



# Class Size Waivers Presentation

Human Resources

Melissa Cobb



# Background:

- The Texas Education requires school district to conduct a class size enrollment survey for prekindergarten through fourth grade and submit a request for exception for classrooms that exceed the class size of 22 students per teacher.
- Results of the survey indicate that we have 16 campuses with 33 classrooms exceeding 22 students per class.



Human Resources

# Historical Summary of Class Size:

YEAR	NUMBER OF CLASS SIZE WAIVERS
2013-2014	62
2014-2015	74
2015-2016	18
2016-2017	4
2017-2018	6
2018-2019	12
2019-2020	29
2020-2021	121 *Due to virtual classes offered due to COVID-19
2021-2022	13
2022-2023	25
2023-2024	29

# 2024 - 2025 Requested Classroom Waivers:



SCHOOL	GRADE	CLASS NUMBERS
Camey	1st	24
	1st	25
	4th	24
	4th	24
Peter's Colony	Dual 2nd	24
	Dual 2nd	26
Indian Creek	1st	23
	1st	23
McAuliffe	3rd	23
Garden Ridge	3rd	23
Morningside	K	23
Parkway	Dual K	23

SCHOOL	GRADE	CLASS NUMBERS
Heritage	2nd	23
	2nd	23
Prairie Trail	4th	23
Valley Ridge	2nd	23
	3rd	23
	3rd	23
Southridge	Dual K	23
	Dual K	23
	Dual K	24
	Dual 2nd	24
	Dual 2nd	24
Memorial	K	23

SCHOOL	GRADE	CLASS NUMBERS
Homestead	1st	23
	1st	23
Rockbrook	2nd	23
	2nd	23
	2nd	23
Independence	3rd	23
	3rd	23
Lewisville	Dual 1st	23
	Dual 1st	23
<b>TOTAL</b> <b>16 campuses and 33 waivers</b>		

# 2024 - 2025 Requested Classroom Waivers:



Human Resources

- If approved, the campus will provide the written notice of the state granted exception to parents no later than 31 days from the approval date.
- The increase in the number of waivers requested is in large part due to the teacher shortages across the State of Texas and the country.

# National and Texas Teacher Shortage:

- **Elementary Areas:**
  - Special Education
  - Bilingual/ESL
- While 10 of the requested waivers fall into the bilingual/ESL category, the remaining 23 are requested due to the difficulty of finding a highly qualified/certified gen ed teacher.
- The Governor's teacher vacancy task force identified increasing the Basic Allotment to address teacher compensation in their top finding of how to address Texas Teacher shortages.

# Texas Teacher Certification Requirements:



Human Resources

## General Education Teacher Certification Requirements:

- Specific Content Exam (Core, Generalist or Content Specific)
- Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam
- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Exam
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Exam
- Reading Academy - All K-3 Teachers:
  - 60 hour program aligned to the Science of Teaching Reading Content
  - Focus: oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, print concepts, handwriting, decoding, encoding and word study.

## Special Education Teacher Certification Requirements:

- EC-12 Sped Exam
- Specific Content Exam (Core, Generalist or Content Specific)
- Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam
- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Exam
- *English as a Second Language (ESL) Exam (if applicable)*
- Reading Academy - All K-3 Teachers:
  - 60 hour program aligned to the Science of Teaching Reading Content
  - Focus: oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, print concepts, handwriting, decoding, encoding and word study.

# Texas Teacher Certification Requirements:



Human Resources

## Bilingual Teacher Certification Requirements:

- Bilingual Target Language Proficiency (BTLPT) Exam
- Bilingual Generalist Exam
- Core or Generalist Exam
- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Exam
- Reading Academy - All K-3 Teachers:
  - 60 hour program aligned to the Science of Teaching Reading Content
  - Focus: oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, print concepts, handwriting, decoding, encoding and word study.

Each exam costs \$116.00 and you have 5 attempts per exam to be successful. If a person is unsuccessful on an exam, they must wait a minimum of 30 days to retest and must pay the exam fee again. After the 5th unsuccessful attempt, you are unable to retake the exam unless you apply for a waiver through TEA, which is an additional fee and extended timeline.



# State Funding/Teacher Shortage:



Human Resources

- The process to become a Texas certified teacher is lengthy and expensive, coupled that with rising costs, inflation and lack of funding by the legislature, it has impacted the district's efforts to recruit and retain teachers who serve in the national shortage areas.
- Due to the barriers of the certification process and lack of funding, the candidate pool for qualified Special Education and Bilingual Education Teachers are extremely limited, which is a direct impact to classroom size and the request for waivers.



# Questions?