



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: April 15, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: Report Item - Foreign Exchange Student Waiver

PRESENTER: Kathy Allen and Scott Kessel

ALIGNS TO BOARD PRIORITY:

- Learning – The District will provide an aligned, rigorous, curriculum, with instructional and technology programs preparing students to meet or exceed all educational standards.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The following information is being presented in order to keep the Board informed of AISD foreign exchange student enrollment practices and options. Guidelines for enrolling foreign exchange students are located in FD(LEGAL).
- Annually, foreign exchange student programs promote Aledo ISD as an option for placing students from other countries. Aledo ISD acknowledges and appreciates that exchange student programs offer valuable enrichment experiences for the exchange students, as well as the students in our district.
- Currently, Aledo ISD accepts exchange student applications in both the fall and spring semester. On average, the District enrolls between five to eight exchange students each school year.
- Additionally, exchange student have never been required to take TAKS assessments unless the student intended to graduate from their host school. Beginning with STAAR End-of-Course exams, exchange students will now be required to take EOCs in all courses in which they are enrolled and where an EOC test is given. Allowing exchange students to enroll in the spring semester places the exchange student at a disadvantage in preparation for a STAAR EOC test due to the fact that the test is based on mastery of skills for an entire school year.
- In the May Board meeting, the district will seek approval from the Board to apply for a waiver with the Texas Education Agency to limit the number of foreign exchange students to no more than five per year. In addition, the waiver would

also allow the district to limit enrollment for exchange students to the fall semester only.

- The Texas Education Agency allows District's to request a foreign exchange student waiver for the following reasons:
 - The prospect of not limiting the number of exchange students could create a financial or staffing hardship for the district.
 - An unlimited number of exchange students could diminish the district's ability to provide high quality educational services for the district's domestic students, and may require domestic students to compete with exchange students for educational resources and services.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS: Report Item Only – Administration will bring this request back to the Board as an action item at the May 20th Board meeting.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal implications for applying for the waiver from TEA.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: Report Item Only