



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC** Approval of Expedited and General State Waivers for the 2015-2016 School Year

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Superintendent's Office

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** March 25, 2015

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve the following Expedited State Waiver applications in the following areas:

- **Early Release Waiver:** This waiver allows the District to conduct school for less than seven hours for a total of six days of student instruction to provide additional training in educational methodologies and/or to provide time to meet the needs of students and local communities. The District's high schools will have 6 early releases: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, May 31, June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will allow the high school students to take final exams. Middle and Elementary School students will observe an early release on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to close out the 2015-2016 school year.
- **Staff Development 2015-2016:** This waiver allows the District to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of a maximum of three days of instruction.

September 7, 2015

October 12, 2015

January 4, 2016

- **Reading/English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and/or Social Studies Staff Development Waiver:** This waiver allows the District to conduct additional staff training in the core content areas and to provide strategies aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in lieu of a maximum of two days of student instruction.

The District will be requesting the maximum 5 days in lieu of student instruction days. The 2015-2016 reflects 175 days of instruction.

January 18, 2016

May 16, 2016

- As part of the Student Success Initiative (SSI), districts and charter schools are required to provide accelerated instruction to students in grades 5 and 8 who do not demonstrate proficiency on the STAAR reading and/or mathematics tests. This accelerated instruction must occur after each administration of the test, including the third administration. If a parent initiates an appeal of his or her child's retention, the Grade Placement Committee (GPC) shall review all facts and circumstances in accordance with state law. A student may advance to or be placed in the next grade level only if (1) he or she completes all accelerated instruction required by the GPC, and (2) the GPC determines, by unanimous decision, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next school year given additional accelerated instruction during the course of the year.

**RATIONALE:**

To assist districts in meeting the accelerated instruction provision after the third administration of the test, the agency is allowing districts to apply for a waiver to adjust the timeline for providing accelerated instruction to students who fail the third administration. The waiver will be granted if districts meet certain conditions, including identifying and documenting the intensive instruction a student needs, targeting this instruction to the reporting categories on which the student was weak, and ensuring that this instruction is completed during the first six weeks of school. In addition to this intensive accelerated instruction, districts must develop an accelerated instruction plan that will provide the student with ongoing instructional support during the entire school.

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION**

**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**