



Board of Trustees Valley Mills Independent School District

AGENDA ITEM: E-5

DATE: February 18, 2015

SUBJECT: District Waivers for 2015-2016

NEW BUSINESS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In order to support the District's 2015-2016 school calendar, submission of waiver applications to the Texas Education Agency are necessary with the following provisions:

- A. Staff Development Waiver** – The waiver enables the district to conduct staff training on strategies designed to improve student performance. To accommodate the needs identified by the district and the improvement committee during the calendar development process, the request is being submitted for the maximum number of days allowable under the waiver application.

❖ Waiver Days: October 12, 2015, January 4, 2016, and February 15, 2016

- B. Early Release Waiver** – The waiver will permit the district to conduct school for less than seven hours to provide training and/or to provide time to meet local needs. The district is requesting all six days allowable under the waiver process. At this time, early release days have been designated on the calendar, as follows:

- ❖ December 18 and June 2: Christmas Break and Last Day of School
- ❖ October 14: Parent Conferences at the Elementary / Professional Development activities at the Secondary Campus
- ❖ April 18: Professional Development activities



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- C. Timeline for Accelerated Instruction Waiver** - This waiver allows districts and charter schools to adjust the timeline for providing the accelerated instruction required for placement in/promotion to the next grade. This waiver is limited to students who fail the third administration of the grade 5 or 8 STAAR reading and/or mathematics test.

The waiver will be granted if districts meet certain conditions, including identifying and documenting the intensive instruction a student needs, targeting this instruction to test objectives 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 year.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend approval of the District Waivers to the Texas Education Agency for 2015-2016, as presented.

Judi Whitis, Superintendent