



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: Action Item - Foreign Exchange Student Waiver

PRESENTER: Kathy Allen and Scott Kessel

ALIGNS TO BOARD PRIORITY:

- Learning – The District will provide an aligned, rigorous, curriculum, with instructional and technology programs preparing students to meet or exceed all educational standards.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Currently, Aledo ISD accepts foreign exchange student applications in both the fall and spring semester. On average, the District enrolls between five to eight foreign exchange students each school year.
- In the past, foreign exchange students have never been required to take TAKS assessments unless the exchange student intended to graduate from their host school.
- Beginning with STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) exams, foreign exchange students are now required to take EOCs in all courses in which they are enrolled and where an EOC test is given. Allowing exchange students to enroll in the spring semester places the students at an extreme disadvantage in preparation for a STAAR EOC exam. This disadvantage is due to the fact the exams are administered in April and May and are based on mastery of skills taught for an entire school year.
- Exchange student scores will be applied to the District's accountability rating.
- Annually, foreign exchange student programs promote Aledo ISD as an option for placing students from other countries. Aledo ISD acknowledges and appreciates that foreign exchange student programs offer valuable enrichment experiences for the foreign exchange students, as well as the students in our district. Administration wants to ensure that all students continue to benefit from the cultural experiences that are gleaned from foreign exchange student programs while providing the most successful academic experience for all students enrolled in Aledo ISD.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS: Consider the approval for administration to seek a TEA waiver for Aledo ISD that would limit the enrollment of foreign exchange students to five students in the fall semester of each academic school year.

FISCAL NOTE: There are no fiscal implications for applying for the waiver from TEA.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: Administration recommends the approval for Aledo ISD to seek a TEA waiver that would limit the enrollment of foreign exchange students to five students in the fall semester of each academic school year.