Request for Early Release Days

In response to teacher input and with regard to district plans and the school calendar, we are requesting the following days as ½ day staff development days for 06-07.

- August 30, 2006
- Oct. 5, 2006
- November 8, 2006
- April 27, 2007

The early release days will be used for our professional learning communities. CISD staff will again employ professional learning communities (PLCs) as the model for our district staff development for the 2006-2007 school year. Staff will be allowed to pick new groups with which to work and new topics to study. The following parameters will apply:

- All professional staff and instructional paraprofessionals will participate in a PLC.

- All PLCs must be comprised of 3-6 people. Of that group, at least 2 campuses must be represented. High school teachers are the only exception; they may work exclusively with other high school teachers, if they so choose.

- Topics to be studied do not necessarily need to connect with one of the Best Practices. However, each PLC will again be expected to study and implement a new strategy or practice. Groups will once again share their new learnings toward the end of the school year.

- Suggested areas of study for the PLCs next year are:

  o Developing specific instructional responses to curriculum-based assessments and other student assessment data
  o Identifying and implementing interventions to support students with special needs
  o Revamping classroom-based assessments to better align with TEKS and TAKS
  o Creating systems for tracking each of your students' mastery of their TEKS Student Expectations throughout the year.
  o Developing some master lessons, base on desired student outcomes, and then refining them until students achieve desired results

We are hopeful that the early release days will be approved. We feel confident that the PLCs will be even more effective in the 2nd year of implementation. Research continues to support this model as the most transformative type of staff development.