

2011-2012 Request for Maximum Class Size Exception

September 27, 2011

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of the 2011-2012 Request for Maximum Class Size Exception

BOARD GOAL:

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- review and adjust policies and procedures effectively to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community
- develop a budget focused on student and professional learning

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- There has been no previous board action on this topic.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- In the spring of 2011, the DISD Board of Trustees conducted a series of budget planning workshops. Due to the recent reduction of 11 million dollars for the 2011-12 school year, the district was required to reduce expenditures. The Trustees approved the budget for 2011-2012 at its June meeting. In order to meet that budget, the following waiver is required.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

- This waiver increases individual class sizes above the state required 22:1 ratio for K-4 grade classrooms. DISD teacher will see an increase in the number of students in their classrooms. Currently 83 K-4 (approximately 16%) across the district currently exceed the 22:1 class size ratio. The district average for non-title elementary campus K-4 classrooms is 21:1. While the district average for title elementary campus is 19:1.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- This waiver request is required based upon financial hardship. Increasing class sizes necessitating this waiver allowed the district to reduce 37 teaching units at a cost of \$60,000 per unit, yielding approximately 2.2 million in cost saving included in the 2011-2012 school budget.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- Passage will allow the district function within the existing budget reductions.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

- The attached document will be submitted to the TEA

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed at this time

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

- The superintendent recommends the Board of Trustees approve the exception request as presented.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Jamie Wilson, Deputy Superintendent

ATTACHMENT:

- Texas Education Agency- Request for Maximum Class Size Waiver

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____