



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC Approval of Expedited and General State Waivers for the 2017-2018 School Year

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Superintendent's Office

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: April 19, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the following Expedited State Waiver applications in the following areas:

- **Early Release Waiver:** This waiver allows the District to conduct school for less than seven hours for a total of six days of student instruction to provide additional training in educational methodologies and/or to provide time to meet the needs of students and local communities. The District's high schools will have 6 early releases: December 19th, 20th, 21st, May 29th, 30th and 31st. This will allow the high school students to take final exams. Middle and Elementary School students will observe an early release on May 31st to close out the 2017-2018 school year.
- **Staff Development 2017-2018:** This waiver allows the District to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of a maximum of three days of instruction.

October 9, 2017
February 19, 2018
May 18, 2018

- **Reading/English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and/or Social Studies Staff Development Waiver:** This waiver allows the District to conduct additional staff training in the core content areas and to provide strategies aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in lieu of a maximum of two days of student instruction.
The District will be requesting the maximum 2 days in lieu of student instruction days. The 2017-2018 reflects 175 days of instruction.
March 29, 2018
April 30, 2018
- **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. If a parent initiates an appeal of his or her child's retention, the Grade Placement Committee (GPC) shall review all facts and circumstances in accordance with state law. A student may advance to or be placed in the next grade level only if (1) he or she completes all accelerated instruction required by the GPC, and (2) the GPC determines, by unanimous decision, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next school year given additional accelerated instruction during the course of the year.

RATIONALE:

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.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**