

## Waivers for Board Approval

Board approval for the following waivers will be for maximum time periods as allowed by TEA.

### **Staff Development Days- General : 3 Days**

This 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. The commissioner of education reserves the right to modify or revoke approvals for the second or third year of the waiver, if such a change is required, districts will be notified in writing.

### **Staff Development through Subject Area Training- Social Studies: 2 Days**

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, or social studies training one day per subject in lieu of student instruction for **two days**. The extra day or days must be related to staff development on the state assessment for reading/language arts, mathematics, science or social studies, respectively on the early reading diagnostic instruments for kindergarten through grade two.

### **Staff Development through Subject Area Training- Mathematics: 2 Days**

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, or social studies training one day per subject in lieu of student instruction for **two days**. The extra day or days must be related to staff development on the state assessment for reading/language arts, mathematics, science or social studies, respectively on the early reading diagnostic instruments for kindergarten through grade two.

### **Modified Schedule/State Assessment Testing 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.

### **Timeline for Accelerated Instruction**

As part of the Student Success Initiative (SSI), districts and charter schools must 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. Students may advance to or be placed in the next grade level only if (1) they complete all accelerated instruction required by the grade placement committee (GPC), and (2) the GPC determines, by unanimous decision, that the students are likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next school year given additional accelerated instruction during the course of the year.

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. The waiver will be granted if districts meet certain conditions, including identifying and documenting the intensive instruction a student needs, targeting this instruction to the reporting categories on which the student was weak, and ensuring that this instruction is completed during the first six weeks of school. In addition to this intensive accelerated instruction, districts must develop an accelerated instruction plan that will provide the student with ongoing instructional support during the entire school year.

We also need their approval for Missed School Days Waiver for the two additional bad weather days we took. Here's the description of that waiver:

### **Missed Instructional Day Waiver: February 24, 2015 & February 25, 2015**

Districts or campuses can request a waiver for excused absences if instructional days are missed due to inclement weather, health, safety-related, or other issues. The first two days missed for any reason **must be made up**. See *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* 3.8.2.2. If because of weather, safety, or health issues, your district misses additional instructional days **beyond the two designated makeup days schedule**, your school district can apply to the TEA for a missed school day waiver.