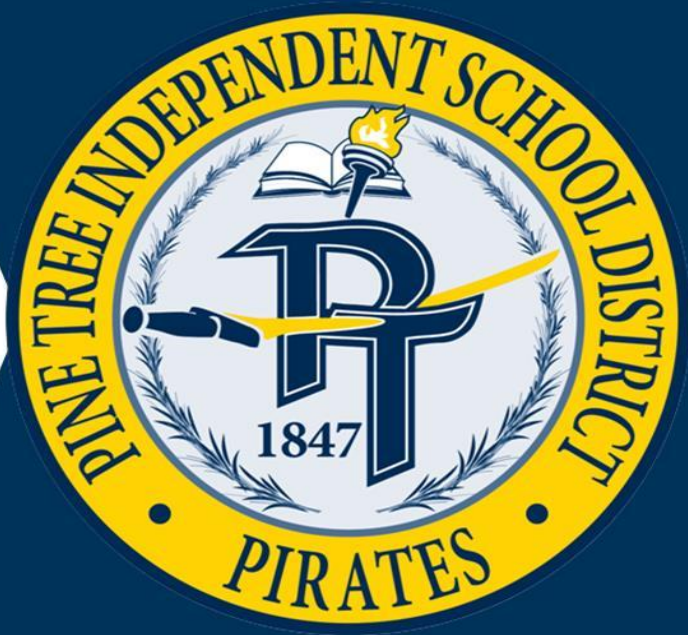


# Pine Tree

Independent School District

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



## District of Innovation Plan

January 2017 - December 2021

*Approved April 2017  
Amended June 2019  
Amended May 2020*

# INTRODUCTION

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas legislative Session in Spring 2015, and provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as a District of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

Districts of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state statutes and will have the following benefits:

- Greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students;
- Increased freedom and flexibility, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and
- Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes including curriculum and graduation requirements and academic and financial accountability.

# VISION

A Tradition of Excellence

# MISSION

The Pine Tree family champions the relentless pursuit of excellence through a compassionate and safe learning environment empowering all students to develop their unique passions and to make a positive impact in a global society.

# CORE VALUES

*We believe in:*

Lifelong Learning–We are a learning organization, where students are engaged and leaders grow.

Innovation Through Collaboration–We foster a culture of innovation: working together, adapting to change.

Trust & Safety–We provide a trusting and safe environment accountable to the highest standards and most effective tools.

Respect–We respect each other, embracing diversity and global awareness.

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*Amended May 2020*

# PTISD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND STRATEGIES

## DISTRICT GOALS

### Goal 1

All students will reach their full potential.

### Goal 2

All students will thrive in a global society.

### Goal 3

All students will discover and pursue their unique passions.

## STRATEGIES

### Strategy 1

We will create a customized learning environment that ensures a culture of innovation.

### Strategy 2

We will maximize learning through the use of advanced resources and digital literacy.

### Strategy 3

We will boldly support the social and emotional needs of all students.

### Strategy 4

We will ensure student leadership is an integral part of our learning culture.

### Strategy 5

We will recruit, develop, support, and retain the highest quality staff.

## PROCESS

On February 13, 2017, the Pine Tree Independent School District's Board of Trustees initiated the process by passing a Resolution to Adopt a District of Innovation in order to support innovation and improve student learning. On March 6, 2017, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees held a public hearing for public discussion on whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a District of Innovation. With there being no objection from the hearing, the Board of Trustees supported the plan to create a District of Innovation Committee to begin researching and recommending a plan for approval. This Pine Tree ISD District of Innovation committee was approved by the Board of Trustees at the April 10, 2017, regular board meeting. The committee represents various stakeholders across the district including teachers, instructional paraprofessionals, instructional coaches, parents, campus administration, district administration, local higher education, and community members. The committee met initially in March and April 2017 to discuss and develop a plan. The District of Innovation plan followed the development of the Pine Tree ISD Strategic Plan. The options

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*Amended June 2019*

*Amended May 2020*

discussed and recommended for consideration in the District of Innovation plan support the goals and strategies of the Pine Tree ISD Strategic Plan.

The District notified Commissioner Morath of its intent to file a plan with the Texas Education Agency after the April 10, 2017, Board of Trustees meeting.. The plan was posted on the District website for 30 days before being presented to the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees on May 8, 2017. The Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the updated plan on May 8, 2017. Pine Tree ISD notified the Texas Commissioner of Education of the District's final District of Innovation Plan and the plan was submitted the approved plan to TEA on May 10, 2017

# RESOLUTION

## RESOLUTION OF THE PINE TREE ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF DESIGNATION OF A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION UNDER HB 1842

WHEREAS, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees is committed to being intentionally responsive and providing students exceptional opportunities for learning; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1842 provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation; and,

WHEREAS, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees believes in supporting innovation; and,

WHEREAS, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees believes that it can be a better decision-making body for students when it has freedom to exercise local control over the decision-making process; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1842 requires districts seeking to be designated as Districts of Innovation to develop a local innovation plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees believes that a local innovation plan, if created, should be developed in conjunction with the District's strategic plan; and,

WHEREAS, before considering the creation of a local innovation plan, the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees will ensure that the District receives feedback from District stakeholders.

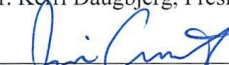
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

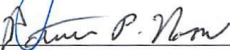
The Board of Trustees of Pine Tree ISD on February 13, 2017 initiates the process of exploring and considering designation of the District as a District of Innovation under HB 1842.

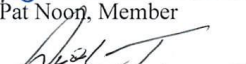
ADOPTED THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017.

PINE TREE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT


By:   
Dr. Kerri Daugbjerg, President

  
Jim Cerrato, Secretary

  
Pat Noon, Member

  
Anthony Tanner, Member

  
Amy Brown, Vice President

  
Adam Graves, Member

  
Frank Richards, Member

## TIMELINE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity/Task</b>
February 13, 2017	Board of Trustees passed the resolution to research the District of Innovation process
March 6, 2017	Board of Trustees conducts a public hearing to discuss the District of Innovation process and possible options
March 2017	District of Innovation Committee formed
March 29, 2017	First District of Innovation Committee meeting
April 3, 2017	Draft of District of Innovation Plan discussed and revisions made
April 6, 2017	Posting of the District of Innovation Plan for Pine Tree ISD on the District website and notification of the Board of Trustees intent to consider and adopt a District of Innovation plan sent to TEA
April 10, 2017	Discussion of the District of Innovation draft plan with the Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees
April 20, 2017	District Improvement Committee discussed and approved the District of Innovation Plan
April 26, 2017	District of Innovation committee reviews the final plan and comments provided from the staff or public
May 8, 2017	Board of Trustees vote and approve the District of Innovation plan for Pine Tree ISD and approved plan submitted to Commissioner Morath at TEA

## TERM

The District of Innovation Plan will become effective in May 2017 and will remain in effect for five years, through May 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The District Improvement Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board of Trustees any suggested modifications to the Plan.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Eneatra Anderson	Parent/District Strategic Planning
Courtney Armstrong	Parent/Community/Community U
David Blazek	Community/Community U/District Strategic Planning

*Approved April 2017  
Amended June 2019  
Amended May 2020*

Ami Haygood	Parent/Community U
Matthew Henry	Community/District Strategic Planning
Ashley Johnson	Community/Community U
Cheryl Parr	Community/Community U
Tessa Stinnett	Parent
David Wong	Community
Shalonda Adams	Principal/PACE
Rebekah Alexander	Teacher/PACE
Sherrill Ballard	Elementary Math/Science Coordinator
Sarah Barnett	Counselor/Primary
Tyrance Barnett	Principal/ExCEL
Dr. Valerie Baxter	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Services
Jody Berryhill	Athletic Director/District Strategic Planning
Caci Brinkley	Teacher/ExCEL
Hannah Brooks	Assistant Principal/PTJH
Denise Calixto	Receptionist/Birch
Randy Castleberry	Teacher/PACE
Carrie Chandler	Assistant Principal/PTHS
Rena Christian	Classroom Paraprofessional/Primary
Meredith Clay	Teacher/Parkway
Ursula Coleman	Teacher/Bilingual/Primary
Laura Cranford	Teacher/MS
Judy Downing	Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance
Stephanie Downs	Teacher/Birch
Wanda Eastin	Teacher/PTJH
Candace Edwards	Teacher/Parkway
Sandie Fauss	Human Resources Coordinator
Stacey Glosson	Director of Special Education
Shanna Graves	Teacher/Parkway
Mitzi Willis	Teacher/MS

*Approved April 2017  
Amended June 2019  
Amended May 2020*

Diana Hernandez	Instructional Paraprofessional/MS
Dr. Daya Hill	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Tony Hollins	Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Facilities
Bill Irvine	Lead Counselor for PTISD/PTHS
Laura Johns	Teacher/Primary
Laura Kirby	Teacher/MS
Marianne McBride	Teacher/Birch
Stasha McKinney	Educational Diagnostician
Lisa Manning	Instructional Paraprofessional/Primary
Francetta McGowen	Instructional Paraprofessional/PTJH
Jennifer Mitchell	Teacher/PTJH
Clay Nyvall	Teacher/PTJS
Cyndi Nyvall	ELAR/GT Advanced Academics Coordinator
Cristi Parsons	Principal/Primary
Jon Pollard	Director of Technology
Teresa Rau	PTA/Admin Assistant to the Superintendent
Vanessa Robinson	Principal/PTJH
Sarah Sage	Instructional Coach/Primary
Josh White	Assistant Principal/PTJH
Robin White	Instructional Technology Coordinator
Mary Whitton	Director of Communications/Public Information



# EXEMPTIONS

## **§25.0811 Uniform School Start Date**

*A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system. A district may not receive a waiver for this requirement.*

### **Proposed**

This flexibility of an earlier start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. Having the flexibility to establish an earlier start date will enable the District to balance the amount of instructional time available in each semester, providing classroom teachers the opportunity to deliver more equitable learning experiences for students in the fall and spring semesters. Additional benefits are listed below:

- An improved balanced instructional calendar - Under the current law, the fall is generally shortened due the semester ending prior to the Winter/Christmas Break. In the District's 2017-18 calendar, there are 73 days in the fall semester and 98 days in the spring semester. By adjusting the school start day in August, our semesters will become more balanced.
- Students participating in Dual Enrollment opportunities will follow a calendar more closely aligned to the local college calendar including the number of days in both the fall and spring semester.
- An early start date permits students an additional week or more of instruction prior to state assessments.
- Students will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts and staff will be able to attend summer school classes as well. This is a result of the spring semester ending in late May or very early June.
- Flexibility creates opportunities for District to pursue other calendar options for identified populations.

### **Local Guidelines**

The district will determine, on an annual basis, when each school year will begin.

### **Board Policy - EB (Legal)**

## **§21.102 Probationary Contracts**

*Currently, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years.*

### **Proposed**

Under current guidelines, probationary periods for newly hired teachers and counselors who have been in public education for at least five of the previous eight years cannot exceed one year. This limited time is insufficient in some cases to fully determine the staff member's effectiveness. Relief from Texas

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*Amended May 2020*

Education Code 21.102 will permit the District the option to issue a probationary contract for a period of up to two years for experienced teachers and counselors newly hired in Pine Tree ISD.

### **Local Guidelines**

At the time of contract recommendation consideration, newly hired teachers and counselors with the District, who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years and have completed their first probationary year with the District, may receive a probationary contract for the second year in order to continue to evaluate the staff member's effectiveness.

### **Board Policy - DCA (Legal)**

**§21.003, 21.0031, and 21.057 Teacher Certification** - *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. TEC21.057 requires districts to provide written notice to parents when an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year. TEC 21.0031 (a) An employee's probationary, continuing, or term contract under this chapter is void if the employee: (1) does not hold a valid certificate or permit issued by the State Board for Educator Certification; (2) fails to fulfill the requirements necessary to renew or extend the employee's temporary, probationary, or emergency certificate or any other certificate or permit issued under Subchapter B; or(3) fails to comply with any requirement under Subchapter C, Chapter 22, if the failure results in suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate under Section 22.0831(f)(2).*

### **Proposed**

With the current teacher shortage, this exemption from teacher certification requirements will enable greater flexibility in staffing and will enrich applicant pools in specific areas of need. Exemption from TEC 21.003, 21.0031, and 21.057 will provide much needed flexibility to hire the most qualified candidate for teaching positions. With an increasing number of innovative courses created after implementation of HB5, finding exceptionally qualified applicants in specific fields who are also certified teachers is increasingly more difficult. This flexibility will allow the District to hire individuals who best meet the needs of the students and provide the content knowledge our students need to enter an increasingly innovative world. Additionally, the district would not be required to notify parents for teachers who are obtaining their certification under the extended timeline proposed by this flexibility. The district will continue to work with the teacher preparation programs in preparing candidates and ensure the candidates are assisted in obtaining the appropriate certifications.

Although it is the District's intent to limit the use of this exemption, the current statute inhibits the District's ability to recruit and employ highly qualified professionals.

The District is seeking flexibility in three areas:

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Amended June 2019  
Amended May 2020*

- A. Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and Foreign Language certifications at the secondary level. Teachers in these areas will be provided one additional year to obtain the appropriate certification.
- B. Career and Technical - Qualified professionals with industry and field experience to successfully teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.
- C. Dual Credit Teacher Certifications - Credentialed community college instructors or university professors, in specific content areas, may be employed to teach courses in order to afford more students the opportunity to take dual credit courses if certified teachers are not available.

**Local Guidelines:**

- a) The campus principal may submit a request to the Superintendent to allow a certified teacher to teach a subject and/or grade level out of his/her certification area while working on proper certification. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses qualifying this individual to teach the subject and to initiate the request. The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- b) An individual with experience in a Career and Technology field may be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course. An individual may hold a teaching certification in another state for core areas or Career and Technology. An individual may have background, experience, skills or work related/industry experience to work full time or part time in a designated area. The principal will submit a request to the superintendent for local certification. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials the individual possesses qualifying this individual to teach the subject. The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- c) The principal may submit a request to the Superintendent to allow a credentialed community college instructor or university professor to teach courses in order to afford more students the opportunity to take dual credit courses if certified teachers are not available. The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- d) The Superintendent, after consultation with campus leadership and the Human Resources leadership, will certify candidates that meet local credential guidelines. The Superintendent will notify the Board prior to the individual beginning employment. Exemption from the Texas Education Code §21.003 will require the District to review its policies at DBA (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) as well as the policies at DK (LEGAL) and (LOCAL). The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.

Board Policy - DBA (Legal), DBA (Local), DK (Legal) and DK (Local)

**§21.451 Required Professional Development**

*TEC states a) The staff development provided by a school district to an educator other than a principal must be: (1) conducted in accordance with standards developed by the district; and (2) designed to improve education in the district. Pine Tree ISD faculty are well trained to identify social indicators such as sexual harassment, bullying, and suicide. In addition, the faculty/staff clearly understand the requirements of FERPA. Mandating training in these areas annually only serves to add redundancy to back to school work that can be better utilized in preparing for the students to return.*

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 Amended June 2019  
 Amended May 2020

### **Proposed**

Each year more mandatory trainings are put into place without the addition of hours or funding to implement them. Pine Tree ISD agrees with the importance of each of these areas of training such as sexual harassment, bullying, suicide prevention, FERPA, etc.). However, the District needs the flexibility to allow our faculty and staff to implement the knowledge they have been given through these repeated trainings. This will also allow more time for implementation of the trainings on each campus and allow time for assessing the effectiveness of local plans or preventive programs. It is with that understanding that we seek exemption from annual compliance retraining in the areas listed below. Instead, these trainings will occur during new teacher orientation for new staff to the district as well as a refresher occurring in a preset three-year cycle for all staff, as determined by the district. Future mandatory trainings that are assigned will be handled in a similar fashion.

### **Local Guidelines**

- a) The District will set up and maintain a database for all employees. Employees will participate in formal training every three years in the following areas as mandated by law:
  1. Sexual harassment
  2. Bullying prevention for teachers, administrators, and staff
  3. Child abuse, sexual abuse, and other maltreatment of children
  4. FERPA (student privacy)
  5. Suicide prevention
  6. Anaphylaxis and Auto-Injectors
  7. Blood Borne Pathogens
  8. Diabetes Overview
  9. Illegal Steroid Use
  10. Concussions - except for teachers, administrators and staff who are required to have annual training per UIL rules
- b) All teachers, faculty, and staff new to the district will complete the compliance training during the first year of employment in the district.
- c) District and campus administrators may assign compliance training to an employee or group of employees as needed during the three year cycle.

### **Board Policy - DMA (Legal)**

#### **§21.404 Teacher Planning and Preparation**

*TEC 21.404 states each classroom teacher is entitled to at least 450 minutes within each two-week period for instructional preparation, including parent-teacher conferences, evaluating students' work, and planning. A planning and preparation period under this section may not be less than 45 minutes within the instructional day. During a planning and preparation period a classroom teacher may not be required to participate in any other activity.*

### **Proposed**

By exempting the District from this law, the District will have flexibility for special events/days on campus (state testing, field trips, etc.), will have flexibility for more collaboration during the school day, and will allow for administrative flexibility based on student needs by campus.

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*Amended May 2020*

### **Local Guidelines**

The number of minutes that a teacher receives for planning and preparation over a two-week period (450 minutes) must not be reduced but flexibility to provide less than 45 minutes per day, due to special events or scheduling, may be implemented. Any schedule designed with less than 45 minutes per day for teachers must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee prior to implementation.

### **Board Policy - DL (Legal)**

### **Summary of the District of Innovation Plan**

The direction provided by this local Innovation Plan is a culmination of collaboration among community members, parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators. This plan was designed to facilitate the implementation of the District's strategic plan which was adopted in April 2017. This plan provides an opportunity for the Pine Tree community to make local decisions on the best ways to educate our children.

### **June 2019 Amendment of the District of Innovation Plan**

## **TIMELINE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity/Task</b>
March 21, 2019	Review of plan by District Improvement Committee
March 21, 2019	Proposed Amendment to District of Innovation
March 25, 2019	Proposed amendment posted on District Website and March 25, 2019
	Presentation to Board for preliminary approval
June 10, 2019	District Improvement Committee conducts Public Meeting
June 10, 2019	Board approval of Amended District of Innovation Plan
June 11, 2019	Amended District of Innovation plan submitted to the TEA

*Approved April 2017*

*Amended June 2019*

*Amended May 2020*

**§21.401 Teacher Contract Days**

*Current law defines a teacher contract as a ten-month contract equivalent to 187 days.*

**Proposed**

The Texas Education Code 25.081 changed student instruction from days to minutes thus creating opportunities of community defined flexibility on delivering instruction. Flexibility in teacher contract days allows for a mirroring of student, teacher and community needs. Additionally, the ability to adjust the length of teacher contract days allows for Pine Tree ISD to be competitive in recruiting and retaining quality employees to best serve the students and community thus creating higher teacher morale.

- This exemption would allow for a locally defined contract length for teachers that would be fewer than 187 days.
- Reduction in contract days would not create any adverse effect on salaries or stipends.
- Reduction in contract days allows for Pine Tree ISD to align days with 75,600 minutes of student instruction and still allow for quality instruction and professional development.

**Local Guidelines**

- The District will determine, on an annual basis, the number of teacher contract days not to exceed 187.

Board Policy - DCB (Legal), DCB (Local)

**May 2020 Amendment of the District of Innovation Plan**

**TIMELINE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity/Task</b>
March 17, 2020	Review of plan by District Improvement Committee
March 17, 2020	Proposed Amendment to District of Innovation developed
March 23, 2020	Presentation to Board for preliminary approval
March 25, 2020	Proposed amendment posted on District Website
May 11, 2020	District Improvement Committee conducts Public Meeting
May 11, 2020	District Improvement Committee approves DOI Plan
May 11, 2020	Board approval of Amended District of Innovation Plan
May 15, 2020	Amended District of Innovation plan submitted to the TEA

*Approved April 2017*

*Amended June 2019*

*Amended May 2020*

## **AMENDMENTS as of May 11, 2020**

### **DOI - Uniform Group Coverage Program**

CRD Legal and Local Texas Education Code 22.004(i)

#### **Current Law:**

With regard to each area of innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provision, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commission of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.

#### **Texas Education Code §22.004(i) Inhibits the Goals of the Local Innovation Plan**

TEC §22.004(i) Group Health Benefits for School Employees states that a school district may not make group health coverage available to its employees pursuant to TEC §22.004(b) after the date a district implements the program of coverages provided under Chapter 1579 of the Texas Insurance Code. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of group health insurance benefits to fit the needs of all district employees. This provision also prohibits the district from procuring group health insurance benefits that may provide better coverages for its employees at a lower cost. This provision does not give the district the flexibility needed to acquire benefits packages that would potentially be more attractive to prospective employees.

#### **Exemption from Texas Education Code §22.004(i)**

TEC §22.004 is not included in any of the prohibited exemptions that can be included in a District's local innovation plan pursuant to TEC §12A.004 or the list of the Commissioner's prohibited exemptions in the Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Chapter 102, subchapter JJ, Section 102.1309. Therefore, in order to have the option to offer additional benefits options to employees and to increase local control of the group health benefits plan to allow the District to be responsive to employee and community needs, the district proposes that the District of Innovation Plan be amended to exempt the district from the health insurance requirements in TEC §22.004(i).

### **DOI - Teacher and Administrator Certification**

DK Legal, DK Local, DK Exhibit - Ed. Code 21.044, 21.003 and other

#### **CURRENT EXEMPTION:**

*Approved April 2017*

*Amended June 2019*

*Amended May 2020*

**§21.003, 21.0031, and 21.057 Teacher Certification** - *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.*

*TEC21.057 requires districts to provide written notice to parents when an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year.*

*TEC 21.0031 (a) An employee's probationary, continuing, or term contract under this chapter is void if the employee: (1) does not hold a valid certificate or permit issued by the State Board for Educator Certification; (2) fails to fulfill the requirements necessary to renew or extend the employee's temporary, probationary, or emergency certificate or any other certificate or permit issued under Subchapter B; or(3) fails to comply with any requirement under Subchapter C, Chapter 22, if the failure results in suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate under Section 22.0831(f)(2).*

With the current teacher shortage, this exemption from teacher certification requirements will enable greater flexibility in staffing and will enrich applicant pools in specific areas of need. Exemptions from TEC 21.003, 21.0031, and 21.057 will provide much needed flexibility to hire the most qualified candidate for teaching positions. With an increasing number of innovative courses created after implementation of HB5, finding exceptionally qualified applicants in specific fields who are also certified teachers is increasingly more difficult. This flexibility will allow the District to hire individuals who best meet the needs of the students and provide the content knowledge our students need to enter an increasingly innovative world. Additionally, the district would not be required to notify parents for teachers who are obtaining their certification under the extended timeline proposed by this flexibility. The district will continue to work with the teacher preparation programs in preparing candidates and ensure the candidates are assisted in obtaining the appropriate certifications.

Although it is the District's intent to limit the use of this exemption, the current statute inhibits the District's ability to recruit and employ highly qualified professionals.

The District is seeking flexibility in three areas:

- A. Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and Foreign Language certifications at the secondary level. Teachers in these areas will be provided one additional year to obtain the appropriate certification.
- B. Career and Technical - Qualified professionals with industry and field experience to successfully teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.
- C. Dual Credit Teacher Certifications - Credentialed community college instructors or university professors, in specific content areas, may be employed to teach courses in

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*Amended May 2020*



order to afford more students the opportunity to take dual credit courses if certified teachers are not available.

**Local Guidelines:**

- a) The campus principal may submit a request to the Superintendent to allow a certified teacher to teach a subject and/or grade level out of his/her certification area while working on proper certification. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses qualifying this individual to teach the subject and to initiate the request. The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- b) An individual with experience in a Career and Technology field may be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course. An individual may hold a teaching certification in another state for core areas or Career and Technology. An individual may have background, experience, skills or work related/industry experience to work full time or part time in a designated area. The principal will submit a request to the superintendent for local certification. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials the individual possesses qualifying this individual to teach the subject. The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- c) The principal may submit a request to the Superintendent to allow a credentialed community college instructor or university professor to teach courses in order to afford more students the opportunity to take dual credit courses if certified teachers are not available. The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- d) The Superintendent, after consultation with campus leadership and the Human Resources leadership, will certify candidates that meet local credential guidelines. The Superintendent will notify the Board prior to the individual beginning employment. Exemption from the Texas Education Code §21.003 will require the District to review its policies at DBA (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) as well as the policies at DK (LEGAL) and (LOCAL). The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.

**2020 AMENDED EXEMPTION:**

In order to best serve PTISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally unless specifically forbidden so by state law. The current state teacher and principal certification requirements may inhibit the District's ability to offer and then staff a variety of positions requiring specified criteria even with current District of Innovation exemptions. In order to obtain the best possible educator in all educational settings, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements and its own training of professionals in lieu of the requirements set for in law and those requirements adopted in the original 2017 PTISD District of Innovation document. By obtaining exemption from existing certification requirements, the District, under recommendation of the Superintendent, will have the flexibility to hire educators with expertise

for classroom and administrative positions that may not have completed the traditional certification process.

Board Policy - DBA (Legal), DBA (Local), DK (Legal) and DK (Local)

# DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS 2019-2020

Member	Role
Misty Weedon (Year 2)	Parent
Karina Rivera (Year 2)	Parent
Billy Mullins (Year 2)	Business Member- Austin Bank
Amy Reese	Business Member- Texas Bank and Trust
Judy Edwards (Year 2)	Community Member
Beverly Ebersole (Year 2)	Community Member
LaTosha Anaya (Year 2)	Paraprofessional Staff
Jennifer Wilbur (Year 2)	Classroom Professional Staff
Cleo Wadley (Year 2)	Classroom Professional Staff
Mathew “Brady” McBroom	Campus-based Nonteaching Prof. Staff
Justin Linnstaedter (Year 2)	Classroom Professional Staff
Elizabeth Banta	Campus-based Nonteaching Prof. Staff
Katie Hammer	Classroom Professional Staff
Katrina Teter (Year 2)	Classroom Professional Staff
Taylor Scadden (Year 2)	Classroom Professional Staff
Richard Jasper	Classroom Professional Staff
Kimberly Bogue	Campus-based Nonteaching Prof. Staff
Christi Goldson (Year 2)	Campus-based Nonteaching Prof. Staff
Bill Irvine	Campus-based Nonteaching Prof. Staff
Blake Sansom	Classroom Professional Staff
Lisa Mullins	District-level Professional Staff
Michele Walker	District-level Professional Staff
Todd Yohn	District-level Professional Staff
Dr. Valerie Baxter	District-level Professional Staff

*Approved April 2017*

*Amended June 2019*

*Amended May 2020*

Stephen English	District-level Professional Staff
Robin White	District-level Professional Staff
Jack Irvin	District-level Professional Staff
Lee Branson	District-level Professional Staff
Debbie Terry	District-level Professional Staff
Dr. Eric Cederstrom	District-level Professional Staff
Jennifer Solomon	District-level Professional Staff
Kalli Van Meter	District-level Professional Staff
Jan Goldberg	District-level Professional Staff
Blake Newman	District-level Professional Staff
Melanie Ferguson	District-level Professional Staff