

NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Subject: **Navarro ISD Bilingual Program TEA Waiver**

Date: September 29, 2025

Administrator Responsible/Position: Wendy McMullen, Chief Academic Officer

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☐ Information Only

☒ Action Needed

☐ Receive Input

B. Authority for This Action:

☐ Local Policy

☒ Law or Rule

☐ N/A

C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:

☒ Strategic Plan

☒ District/Campus
Improvement
Plan

☒ Other

Priorities

☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.

☒ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.

☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.

☒ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.

☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

Board Goals for 2023-2028

☒ **Goal 1*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☒ **Goal 2*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☒ **Goal 3*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

D.

Summary: **Texas schools need a bilingual program waiver when they cannot provide appropriately certified teachers for their emergent bilingual (EB) students. This waiver, known as a bilingual exception or ESL waiver, allows a district to operate an alternative program while it works to hire or train certified staff. It serves as a temporary measure to inform the**

Texas Education Agency (TEA) of the need for certified teachers, outline the district's plan to secure them, and ensure alternative methods meet needs of emergent bilingual students during the program transition year.

Background Information:

Navarro ISD has experienced a steady increase in enrollment within our Emergent Bilingual (EB) program. We have now reached the state-mandated threshold of 20 or more Emergent Bilingual students in a single grade level, triggering the requirement to implement a bilingual education program in accordance with TEA regulations. In anticipation of this growth, the district leadership team has proactively begun preparing for this transition. For the 2025–2026 school year, Navarro ISD will apply for a bilingual program exception waiver. During this time, we will focus on recruiting qualified staff and laying the groundwork to fully implement a compliant bilingual program for the 2026–2027 school year.

E. Comments Received:

☒ LT

☒ DEIC

☒ Other

All agenda items are reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

F.

Administrative Recommendation:

Authorize the district to submit a Bilingual Program Exception Waiver to the Texas Education Agency for the 2025–2026 school year.

G. Fiscal Impact and Cost:

Amount: N/A

☒ Budget

☐ Grant/Special Funds

☐ Other

☐ Bond

H.

Exhibits: Bilingual/ESL Certification Pathways & Bilingual Exception Waiver Information, Current Emergent Bilingual Program Enrollment Numbers

“I move to approve/disapprove/postpone”

I. Action: I move to approve for the district to submit a Bilingual Program Exception Waiver to the Texas Education Agency for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion by: _____

Second by: _____

FOR: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

AGAINST: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

ABSTAIN: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

MOTION CARRIED/DENIED/POSTPONED