

HAYS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: June 24, 2025

Agenda Item: M.3b.(1)

Board Goal: Student Achievement

Subject: Consideration and possible approval of the submission of the Hays CISD Foreign Exchange Student Waiver application to TEA for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 School Years

Administrator Responsible/Position: Marivel Sedillo, Deputy Superintendent / Chief Academic Officer
Maritza Gonzalez, Director of Guidance, College & Career Readiness

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☒ Action needed

☐ Information only

☐ Receive input

B. Authority for This Action:

☐ Local Policy:

☒ Law or Rule
TEC §25.001(e)

☐ N/A

C. Goal or Need Addressed: This waiver allows the district to limit the number of Foreign Exchange students to six students per year per comprehensive high school.

D. Summary:

☒ **Previous board action relating to this item:** This waiver has been previously approved by the Hays CISD Board of Trustees and the TEA beginning in 2012 through the most recent approval in 2023 that extended the waiver through the end of 2024-2025 school year.

☒ **Future action anticipated:** This waiver application will need to be reviewed every 2 years to determine whether it continues to be necessary to pursue for Hays CISD.

☒ **Background information:** Pursuant to TEC §25.001(e) this expedited waiver allows the district to limit the number of foreign exchange students to a number that is not less than five per high school. The Hays CISD Guidance and Counseling Department requests to apply for a waiver to limit the number of foreign exchange students to six students per year per comprehensive high school. The local Board of Trustees must approve the waiver before the application is submitted to TEA. Historically, HCISD has limited this number of foreign exchange students in our high schools so that we could accommodate the application requests. These students enroll classified as Juniors and do not graduate due to STAAR EOC requirements and completing graduation plans. Our campuses work hard to ensure they are involved in school activities. Many of these students can have issues with the assimilation to a new culture and a new home environment. Therefore, the case management of these students should be a manageable number. Six has been a successful number in the past.

E. Comments Received:

☒ Cabinet

☐ DLT

☐ FBOC

☐ Teacher Org. Reps.

☐ Other:

F. Administrative Recommendation: The administration recommends the board approve the application for Foreign Exchange Student waiver for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

Advantages and benefits of this proposal: This waiver allows campuses to limit the number of foreign exchange students, allowing campuses to provide adequate services to meet the need of all students.

Expected results in terms of student benefit/achievement: All students will receive the counseling and guidance support they need to be successful.

Effect of this action on other parts of the system: This action supports both the instructional and counseling/guidance supports provided at the comprehensive high schools.

Consequences of not approving this recommendation: Not approving this recommendation may reduce the quality of services provided to students on impacted campuses.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost: No cost

☐ Budget

☐ Bond

☐ Grant/Special Funds:

☐ Other

☐ Budget Amendment Needed

Prior Year Spending:

Reasons for rejecting alternatives: Not limiting the number of foreign exchange students may result in an impact to student services.

Future/Ongoing:

H. Monitoring and Reporting Time Line:

Person responsible for evaluating this decision or action: Marivel Sedillo

Evaluation method and time line: Director of Counseling and Guidance will annually review the impact of foreign exchange students on campus services.

Next report to the board: Report upon request or in the Spring of 2027 when this waiver would need to be reviewed for renewal.

I. Suggested Motion:

I move that the Hays CISD Board of Trustees approve the submission of the Hays CISD application to the Texas Education Agency for a Foreign Exchange Student waiver for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, as presented.