

Types of State Waivers

Early Release

This expedited waiver allows the districts and charter schools to conduct school for less than seven (7) hours for a total of six (6) days of student instruction a year.

- These days may provide additional training in education methodologies and /or to provide time to meet the needs of student and local communities, or districts may shorten the student instructional day to release school: to conduct teacher collaboration or planning, to conduct teacher parent conferences, release prior to a holiday, game playoff or local school related activities.

We use these days for semester exams at the secondary level with two early release days in the fall and three in the spring. At the elementary level, teachers complete individualized assessments and conduct parent conferences during the first full week of October.

Modified Schedule/State Assessment Days

This waiver allows the district or charter school to modify the schedule of classes for students who are not being tested to report to and attend school after the state assessment testing period has ended; therefore, reducing the interruptions during testing period. This waiver request may be approved for up to three years.

Modified schedules on state testing days are necessary due to the number of staff members that are required to supervise the testing process.

Foreign Exchange Student

Foreign Exchange Student [Q&A](#) and [Foreign Exchange Guidelines](#)

This expedited waiver allows the district or charter schools to limit the number of foreign exchanges students to a number that is **5 or more** per high school. A request to limit the number to less than five per high school must be submitted as a general waiver application.

Our campus principals recognize the tremendous benefits of hosting exchanges students in our schools. This waiver allows the district's existing students to benefit from the exchange process but also allows us to limit the number of exchange students to 5 per high school.

Teacher Data Portal of the Texas Assessment Management System

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature enacted legislation to provide greater access to student assessment data for students, parents, educators, and the general public. This waiver allows our district to continue to utilize our own internal data assessment portal rather than the portal designed by the state. We believe this is important so that we have the ability to customize the portal to provide greater ease of access for teachers.

Timeline for Accelerated Instruction

As part of the Student Success Initiative (SSI), districts and charter schools are required to provide accelerated instruction to students in grades 5 and 8 who do not demonstrate proficiency on the STAAR reading and/or mathematics tests. This accelerated instruction must occur after each administration of the test, including the third administration. To assist districts in meeting the accelerated instruction provision after the third administration of the test, the agency is allowing districts to apply for a waiver to adjust the timeline for providing accelerated instruction to students who fail the third administration. This waiver allows principals and teachers to design and implement individualized accelerated instruction programs for maximum student benefit rather than according to a summer timeline that has been shortened due to the date of the third test administration.

Staff Development - General

This expedited waiver allows the district and charter schools to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of a maximum of **three** days of student instruction.

Staff Development - Subject Areas

This expedited waiver allows the district and charter schools to request up to two days to conduct additional staff training for reading/language arts, mathematics, science and/or social studies training one day per subject in lieu of student instruction for two days.

Staff Development - Conferences

This expedited waiver allows the district and charter schools to attend or participate in professional conferences to improve student performance relating to their assignment. Texas Education Code §25.081.

These staff development waivers allow for participation by the entire district team in job-specific, intensive professional learning activities that are designed to improve student achievement. Campus and district professional development is provided for returning teachers, new employees, and for job alike work teams who support our campuses.