



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC Approval of Expedited State Waivers for the 2009-10 School Year for Additional Staff

Development Days, Early Release, and Modified Schedule/TAKS Testing Days Waiver

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Superintendent's Office

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: April 22, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the following Expedited State Waiver Applications:

- Modified Schedule/TAKS Testing Days Waiver. The dates being requested are: March 3, 2010; April 27, 28, 29, 30, 2010
- Staff Development Waiver for 2009-2010: The state allows up to three days for general staff development in lieu of student instruction days. The dates are October 12, 2009, February 19, 2010 and May 21, 2010
- Staff Development for Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics; Science; and/or Social Studies Waiver for 2009-10: The state allows up to two days in lieu of student instruction days for this purpose. These dates have been designated as December 18, 2009 and January 18, 2010.
- Early Release Waiver for 2009-10 school year: The District is requesting for 1 (one) early release day throughout the school year. Districts are allowed early release time for staff development or for other locally determined needs. The early release date has been designated as May 27, 2010, the last day of classes.

NOTE: The DEIC was presented with this information for review as the calendar options for the 2009-10 school year were presented.

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:



APPLICATION FOR EXPEDITED AND GENERAL STATE WAIVERS

General Instructions. For Expedited Waivers, please complete Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4. For General State Waivers, please complete Sections 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7. **Bolded** items in Section 2 and Section 3 must be completed. Please direct questions to the State Waiver Unit at (512) 463-9630 or www.tea.state.tx.us/waivers.

SECTION 1. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ALL WAIVERS.

District Name: United Independent School District County/District No. 240 - 903
 Address: 201 Lindenwood Dr. Telephone No. (956) - 473 - 6219
 City, State, Zip: Laredo, TX 78045 Fax No. (956) - 728 - 8691
 Contact Person: Gloria S. Rendon Telephone No. (956) - 473 - 6243
 Email: grendon@uisd.net

SECTION 2. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ALL WAIVERS.

Superintendent: Roberto J. Santos _____ Signature _____
 Dr. Mr. Typed Name
 Mrs. Ms.
 Board President: Pat Campos _____ Signature _____
 Typed Name
Date Board Approval: 3/25/09
Board Vote – For _____ **Against** _____ **Abstain** _____ **Absent** _____

SECTION 3. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ALL WAIVERS.

Comments of appropriate Site-Based Decision Making Committee: _____

SBDM Committee Chairperson Signature _____

SECTION 4. EXPEDITED WAIVERS. PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- Staff Development Waiver**, pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.081. This waiver allows the district or charter school to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of a maximum of three days of student instruction. Please state the number of days requested. 3
 Please check the years requested: 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Reading/English Language Arts; Mathematics; Science; and/or Social Studies Staff Development Waiver**, pursuant to TEC §25.081. This waiver allows the district or charter school to conduct additional staff training for reading/english language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies strategies aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in lieu of a maximum of two days of student instruction.
 Please check no more than two subject areas for only one day each:
 Reading/English Language Arts _____ Mathematics 1 Science 1 Social Studies _____
 Please check the years requested: 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Staff Development through Participation in Eligible Conferences Waiver**, pursuant to TEC §25.081. This waiver allows the district or charter school to send staff to eligible conferences for staff development to improve student performance in lieu of one day of student instruction.
 Please check the years requested: 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Early Release Waiver**, pursuant to TEC §25.082. This waiver allows the district or charter school to conduct school for less than seven (7) hours for a total of six (6) days of student instruction to provide additional training in educational methodologies and/or to provide time to meet the needs of students and local communities. Please state the number of days requested. 1
 Please check the years requested: 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Modified Schedule/TAKS Testing Days Waiver**, pursuant to TEC §25.082. This waiver allows the district or charter school to modify the schedule of classes on TAKS testing days during the current school year to reduce interruptions during testing periods. This waiver is approved yearly.

SECTION 4. EXPEDITED WAIVERS

TEXTBOOK WAIVERS: Pursuant to TEC §7.056. This waiver allows school districts and open enrollment charter schools the opportunity to purchase instructional materials and obtain reimbursement up to the state maximum cost called for in a proclamation, for which no textbook was offered for consideration by publishers. These courses include, but are not limited to:

- Proclamation 1997: Remedial Reading Grade 6:**
 - 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Proclamation 1999: Photojournalism, Astronomy; AP Environmental Science; IB Environmental Systems; and AP Human Geography:**
 - 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Proclamations 2001 and 2002: Business Education; Technology Education/Industrial Technology Education; Trade and Industrial Education; Languages Other Than English; and Fine Arts:**
 - 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011
- Proclamation 2004: IB Mathematical Studies Subsidiary Level; IB Mathematical Higher Level; and IB Advanced Mathematics Subsidiary Level.**
 - 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011

A complete list of subjects eligible for waivers and the maximum costs allowed may be viewed at:
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/waivers/subjectsnobids.pdf>

Foreign Exchange Student Waiver, 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. An application to limit the number to less than five per high school must be submitted as a general waiver. The number requested by the district for an expedited waiver is __ (state number of students) per high school. The waiver is subject to the provisions in the attached guidelines and FAQ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/waivers/ForeignExchangeGuidelines.doc> <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/waivers/ForeignExchangeFAQ.doc>.

The waiver will be issued if it is determined that admission of more than this number indicated will (check all that apply):

- (1) create a financial or staffing hardship for the district;
- (2) diminish the district's ability to provide high quality educational services for the district's domestic students; or
- (3) require domestic students to compete with foreign exchange students for educational resources.

Please check the years requested: 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011

SECTION 5. GENERAL WAIVER

Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs, pursuant to TEC 37.008(g). This waiver allows the district to use more than 18% of the district's SCE allotment to provide supplemental services for disciplinary alternative education programs established under Section 37.008. The school district is required to state the reason for needing to exceed the 18% limit and to report the number of students in each grade level, by demographic subgroup, not making satisfactory progress under the state's assessment system. The district is also required to submit a copy of their district/campus improvement plan which provides a description of their disciplinary alternative education program for TEA review. The district/campus improvement plan must conform to the requirements in TEC Section 11.252 and 11.253 and the Financial Accountability Resource Guide, 9.2.3. This waiver is granted for one year and the waiver must be resubmitted in writing by July 20 through the Texas Education Agency waiver office for each subsequent year, in accordance with TEA policies and deadlines for filing. Please state the total percentage of the district's SCE allotment that is being requested to provide basic services at the DAEP. _____

SECTION 6. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR GENERAL WAIVERS.

- Course Requirement
- Pregnancy Related Services On-Campus CEHI
- Study of Electronic Courses
- Other Specify _____
- Foreign Exchange Student Waiver (one to four students)
Please indicate the number of students admitted in previous three years. _____ See Guidelines and FAQ
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/waivers/ForeignExchangeGuidelines.doc>
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/waivers/ForeignExchangeFAQ.doc>

SECTION 7. COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ALL WAIVERS OTHER THAN EXPEDITED WAIVERS.

PLEASE USE SEPARATE PAGE.

1. Give a brief narrative description of the requested waiver. For foreign exchange student waiver, description must address the circumstances applicable to the district under TEC § Section 25.001(e) (1), (2), or (3).
2. Does the district or campus plan reflect the need for this waiver? If yes, what is the specific objective impacted by the waiver?
3. Cite the Texas Education Code or the Texas Administration Code that the district or campus wishes to waive?
4. Describe the plan to be implemented, if the waiver is granted.
5. How will granting this waiver help achieve the district's or campus' objective?
6. Please explain how the school district or campus will evaluate the impact of the waiver towards meeting the district's or campus' goal.
7. Please specify the school years for which the waiver is requested, to a maximum of three years.

2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED OR FAXED. THE FAX NUMBER IS (512) 475-3666.

State Waiver Unit | Texas Education Agency | 1701 North Congress Avenue | Austin, TX 78701-1494 | Phone (512) 463-9630