September 27, 2018

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Bilingual Education Exceptions and Waivers for English as a Second Language

The 2018-2019 Bilingual Education Exception and English as a Second Language (ESL) Waiver application and instructions are now available on the TEA Bilingual and ESL Programs webpage at http://tea.texas.gov/bilingual/esl/education/. All applications are due on or before November 1, 2018 and must be submitted to the Texas Education Agency as an attachment to: BilingualExceptions_ESLWaivers@tea.texas.gov.

Bilingual Education Exception

Districts or charter schools that are unable to provide bilingual certified teachers to implement the required bilingual program must request from the Commissioner of Education an exception to the bilingual education program and approval to offer an alternative program. For districts or charter schools implementing a bilingual education program at the secondary level, the same certification requirements apply.

ESL Program Waiver

Districts or charter schools that are unable to provide ESL certified teachers to implement the required ESL program must request from the Commissioner of Education a waiver of the certification requirements for teachers who will provide ESL instruction.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding Bilingual Education Exceptions and/or ESL Waivers, please call (512) 463-9414 or email the English Learner Support Division at EnglishLearnerSupport@tea.texas.gov.