

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests– Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#1 - High School – Accelerated Instruction Program Waiver of TEC §25.082(a)**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow drop-out students and/or over-aged students to attend a modified school day and to be enrolled in accelerated courses. This waiver will allow more students to recover credits and to obtain a high school diploma. The plan will include direct instruction and computer lab programs that support the instruction in Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. Students will receive credit by exam if applicable. The specific objective impacted by this waiver is drop-out prevention. The specific objective of this waiver is to improve the graduation rate and is identified in the school's SIP. ADA funding will be .5. The success of this waiver will be determined by the number of students that recover credits and/or receive their diploma as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Advanced Virtual Academy Austin Chavez Davis Jones Jordan Kashmere Lamar Lee Madison Reagan Sam Houston Scarborough Sharpstown Sterling Washington Westbury North Forest HS - Sep 12,2013

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#2 - High/Middle School – Attendance Reporting on Testing Days Waiver of TEC §42.006 (b)**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow students taking the main STAAR/TAKS test (re-testing days are excluded), to report to school at the regular bell schedule time. All other students will report to school on an abbreviated schedule. On these days, ADA reporting will be altered to accommodate the abbreviated schedule. Parents will be notified in writing prior to the opening of school. This waiver will ensure an uninterrupted and successful testing environment, and allow students the proper atmosphere to achieve greater success on the test. Non-testing students must report to school no later than four hours before the end of the school day. The specific objective of this waiver is to improve test results and is identified in the school's SIP. The success of this waiver will be determined by increased test scores as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
	Henry Project Chrysalis	Advanced Virtual Academy Austin Bellaire Challenge Chavez Davis East Early College Eastwood Academy Empowerment College Prep Furr Houston Academy International Stud. Jones Jordan Kashmere Lamar Lee Law Enf. and Criminal Justice Madison North Houston Early College Reach Reagan Sam Houston Scarborough Sharpstown Sharpstown International Sterling

		Waltrip Washington Westbury Westside Worthing North Forest HS - Sep 12,2013
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**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#3 - All Schools - Faculty Advisory Council Waiver of Local Board Policy BQB  
(LEGAL) (SPM 2560.B)**

This waiver is requested to afford the Shared Decision Making Committee (SDMC) the freedom to address Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) agenda items. A letter of clarification explaining procedures that address ethnic balance for SDMC and provisions for elected faculty members of the SDMC to address issues previously covered by the FAC will be submitted to the appropriate Chief School Office. Approval of this waiver allows teachers to avoid duplication of committee membership and increase instructional planning time with students.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Almeda	Cullen	Advanced Virtual Academy
Anderson	Black	Austin
Atherton	Burbank	Challenge
Barrick	Edison	Community Services
Bell	Fleming	Davis
Benavidez	Fonville	DeBakey
Berry	Hamilton	East Early College
Blackshear	Henry	Empowerment College Prep
Briar Meadow K-8	Hogg	Harper Alternative
Briscoe	Jackson	Houston Academy International Stud.
Burnet	Key	HSPVA
Burrus	Lanier	Jones
Bush	Las Americas	Jordan
Cage	McReynolds	Kashmere
Codwell	Project Chrysalis	Lamar
Condit	Revere	Law Enf. and Criminal Justice
Cornelius	Stevenson	Lee
Cunningham	Sugar Grove	North Houston Early College
Daily	Williams, M. C.	Reagan
DeAnda	Forest Brook MS- Sep 12,2013	Sam Houston
De Chaumes		Scarborough
Dodson		Sharpstown
Durkee		Sharpstown International
Elrod		Sterling
Farias (ECC)		Waltrip
Field		Washington
Fondren		Westbury
Franklin		Westside
Gallegos		Worthing

Garden Oaks Golfcrest Gregory-Lincoln K-8 Grissom Henderson, N.Q. Highland Heights Janowski Jefferson Kennedy Ketelsen King, M.L. (ECC) Lantrip Law Lockhart Longfellow Looscan Love Lyons MacGregor Martinez, C. Martinez, R. McNamara Mitchell Moreno Neff Neff (ECC) Ninfa Lorenzo (ECC) Northline Oates Osborne Paige Patterson Petersen Pilgrim Academy Piney Point Pleasantville Poe Pugh Reagan, B. Reynolds Rice K-8		North Forest HS - - Sep 12,2013 Energy Institute - - Sep 12,2013
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Roberts		
Rodriguez		
Roosevelt		
Rusk K-8		
Scroggins		
Seguin		
Shearn		
Sherman		
Smith, K.		
Southmayd		
Stevens		
Sutton		
Thompson		
Tijerina		
Twain, Mark		
Wesley		
West University		
Whittier		
Windsor Village		
Elmore - - Sep 12,2013		
Fonwood ECC- - Sep 12,2013		
Hilliard - - Sep 12,2013		
Marshall - - Sep 12,2013		
Shadydale - - Sep 12,2013		

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#4 - All Title I Schools - Parent Advisory Council In Place of PTA/PTO Waiver of  
Local Board Policy GE (LEGAL) (SPM 7302-C)**

The purpose of the waiver is to replace the PTA/PTO functions with the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) required for Title I schools. The campus will organize a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to assume this responsibility made up of parent representatives. Parents of all students will have the opportunity to become a PAC member. Recruitment for members will be conducted each new year. Information and decisions from the PAC will be appearing in the campus newsletter and the PAC newsletter. This reduces duplication of functions and provides focused support to address campus needs.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Almeda	Cullen	Austin
Bell	Fleming	East Early College
Berry	Fonville	Jones
Blackshear	Hartman	Kashmere
Bonham	Henry	Lee
Braeburn	Key	Westbury
Briscoe	Las Americas	Worthing
Burrus	Williams, M. C.	North Forest HS– Sep 12,2013
Crockett	Forest Brook MS– Sep 12,2013	
DeAnda		
De Chaumes		
Dodson		
Farias (ECC)		
Franklin		
Grissom		
Highland Heights		
Kennedy		
King, M.L. (ECC)		
Looscan		
Lyons		
Moreno		
Neff		
Ninfa Lorenzo (ECC)		
Paige		
Patterson		
Pilgrim Academy		
Port Houston		
Pugh		
Reagan, B. K-8		

Shearn		
Stevens		
Tinsley		
Wesley		
Wilson		
Windsor Village		
Elmore- Sep 12,2013		
Fonwood ECC- Sep 12,2013		
Hilliard - <i>Sep 12,2013</i>		
Marshall - Sep 12,2013		
Shadydale - Sep 12,2013		



**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#5 - Alternative Schools - PTA/PTO at Specialty Instructional Setting Waiver of  
Local Board Policy GE (Legal)(SPM 7302-C)**

This is a request to waive the requirement for a PTA/PTO program at these unique, highly transitional alternative campuses in HISD. Students attending these campuses are assigned on an individual basis, and many times only assigned for a short duration. Since each child's program is individualized and confidential, individual parent meetings are utilized to discuss student services that meet the needs of every single student. When possible, parents are required to participate in meetings and/or parent conferences to give consent to services rendered. Many times phone conferences are conducted in lieu of parent attendance to accommodate a particular student status. The impact of this waiver will be measured by the number of individual parent meetings held and its relation to individual student success with the ongoing and self-paced instructional services offered at the campus under the supervision of trained teacher/mentors.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
		Advanced Virtual Academy Community Services

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#6 - Middle School – Course Requirements – Technology Applications (Computer Literacy) courses Waiver of Local Board Policy EHAC (LEGAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to replace the middle school Technology Applications (Computer Literacy) courses with Integrated Technology Application and Technology Education courses. The campus school improvement plan reflects the need to provide students daily access to the technology lab for the purpose of participating in research projects, preparing presentations, and exploring electronic resources to become proficient in the use of electronic media. Campus departments collaborate to design and develop a technology program integrating the core content course TEKS. Student learning of state TEKS integrated across content areas provides multiple opportunities to apply the TEKS in authentic learning experiences. The impact of this waiver will be measured by student achievement on the state assessment.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Garden Oaks Gregory- Lincoln K-8	Burbank Cullen Fleming Henry Hogg Jackson Key Las Americas McReynolds Project Chrysalis Revere Forest Brook MS – Sep 12,2013	Sharpstown International

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#7 - Middle and High School – Grading Cycle Waiver of Local Board Policy EIA  
(LOCAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to use a nine week grading cycle. As documented in the SIP, this will provide teachers with additional instructional time with students before grading periods. Teachers will focus less on reporting paperwork since the cycles are less frequent. Student achievement will be positively impacted by providing students more time to improve their grades following the distribution of progress reports. The nine week cycle will align with the elementary program for K-8 schools and provide for consistent communication with parents. This does not waive required UIL three week reporting.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Garden Oaks Gregory- Lincoln K-8 Pilgrim Academy Reagan, B. Rice K-8 Rogers, T.H. Rusk K-8 Wilson	Henry Holland Las Americas Lanier Project Chrysalis	Carnegie Challenge Community Services North Houston Early College Sharpstown International Westbury North Forest HS - Sep 12,2013

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#8 - Middle School – Promotion Standards Waiver of Local Board Policy EIE  
(LOCAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to permit a student(s) identified as at risk of dropping out, provided that the student(s) is participating in a year-long accelerated instruction program, to be promoted from grade 6 to grade 7 or grade 7 to grade 8 at the end of the first semester. The student(s) must earn a grade of 70 or higher in the four core courses. Students will take the STAAR at their new grade level in the spring as part of the district-wide testing. The impact of this waiver will be measured by monitoring STAAR performance and by a reduced drop-out rate. These measures will be documented in the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Pilgrim Academy	Burbank	Harper Alternative
Gregory-Lincoln K-8	Cullen	Sharpstown International
Rusk K-8	Edison	
	Fleming	
	Fonville	
	Henry	
	Hogg	
	Holland	
	Jackson	
	Key	
	Lanier	
	Las Americas	
	McReynolds	
	Revere	
	Stevenson	
	Sugar Grove	
	Williams, M. C.	
	Forest Brook MS - Sep 12,2013	

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#9 - High School – Credits and Curriculum Waiver of Local Board Policy EIA  
(LOCAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to offer a pass/fail grade option to high achieving junior and senior AP students to encourage them to pursue their interests in extra-curricular or multi-year programs without having their GPA negatively affected. The support for the calculation of GPA will not be available from the District. Students must carry a full load of AP coursework. All other eligibility requirements will be determined by the school. The specific objective is to increase the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses and is identified in the school's SIP. The success of this waiver will be determined by the number of students that request the pass/fail option and participate in extra-curricular activities as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Bellaire Challenge Chavez East Early College Jordan Madison Reagan Sam Houston Scarborough Washington Westbury Westside Worthing North Forest HS - Sep 12,2013

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#10 - High School – Credits/Curriculum Health Waiver of Local Board Policy  
EHAC (LEGAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow students to earn the one-half health credit through Biology and Art area courses by embedding health TEKS and aligning them with the designated disciplines. The biology and art teachers need to be certified in health. TEKS integration must be documented. The expected student benefits are to provide magnet students the flexibility to achieve in a magnet school. The specific objective is to improve test results and is identified in the school's SIP. The success of this waiver will be determined by the student's grades as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
	Young Women's Coll Prep (All Girls)	East Early College Empowerment College Prep Houston Academy International Stud. HSPVA Jordan Washington Westbury

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#11 - High School – Final Exam Exceptions Waiver of Local Board Policy EIA  
(LOCAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow high schools to exempt second semester students from taking final exams that do well in IB/AP classes, and for taking in IB/AP exams. The IB/AP students that have taken the national exam and have a current semester average of 90 or above will be exempt from taking the final exam in that class. Only students currently enrolled in an IB/AP class may be exempt from the final exam in that class. The school may specify additional attendance and/or conduct requirements. The specific objective of improving IB/AP class grades and IB/AP test results is identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The success of this waiver will show an increase in class grades and higher IB/AP test scores as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Bellaire Challenge Chavez Davis DeBakey East Early College Furr Houston Academy International Stud. Jones Jordan Kashmere Lee Madison North Houston Early College Reach Reagan Sam Houston Scarborough Sharpstown Sharpstown International Washington Westbury Worthing North Forest HS - Sep 12,2013

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#12 - High School – Grade Points Waiver of Local Policy EIC (LOCAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to adjust the weighted grade points issued for AP Calculus BC from 1 grade point per semester to 1.5 grade points per semester. Adjustment of the grade points will apply only to graduating seniors. The grade points will be added to the student's academic record upon completion of each semester course. Students and parents will be notified that these grade points cannot be transferred to another school. The alteration of the grade points will encourage high achieving students to accept the challenge of AP Calculus BC. The specific objective is identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The success of this waiver will be demonstrated by the increased number of students in AP Calculus BC as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		DeBakey East Early College Madison Scarborough Washington Westbury Worthing



**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#13 High School – Grade Point Average (GPA) Waiver of Local Policy EIC  
(LOCAL)**

The purpose to waive secondary district guidelines is to allow high schools to compute GPA in a more consistent and equitable manner by requiring that only grades in courses taken in school years 9-12 be calculated into the high school GPA. The specific objective is identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Austin Bellaire DeBakey East Early College Empowerment College Prep Furr Houston Academy International Stud. HSPVA Jones Jordan Lee Reach Charter Sam Houston Scarborough Sterling Washington Westbury Westside Energy Institute - Sep 12,2013

## #14a All Schools - Altered Student Instructional Day – Weekly Waiver of TEC §25.081

The purpose of this waiver is to permit the student instructional day to begin 15 minutes early five days per week and end 15 minutes later four days per week with student early release one day per week to allow for professional development for all certified teachers. The total number of instructional minutes per week does not change. Instructional time on the early release day is 4 hours excluding lunch. Certified staff engages in professional development documented through the School Improvement Plan (SIP) to address curriculum, assessment, intervention, and differentiation to meet student learning needs. The specific objective of this waiver is to improve student learning as measured on STAAR test results and is identified in the school's SIP. The success of this waiver will be determined by increased test scores as compared to the year before.

### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
Barrick Berry Browning Bruce Crockett Durkee Durham Herrera Kennedy Lyons Moreno Oates Port Houston River Oaks Rodriguez School at St George Place Sutton	Burbank	Challenge Empowerment College Prep East Early College Houston Academy International Stud. North Houston Early College

**#14b All Schools - Altered Student Instructional Day – Bi-weekly Waiver of TEC  
§25.081**

The purpose of this waiver is to permit the student instructional day to begin 15 minutes early or end 15 minutes later every day with early release one day every two weeks to allow for professional development for all certified teachers. The total number of instructional minutes per week does not change. Instructional time on the early release day is 4 hours excluding lunch. Certified staff engages in professional development documented through the School Improvement Plan (SIP) to address curriculum, assessment, intervention, and differentiation to meet student learning needs. The specific objective of this waiver is to improve student learning as measured on STAAR test results and is identified in the school's SIP. The success of this waiver will be determined by increased test scores as compared to the year before.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Coop De Chaumes Garcia Northline	Las Americas	

## #14c All Schools - Altered Student Instructional Day-Monthly Waiver of TEC S25.081

The purpose of this waiver is to permit the student instructional day to (choose one: begin 12 minutes early or end 12 minutes later) every day with early release one day approximately every four weeks to allow for professional development for all certified teachers. The total number of instructional minutes per week does not change. Instructional time on the early release day is 4 hours excluding lunch. Certified staff will engage in professional development documented through the School Improvement Plan (SIP) to address curriculum, assessment, intervention and differentiation to meet student learning needs. The specific objective of this waiver is to improve student learning as measured on STAAR test results and is identified in the school's SIP. The success of this waiver will be determined by increased test scores as compared to the year before.

### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
Atherton Elrod Janowski King, M.L. (ECC) Lockhart Shearn West University	Cullen Revere Stevenson	Sharpstown International Worthing Austin - Sep 12,2013 Bellaire - Sep 12,2013 Madison - Sep 12,2013 Young Men's Prep - Sep 12,2013 Young Women's Prep - Sep 12,2013 Energy Institute - Sep 12,2013 Kashmere - Sep 12,2013 Sharpstown - Sep 12,2013 Lee - Sep 12,2013 Houston MSTC- Sep 12,2013 Chavez - Sep 12,2013

## #15 All Schools - Early Dismissal Day Waiver

This waiver allows a school to be exempt from the district early dismissal calendar days of September 25th, October 30th, November 20th, January 29th and February 19th of the 2013-2014 school year. Schools should recognize that they will be responsible for the additional cost of transportation that is incurred by this waiver as well as the responsibility of notifications to parents and patrons of the altered schedule change that is brought about by this waiver.

### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
Briarmeadow K-8 Crockett Port Houston	Las Americas	Challenge East Early College Empowerment College Prep Furr Houston Academy International Stud. Jones Kashmere Lamar Lee North Houston Early College Reach Sharpstown Energy Institute - Sep 12,2013

**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#16 High School - Foreign Exchange Student Waiver of TEC §25.001(E)**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow the school district to request that the Texas Commissioner of Education waive the requirement that the district admit a foreign exchange student if admission of that student would require domestic students to compete with foreign exchange students for educational resources. Such competition would be necessary at Example High School where enrollment of domestic students is already limited. The specific objective of this waiver is to limit the number of foreign exchange students to no more than seven (7) students per high school in Houston ISD.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Advanced Virtual Academy Austin Bellaire Carnegie Challenge Chavez Davis DeBakey East Early College Eastwood Academy Empowerment College Prep Furr Houston Academy International Stud. Law Enf. and Criminal Justice HSPVA Jones Jordan Kashmere Lamar Lee Liberty Madison Milby North Houston Early College Reach Reagan Sam Houston Scarborough Sharpstown

		<p>Sharpstown International</p> <p>Sterling</p> <p>Waltrip</p> <p>Washington</p> <p>Westbury</p> <p>Westside</p> <p>Wheatley</p> <p>Worthing</p> <p>Yates</p> <p>North Forest HS - Sep 12,2013</p> <p>Energy Institute - Sep 12,2013</p>
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**Houston Independent School District  
General Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#17 All Schools - Exemption From Following Houston ISD Curriculum Waiver**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow schools the choice of following a customized curriculum (including the scope, sequence, and pacing of instruction) in lieu of the recommended HISD curriculum. The requested school specific curriculum (including the school specific scope, sequence, and pacing of instruction) must be approved by district administration and/or school level office. The specific objective of this waiver is to allow schools the flexibility to choose an appropriately challenging curriculum to meet the needs of their school.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
<u><b>International Baccalaureate</b></u> Briarmeadow K-8 Browning Durham Harvard Herrera Northline Poe River Oaks Roberts Rodriguez St. George Twain Wharton K-8  <u><b>Montessori</b></u> Dodson Garden Oaks Wilson  <u><b>Neuhaus</b></u> Braeburn	<u><b>Newcomer Center</b></u> Las Americas	<u><b>High School Collaborative</b></u> Houston Academy International Stud. Lamar Law Enf. and Criminal Justice Reagan Sam Houston Sterling Worthing  <u><b>Apollo</b></u> Jones Kashmere Lee Sharpstown



**Houston Independent School District  
Custom Waiver Requests - Section 7  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**#1 Custom - Elementary Schools - Middle School Pre-AP waiver for K-8  
Montessori**

This waiver from the required PRE AP classes for middle school students addresses the unique design of the Montessori curriculum in which students are grouped in multi-aged classrooms with a homeroom teacher who provides instruction in all subject areas across the grade levels. Homeroom teachers are certified in Gifted and Talented education through the initial 30 hour training and maintain the required annual 6 hour updates. This educational setting and teaching configuration takes the place of PREAP classes for middle school students. Students would retain their GT identification as middle school students, as their G/T educational needs are met through the individualized Montessori program and participation in the Texas Performance Standards Project to include specialized instruction in research and inquiry that adheres to district guidelines regarding depth and complexity.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Dodson Garden Oaks Wilson Montessori		

**#2 Custom - Elementary Schools - Allowance to move progress reports to the  
Tuesday after the 4th week of a 9-week grading period**

Board policy calls for progress reports to be issued after the first 3 weeks of a grading cycle; we are asking for the reports to be issued after the 4th of each 9-weeks, diluting the impact of missing and poor grades, and allowing for a better academic reflection of a student's progress. Instead of issuing reports on the Thursday of the 4th week, we are requesting to issue reports on the Tuesday of the 5th week. Dates of issuance for 2013-2014 are as follows: 09/24/13, 11/26/13, 02/05/14, 04/22/14.

**Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
Rogers, T.H.		

### #3 - Custom Middle Schools - Extended Learning Time

Patrick Henry MS requests to extend the school day for all 6th grade students from 3:15 until 6 p.m. from Monday through Thursday, so that we can close the gap for our students and better prepare them to be high school and college/career ready. Through partnership with non-profit Citizen Schools, students will be exposed to additional instruction focused on literacy skills, homework assistance, acquisition of 21st century skills and participation in apprenticeships. Through apprenticeships in law, medicine, engineering and various other career focus areas, students will be able to make connections between their current classroom instruction and future career goals. Additional instruction will be provided by a second shift of educators and will not require faculty to work beyond the normal school day. Transportation cost will be incurred by the school's budget. The extended school hours will provide all 6th graders with an additional 11 hours of school instruction per week.

#### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
	Henry	

### #4 - Custom High Schools - Open EXIT LEVEL TAKS to all Twilight students

The purpose of this waiver is to allow all students in the Twilight program ages 17-26 to be coded as 11th graders in order to take the TAKS EXIT Level test and/or retest regardless of the current year's grade level. This will enable overage at-risk students to have early opportunities to pass the test required for graduation. This waiver will also allow at-risk students to forego 9th and 10th grade TAKS and thereby reduce the number of state tests they will be required to take.

#### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Advanced Virtual Academy

### #5 - Custom – Graduation Requirements – Waiver of EIF (LOCAL)

DHSHP is requesting that the HISD/TEA minimum graduation requirements be waived in lieu of the rigorous four-year course sequence required at DHSHP. All students at DHSHP are required to complete the four-year course sequence in order to graduate from DHSHP. The added graduation requirements will be most beneficial for our college bound graduates in preparing them for careers in medicine, mathematics, science, research, and health professions. Students meeting HISD graduation requirements will be permitted to graduate and participate in ceremonies and activities with other DHSHP students.

#### Schools Requesting This Waiver

CSO Elementary Schools	CSO Middle Schools	CSO High Schools
		DeBakey

### **#6 - Custom – Graduation Requirements – Waiver of EIF (LOCAL)**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow DHSHP to compute GPA for graduation using only grades in courses taken at DHSHP in school years 9-12. Students enrolled at DHSHP, who take off-campus courses (required, elective, or AP), will receive credit for such courses but the course grade will not be averaged into the student's cumulative GPA for graduation.

#### **Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>CSO Elementary Schools</b>	<b>CSO Middle Schools</b>	<b>CSO High Schools</b>
		DeBakey

### **#7 - Custom - High Schools - Extended School Day**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow the school to increase the school day Monday through Thursday for one hour. The objective of this waiver is to increase instructional time and increase opportunities for earning high school credits.

#### **Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
		Jones Kashmere Lee Sharpstown

### **#8 - Custom - High Schools - Perfect Attendance**

The purpose of this waiver is to allow schools the opportunity to provide an incentive for students to have and maintain exceptional attendance. Students who have perfect attendance at ADA for the entire school year and maintain a class average of 85 and above will be exempt from second semester final exams.

#### **Schools Requesting This Waiver**

<b>Elementary Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>	<b>High Schools</b>
		Westbury

## #9 - Custom - High Schools - Underclassmen Exemption from Spring Final Exam Waiver

The purpose of this waiver is to incentivize the daily attendance rate with underclassmen by allowing one spring final exam exemption for eligible 9th graders, and two spring final exam exemptions for 10th and 11th graders. Research shows a strong correlation between attendance and higher student achievement. Eligible students will be defined as having no more than three absences in any course for the duration of the semester, and will have a grade average of an 85 or higher in the course for which the student is eligible for exemption. In addition, students may only take advantage of one final exam exemption opportunity. Students can opt to exercise the AP final exam waiver, or the underclassmen spring final exam waiver, not both. The campus SDMC will develop the comprehensive policy and will provide oversight with the implementation of this waiver to ensure that the policy does not interfere with the 2013-2014 requirements of the Student Performance component of the Teacher and Development System. The specific objective is identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Westside

## #10 - Custom - High Schools - Late Start Thursday Professional Development Waiver

The purpose of this waiver is to create time for curriculum teams to engage in collaboration, analyze student data, review best instructional strategies and modify and improve instruction based on student needs. The expected outcome of Late Start Thursday is to strengthen collaborative teams, which leads to more effective problem-solving. Late Start Thursday has been in place at Westside since 2007 and is widely supported by staff, community members, and students. Teachers meet with their teams from 7:45am-9:15am, and students begin class each Thursday at 9:30am. More specific objectives are identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and are directly aligned with SIP goals annually.

### Schools Requesting This Waiver

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
		Westside Energy Institute – August 8, 2013