

June 23, 2006

Jim Davis
Texas Education Agency
Waiver Division
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

Subject: Waiver # 20924

Mr. Davis:

In a telephone conversation with Dr. Bill Newton, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services on June 6, 2006, you indicated that the Keller ISD could apply to amend the current Foreign Exchange Waiver to a reduced number of students based on high growth and overcrowding in the District's high schools. We appreciate your willingness to help us address this issue. The following information, including attachments will detail our request for a reduction.

Background

For several years Keller ISD accepted, based on a waiver, ten students into the district. By District Policy those students have been allocated five per campus. In 2005-2006 Keller ISD for the first time had a senior class at three high schools. For that reason, we increased the total number of students to be allowed into the district to fifteen, still expecting to divide the students five per high school. This worked fine for the 2005-2006 school year.

Keller ISD has generally been an open transfer district regarding students requesting a move from one attendance zone to another. Because of continued high growth, the District redrew boundary lines in February anticipating the opening of four new schools in the fall of 2006. Additionally, the administration restricted the ability of students to transfer based on projected enrollment in the District's schools. Projections indicated that an additional 2000 students should be expected for 2006-2007. It was determined that a number of school should be closed to in-district transfers.

Because of this, both Keller High School and Central High School were closed to in-district transfers. The Board directed the administration to not accept Foreign Exchange students at campuses that were closed to in-district transfers. We felt we could do this based on our local policy that restricted Foreign Exchange students to no more than five per campus. We have since been informed that if the waiver says fifteen, we must accept fifteen. Because of continued high growth and serious overcrowding issues at two high schools, we do not feel the district can continue to support fifteen Foreign Exchange students.

Proposal

The District proposes the following amendment to the current Foreign Exchange Waiver:

- For 2006-2007 the District will accept only those students who have completed application materials prior to the approval of the amended waiver. These Foreign Exchange students will be placed at Fossil Ridge High School. No additional Foreign Exchange students will be accepted into the District.
- For 2007-2008 the District will accept no more than five Foreign Exchange students per high school, based on whether the high school is open to in-district transfers. As a campus reaches its capacity and is closed to in-district transfers, it will also be closed to any additional Foreign Exchange students for that year.

District practice is to determine early in the spring each year which campuses are to be closed to in-district transfers for the following year. As soon as this is determined, the availability of campuses will be communicated to the various foreign exchange representatives. Each organization will have an equal opportunity to place students in the available spots.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

James Veitenheimer, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Attachments:

- Board action item regarding amendment to the current Foreign Exchange Waiver dated June 22, 2006
- Board action item regarding Foreign Exchange Waiver, dated December 12, 2005
- Board action item regarding closed campuses dated February 27, 2006
- Board Policy FD local
- Keller ISD Administrative Regulations regarding Foreign Exchange students.