

Consider approval of Texas Education Agency Annual Expedited Waivers
October 21, 2024

1. **Board Goal:** UCISD will provide all students with a high quality education to improve the overall outcomes for student academic success. In doing this, student achievement will improve 3+ points in tested subject areas in the “Meets” category by July 2025 and CCMR data will improve by 20% by September 2027.

UCISD will build trust with stakeholders by focusing on communicating with families, demonstrating professionalism, and creating supportive systems for staff to grow professionally. We will increase opportunities for family engagement, increase teacher attendance by 3+ percent, and support uncertified teachers to become certified, decreasing uncertified teachers by 50%, by June 2025.

2. **Background:**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) allows school districts to apply for a variety of waivers. These waivers allow school systems alternative solutions for state mandates and regulations. We are requesting approval to apply for the following waivers:

Staff Development

This waiver allows the district and charter schools to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of student instruction during the school year. Effective with the 2018-2019 school year, the Staff Development Minutes Waiver provides for a maximum of 2,100 total waiver minutes to use for professional development for districts and charter schools that provide operational and instructional minutes.

Teacher Data Portal of the Texas Assessment Management System

The assessment data portal of the Texas Assessment Management System became fully operational in October 2011 and complies with the requirements of Texas Education Code (TEC), §32.258, as enacted by House Bill 3, 81st Legislature. Districts that are interested in fulfilling the requirement of TEC, §32.258 to provide teacher access to student assessment data through a local student data system must apply for an expedited waiver from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The local data portal must meet the following requirements:

- The local data portal must be accessible to all teachers in the core subject areas (reading/English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) and must allow teachers to view their own students’ assessment data. It is a local decision whether to extend access to teachers outside of the four core subjects; however, districts must consider whether there exists a sound educational reason, allowable under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), for non-core teachers to have access to student-level data.
- Student data must be available from the 2007–2008 school year forward and include data indicating progress in student achievement.
- Student data must be available on or before the first instructional day of the year following the year in which the data were collected.
- The local data portal must permit comparisons of student performance at the classroom, campus, district, and state levels. Though it will not be necessary for local data portals to contain

statewide data for comparisons of student performance, local portals must include a link to the TEA's website where statewide reports are posted.

- As a condition to granting a waiver for teacher access to the state data portal, local systems must have all of the above data available to teachers.

3. Process: Districts apply for automated waivers through the Texas Education Agency Login (TEAL) secure environment. The District Editors create, completes, and submits the waiver applications. Once approved by TEA, the district will be notified by email.

4. Fiscal Impact:

None

5. Recommendation:

Board approval of the Teacher Data Portal of the Texas Assessment Management System and the Staff Development waiver applications.

6. Action Required:

Board action

6. Contact person:

Amy Graeber, CIO

Cash Keith, Director of Technology