearing (SB 1474)

SUBMITTED BY: David Canales, Executive Director for Middle School Instruction

OF: Curriculum and Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: August 16, 2017

Recommendation:

To approve the vetted Social Studies Exploros Program.

Senate Bill 1474 requires the local board to hold a public hearing to allow feedback from the community. This process provides school districts the opportunity to obtain feedback while deciding if any proposed curriculum meets the needs of their district.

Rationale:

Senate Bill 1474 (SB 1474) was passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature, signed by the governor and became effective June 14, 2013. A new process established under SB 1474 seeks to balance transparency to local stakeholders with local control over how districts teach the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

SB 1474 requires school districts to follow a new process prior to the adoption of any major curriculum initiative. Before a district adopts a major curriculum initiative, it must gather input and opinion from both teachers and district employees. A local board is also required to have a meeting to discuss the proposed initiative and allow feedback from community members. This process provides school districts the opportunity to obtain feedback while deciding if any proposed curriculum meets the needs of their district.

Budgetary Information:

N/A For the Public Meeting

Board Policy Reference and Compliance:

EFE (LEGAL) A board shall select instructional materials in an open meeting as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act, including public notice. *19 TAC 66.104(a)*