

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BEEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: April 21, 2009

Subject: Regional Day School Program
for the Deaf (RDSPD) Shared Service
Arrangement (SSA)

Submitted by: Cindy Clendennen

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On January 16, 2009 the Texas Education Agency issued new laws governing the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD) in Texas. No individual school district may apply for its own RDSPD but must enter into a shared services arrangement with one or more school districts. Beeville ISD has applied for state and federal deaf education dollars for approximately 12 years and has run an independent RDSPD. The district currently employs two staff members (an AI certified teacher and a signing paraprofessional) to provide services to Auditory Impaired students with salaries paid from deaf ed funds. However, with the new law, BISD will no longer be able to apply for funds or operate an independent RDSPD. The new law includes:

Texas Education Code Chapter 30, Subchapter D requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to have a process of providing, on a statewide basis, a suitable education to deaf or hard of hearing students. Part of this process involves the establishment of regional day school programs for the deaf (RDSPD) in each of the state's regions. Under 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1080, all school districts (hereafter local educational agencies or LEAs) shall have access to RDSPDs. Any student who has a hearing impairment which severely impairs processing linguistic information through hearing, even with recommended amplification, and which adversely affects educational performance shall be eligible for consideration for the RDSPD, subject to the recommendations of the student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. See 19 TAC §89.1080.

Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.007 authorizes LEAs to enter into written contracts to jointly operate their special education programs. These contracts are known as shared services arrangements (SSAs) or cooperatives (co-ops). Many LEAs find that sharing services with one or more other LEAs enables them to provide special education services more efficiently and effectively than would be the case if they provided the services individually. In addition to being able to jointly operate their special education programs, LEAs may also enter into SSAs to jointly operate RDSPD programs.

Because BISD must enter into a SSA and the district is located within the Region II ESC boundary, it is recommended to join the CCISD RDSPD. Beeville ISD students identified as Auditory Impaired, will receive services from the CCISD RDSPD either through itinerant (teacher) services or direct services on a CCISD campus depending on the severity of the disability and as per ARD recommendation.

Currently, BISD has 6 students identified as AI however, one is a private school 4 year old student and another may be dismissed from the program. It appears 4 BISD students will require RDSPD services. Because state and federal deaf ed funds will no longer be available to BISD, tuition and expenses will be absorbed through another fund source. Federal 224 (special education) funds may be used to absorb the costs.

ITEMS ADDRESSED:

RDSPD SSA

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

To enter into a SSA with the CCISD RDSPD

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

Per student allocation of \$20,000 + transportation if student(s) attends a CCISD campus

Per student allocation of \$12,000 if student(s) remains on a Beeville ISD campus

Loss of approximately \$58,000 federal and state deaf ed funds