

Topic: I-1: Approve New Waivers for 2019-2020

Staff Follow Up: Staff to explain the rationale for mandating midterm exams at the select schools requesting waivers. Although the approval process requires a vote of instructional staff, has the District looked to solicit feedback from District Advisory Council and other parent groups on the issue of mandating midterms.

(D. Korn) SBOM-050719-27

Response: Currently, midterm exams are not mandated for all students at the schools requesting these waivers. However, the instructional personnel at these locations contend that midterm exams provide them with quantitative feedback to measure the fidelity of teaching methods for improving instruction, meeting professional growth plan goals and preparing student for the end of course or final exams. They further assert the midterm exams serve as formative assessments that illustrate to students and teachers course content to be remediated during the second half of the course to ensure optimal success on the end of course or final exam.

Feedback for Waivers

Waiver requests are initiated by the School Advisory Council. Once the School Advisory Council approves a proposal, the school shares the waiver request with the community at an advertised open meeting. Input from the community meeting is presented to the School Advisory Council. The School Advisory Council then has the option to approve the waiver request as originally written, revise it per community input, or vote not to pursue the waiver. If the School Advisory Council votes to bring the waiver forward, the waiver is presented to the faculty for their vote. Waivers must be approved by two-thirds of faculty members. Currently, individual school waivers are not presented to district-wide parent groups like the District or Area Advisory Councils.