

Abilene Independent School District Board Document - Agenda Item

Meeting Date: October 5, 2026

Meeting Type: Regular

Item Type: Action

Future Action Required: No

If Yes, Month: N/A

Subject: ESL/Bilingual Required Annual Program Evaluation and Waiver App Approval

Background Information: Texas law requires school districts that operate bilingual education and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) programs to conduct an annual evaluation of those programs. **19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1265**, pursuant to **Texas Education Code (TEC) §§29.053 and 29.062**, requires districts to collect and review a full range of data to determine program effectiveness and ensure the academic success of emergent bilingual students. The evaluation addresses student academic progress and English language development, student reclassification and subsequent academic performance, and professional development provided to program staff, along with additional information when applicable. The annual program evaluation must be **presented to the Board of Trustees before November 1 of each year** and retained at the district level. This agenda item fulfills the district's annual reporting requirement and provides the Board with information regarding the effectiveness of the district's bilingual and ESL programs. Additionally, the board will be asked to approve an application for ESL waiver(s) and bilingual exception(s) for teachers with gaps in certification.

Attached Supporting Documents: Program Evaluation; Presentation Slideshow

Fiscal Implications: The ESL/Bilingual programs are funded through the federal Title III grant along with the state of Texas Bilingual education allotment (BEA), given that we provide a qualifying program. AISD's one-way dual language program model in grades PK-5 results in a higher level of BEA funding than other program models, such as ESL pullout or transitional bilingual.

Administrative Recommendation: Approve waiver/exception application.

Contact Person: Dr. John Kuhn, AISD Director of Multilingual Achievement