

# Amador County Public Schools



District

County

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April 28, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:**

Extended School Year (ESY) Waiver for Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

California Code of Regulations Title 5 Section 3043 (d) requires an extended school year (ESY) program be provided for a minimum of 20 instructional days, including holidays, for special education students who qualify with mild to moderate or moderate to severe disabilities.

The Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD) is requesting a waiver from the California Department of Education to modify the required special education extended school year from 20 days to 15 days. ACUSD ESY will utilize a 15-day schedule of 5 hours per day, totaling 75 hours of in-person instruction. Operating under this model provides for the equivalent number of instructional minutes for students, while maximizing attendance and staffing options.

ACUSD operates a modified, year-round schedule. Parents, students, and staff support the shortened ESY schedule as it is difficult to have families attend a 20-day ESY program and also difficult to staff a 20-day ESY program, because it impedes families' and staff's ability to take much-needed time away to reenergize before returning for a new school year.

In addition, ACUSD serves a large geographical region that requires long bus rides for students. Maximizing the time they are present each day is more efficient with our long bus routes.

The proposed ESY schedule with longer school days will also better accommodate students who require Designated Instructional Services (DIS). ACUSD also believes that modifying the ESY schedule to 3 weeks with extended daily time will maximize student learning, and lessen the typical drops in attendance during the final week of the program. In addition, longer school days provide greater opportunity for instructional impact.

This schedule will also help ACUSD to hire highly qualified special education teachers currently employed while allowing teaching and para-educator staff additional time to pursue professional development, higher education goals, and time to re-energize and prepare for the next school year.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Projected cost saving in the areas of transportation, electricity, custodial and administration due to reduced days and alignment with the District's General Education Summer School Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the ESY Waiver.

**PRESENTED BY:**

Sean Snider, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services