

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
Board of Trustees Meeting July 21, 2016

Consider Approval of 2016 – 2017 Pre-Kindergarten Waiver of 210 Minutes School Day

SUMMARY:

This consent agenda item requests approval to apply for a 2016 – 2017 Pre-Kindergarten Waiver of 210 Minutes School Day from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). As allowed by TEA and in accordance with HB 2610, pre-kindergarten programs that offer less than a 210 minute school day, but offer at least 2 hours (120 minutes) of instruction per day are eligible to submit a one-time waiver.

The Denton ISD pre-kindergarten programs provide 180 minutes of instruction in the half-day programs. The half-day pre-kindergarten program in the Denton ISD allows for 90 minutes of language arts instruction, 50 minutes of mathematics instruction, 20 minutes of science and/or social studies instruction, and a 20 minute recess. It is important to note our half-day pre-kindergarten programs are separate and apart from our HEAD Start program, which allows for a full day of instruction.

Academic Programs, together with the Director of Intervention, will monitor developing legislation related to instructional minute(s) requirements of the state of Texas pre-kindergarten programs and will adjust start/end times for the 2017 – 2018 school year, if necessary.

BOARD GOAL:

Vision – In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority
- Remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
- Develop a budget focused on student and professional learning

Teaching & Learning – In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Cultivate a consistent strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students
- Establish high expectations with a curriculum that fosters inquiry and critical thinking
- Develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life
- Stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning, technology and leadership
- Advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates

Climate – In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical
- Instill in students a love of life-long learning

Parent and Community Involvement – In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students
- Provide support services and promote health, wellness and safety for students and families

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community
- Create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community
- Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district goals as appropriate
- Provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

No previous Board action for the 2015-2016 school year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

No additional background information to report other than that reflected in the summary of this consent agenda item.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

No additional significant issues to report other than those reflected in the summary of this consent agenda item.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

In consideration of the requirements set forth in HB 2610, half-day pre-kindergarten programs must have a total of 37,800 minutes since pre-kindergarten is funded on a half day of ADA. Without approval and submission of the 2016 – 2017 Pre-Kindergarten Waiver of 210 Minutes School Day, ADA and FSP funding calculations may be impacted.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Approval of this action allows the District to submit a 2016 – 2017 Pre-Kindergarten Waiver of 210 Minutes School Day, to waive the HB 2610 instructional minutes requirement in calculating ADA and FSP funding for our pre-kindergarten programs.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Texas Education Agency will process the formal request as approved by the Denton ISD board of trustees.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

None

ALTERNATIVES:

Without consent of approval to submit the 2016 – 2017 Pre-Kindergarten Waiver of 210 Minutes School Day, the average daily attendance for our pre-kindergarten programs will be utilized in determining ADA and FSP funding calculations, having a negative impact to overall funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approves the 2016 – 2017 Pre-Kindergarten Waiver of 210 Minutes School Day request to be submitted for consideration to the Texas Education Agency.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Gwendolyn M. Perkins, Area Superintendent for Academic Programs

ATTACHMENT:

House Bill 2610 Frequently Asked Questions, Version 4, February 9, 2016

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: Gwendolyn M. Perkins

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____