

Sabine ISD
District of Innovation Plan
2017 - 2022

Introduction

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 passed which allows Texas public schools to become Districts of Innovation which would allow them to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. Sabine ISD is exercising this opportunity to gain more local control and will request the following exemptions from the Texas Education code.

Term

Sabine ISD's Innovation Plan will implement the District of Innovation Plan in the 2017-2018 school year. The plan will renew at the end of the 2020-2021 school year unless the plan is terminated or amended by the Sabine ISD Board of Trustees in accordance with HB 1842. If at any time within this plan, other areas of exemptions are to be considered, the Sabine ISD Board of Trustees will nominate a new committee to consider new exemptions. Any future amendments will adhere to the same term of the original plan.

Innovations

- 1. School Start Date**
(TEC 25.0811a) (EB LEGAL)

Current Law

TEC 25.0811 state that a school district may not begin student instruction before The 4th Monday of August.

The current process allows no flexibility in the development and design of the annual school calendar to fit the needs of the community or the wishes of the Sabine ISD Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

Innovation Strategies Proposed

1. Sabine ISD students will begin instruction no earlier than the 3rd Monday of August. This change will create better flexibility in the development of the annual school calendar as well as allowing more opportunities in scheduling meaningful and balanced staff development days.
2. The earlier start date will allow Sabine ISD to move instructional days that occur after state mandated testing dates to the front of the school year.
3. The earlier start date will provide opportunity for an equitable balance of days for each of the three six week grading periods in the first semester.

2. Certification - General

(TEC 21.003a) (DBA LEGAL)

Current Law

TEC 21.003(a) states a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.

Innovation Strategies Proposed

1. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach outside of their certified field(s) in hard to fill areas. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject.
2. The current certification requirement sets limitations for the district's options to hire professionals with work related experience or degrees to teach a variety of courses from CTE and STEM related courses needed throughout the district. In order to maximize the opportunities for students to take such courses, the district will consider the qualifications

necessary to create a local requirement for these courses instead of the requirements set forth in TEA 21.003(a). This exemption will allow the district to:

- A. Consider part time professionals to teach courses
 - B. Opportunity for professionals to transition from other work related jobs to the teaching profession.
 - C. Increase the number of CTE and STEM type courses available.
 - D. Opportunities for trade related professionals to teach related courses.
3. The district will have the flexibility to recognize out of state certifications and extend the temporary one year certificate requirement.
The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow certified out of state teachers to continue to teach a course or grade level beyond the one year state temporary certificate requirement. The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual is an asset to students. State issued temporary certificates will renew locally for an additional year with a two year maximum time to pass state certification test(s).
 4. The superintendent will report this action to the Sabine ISD Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignments.
 5. A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.