

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
STATE WAIVER UNIT

APPLICATION FOR FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION WAIVER

First Day of Instruction Waiver, pursuant to TEC §25.0811. This waiver allows the district to begin instruction for students before the week in which August 21st falls. For this purpose, Sunday is considered the first day of the week. The school district is required to publish a notice 60 days prior to submitting an application. The notice shall include the intent to apply and the specific date the district intends to begin the first day of instruction for students. The district shall hold a public hearing; and in the waiver application, the district shall include a summary of opinions and any consensus of opinion expressed at the public hearing concerning the beginning date of instruction for students. This waiver is granted for one year and an application is required for each subsequent year.

SECTION 1. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION.

District Name	Keller ISD	County/District No.	220-907
Address	350 Keller Parkway Keller, Texas 76248	Telephone No.	(817) 744-1000
Contact Person	Dr. Bill Newton	Fax No.	(817) 744-0565
		Telephone No.	(817) 744-1060

SECTION 2. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION.

Superintendent	Dr. James Veitenheimer	_____
	Typed Name	Signature
Board President	Richard Walker	_____
	Typed Name	Signature
Date of Board Approval for Waiver Request.	12 / 13 / 04	

SECTION 3. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION.

Comments of appropriate Site-Based Decision Making Committee:
After the public hearing on Monday, December 6, 2004, the community support for a waiver for first day of instruction is evident.
SBDM Committee Chairperson Signature

SECTION 4. COMPLETE THIS SECTION. PLEASE USE SEPARATE PAGE IF NECESSARY.

1. Give a brief narrative description of the requested waiver.
The Keller ISD Board of Trustees approved the 2004-2005 School Calendar on November 22, 2004. This calendar includes a first day of instruction prior to the week in which August 21 falls. A hearing as required by SB 108 was held on December 6, 2004 to determine community support for a First Day of Instruction Waiver. The result of the hearing was support for the waiver. Therefore, the Keller ISD Board of School Trustees requests that the Texas Education Agency grant a waiver for First Day of Instruction to begin on August 8, 2005 for the Keller ISD.
2. Does the district or campus plan reflect the need for this waiver? If yes, what is the specific objective impacted by the waiver? No
3. Describe the plan to be implemented, if the waiver is granted.
Instruction will begin on August 8, 2005.
4. How will granting this waiver help achieve the district or campus's objective?
This waiver meets the community's desire to continue a practice that is believed to be useful and academically sound.
5. Please explain how the school district or campus will evaluate the impact of the waiver towards meeting the district or campus's goal.
Continue the calendar development process that is currently in place that allows the community and its representatives (District and Campus Improvement Committees) to determine the calendar that best meets the community's needs. When the community wants the calendar to change, it will change.

6. Enter the date the public notice was published. 11 / 28 / 04
7. Enter start date included on the public notice published. 08 / 08 / 05
8. Enter the date of the public hearing. 12 / 06 / 04
9. Summarize consensus of opinions expressed at the public hearing:
Approximately 55% who spoke at the hearing were in favor of an early start date. Approximately 45% were not in favor. Major objections were: too short of a summer, increased energy costs, too hot to be in school and several comments not related to early start such as: breaks at the end of each nine week period are not helpful for those in extra curricular activities. Favorable comments included: Kids are ready to start school after two months off, the early start allows for less loss of retention for students, the early start allows for frequent breaks during the year which prevents "burnout".
10. Provide the following information regarding the public hearing:

Number attending the public hearing	20
Number registering in favor of the waiver	11
Number registering against the waiver	09
Number registering no position regarding the waiver	00
11. In the event other methods are used to gather community input regarding this waiver request, indicate whether the input received was characterized as favorable, unfavorable or neutral:
Responses were characterized as favorable.
For = 644
Against = 139
Neutral = 00

E-mail comments were solicited for those unable to attend the public hearing. Over 780 were received. Over 640 were in favor and over 130 were opposed. The District also does a Community and Teacher Survey each spring on which there is a question asking about support or non-support for the calendar. For Spring 2004, the Community Survey (3874 responses) showed that 84% of the community thought the calendar was either good or very good, while 12% felt it was poor or very poor. The Teacher Survey (898 responses) showed similar results with 87% rating the calendar as good or very good and 11% rating it as poor or very poor. The response to the calendar can be characterized as very favorable.

12. Include the copy of the public notice with the application.

All applications should be mailed or faxed. The fax number is (512) 475-3666.

State Waiver Unit
Texas Education Agency
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Austin, TX 78701-1494
Phone (512) 463-9630