

Cedar Hill Independent School District BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Date: December 12, 2011

Presented by: Mr. Horace Williams, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Consider Suspension of SSI Requirements for 5th and 8th grade students in the 2011-2012 school year

Action Item

BOARD GOAL:

Design and implement a rigorous instructional delivery system that is data-driven and fosters student engagement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

According to EIE (Local) Policy, students in the 5th and 8th grades are required to achieve satisfactory performance on state assessments in ELA and mathematics as a requirement for promotion. This is in accordance with EIE (Legal) Policy and Education Code 28.021(c), which is referred to as the Student Success Initiative (SSI). Due to the change from TAKS to STAAR assessment instruments, passing standards for the new tests will not be set and implemented by the state before the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

To address this issue, the CHISD Board of Trustees resolved on June 13, 2011 to provide an alternative requirement for 5th and 8th grade promotion. The resolution requires that students attain an average of 70% or higher on the three formative District Assessments offered in ELA and mathematics throughout the year. According to our TASB policy analyst, this resolution created an alternate SSI requirement that is subject to the same mandates for accelerated instruction and intervention that were mandated for state assessments.

At the time the CHISD resolution was approved, TEA's estimated timeframe for the release of STAAR information booklets was August 1, 2011. However, these documents were not released as planned until a later date. In addition, sample questions and additional guidance documents have continued to be posted throughout the fall semester.

RECOMMENDATION:

Due to the ongoing changes that have been released from TEA concerning the STAAR assessments, The District recommends the Board rescind the prior local SSI resolution. The District recommends that the Board suspend for the 2011-2012 school year only the portions of EIE (Local) policy create an alternate SSI assessment.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

For the 2011-2012 school year only, approve the suspension the portions of EIE (Local) policy that require students in grades 5 and 8 to meet the passing standards on the applicable state-mandated assessment instruments for those grade levels to be promoted to the next grade.

POLICY AUTHORIZATION:

EIE (Legal) refers to grade advancement testing requirements. These passing standards will not be established for the 2011-2012 school year; only raw score data will be available.

CONTACT PERSON:

Dr. Homer Carter, Chief Academic Officer
Rachel Jones, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

FUNDING SOURCE:

n/a

ENCLOSURES:

n/a