

BRYSON

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

300 N. McCloud - Bryson, TX 76427
940.392.3281 - Fax 940.392.2086
www.brysonisd.net



Bryson ISD District of Innovation Plan (21-22 through 25-26)

Introduction

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. On July 18, 2016, Bryson ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution to initiate the process of designation as a District of Innovation.

Local Innovation Committee

Greg London, Superintendent	JR Stearns, Teacher	Shelby Leatherwood, Parent
Gary Kirby, Principal	Tammy Helms, Teacher	Misty Nail, Business Representative
Debbie Hearne, Student Services Director	Kelly Behling, Parent	
Lori Thorne, Teacher	Natasha Lowe, Parent	

Bryson ISD Board of Trustees

Travis Thorne, President	Ronnie Collins, Vice-President	Sheila Birdwell, Assistant Secretary
Frank Hefner, Secretary	Blake Brooks, Member	Danny Lewis, Member

Texas Education Code Exemptions

The district exercises innovations in the following areas under House Bill 1842 that was passed in the 84th Legislature:

Teacher Certification (TEC 21.003) [DBA(LEGA)L; DK(LEGAL); DK (EXHIBT)]

The Texas Education Code Section 21.003 states that “a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern, teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B. The current certification requirements inhibit the District’s ability to hire effective instructors to teach CTE, Languages Other than English, and Fine Arts. In order to provide more students the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such courses in lieu of the requirements set forth in law.

Implementation: The campus principal is to submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a person to teach courses including languages other than English, Fine Arts, or Career and Technology courses. In order to maximize the opportunities for students to take such courses, the district

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

- A) Consider part time professionals to teach courses.
- B) Provide an opportunity for professionals to transition from other work related jobs to the teaching profession.
- C) Increase the number of CATE type courses available and ensure the district can offer appropriate courses for languages other than English and Fine Arts.
- D) Allow trade related professionals the ability to teach related courses.
- E) Allow qualified individuals to teach languages other than English, Fine Arts, or Career Technology courses.
- F) The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignments.
- G) A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the TEA when this process is completed to allow for local certification to teach languages other than English, Fine Arts, or Career and Technology courses.

Interruptions During School Day (TEC 25.083) [EC(LEGAL); EC(LOCAL)]

State law requires the District to adopt a policy and strictly enforce limiting interruptions during the school day for announcements.

Exempting the District from the restrictions under TEC § 25.083 will allow each campus the ability to make non-emergency announcements throughout the day on an as needed basis. While the District is committed to keeping announcements at a minimum, there are certain situations where non-emergency announcements are essential to communicate pertinent procedural and regulatory information.

School Calendar (TEC 25.0811) (EB LEGAEL) (EB LOCAL)

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August. Bryson ISD exercises its ability under HB 1842 from the 84th Legislature to begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August.

Transfer Students

Currently under Texas Education Code 25.001, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district. Under TEC 25.036, a transfer is interpreted to be for one school year.

Innovation Strategies: Bryson ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (LOCAL) requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the students disciplinary history records, work habits, and attendance records are also evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements and the rules and regulations of the District. TEC 25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one year commitment by the District. The District is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one year commitment in accepting transfer applications for the following circumstances:

- Violation of Bryson ISD student discipline management system
- Student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school)
- Placement in disciplinary alternative education programs
- Conduct warranting expulsion
- Unacceptable academic performance
- Student that falls below the TEA truancy standard

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School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Meetings (BDF(LLEGAL); TEC § 28.004)

Texas Education Code Section 28.004 requires the school board of each school district to establish a local school health advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction. Further, the law requires the health advisory council to meet at least four times each year.

Rationale for Exemption

Because of the size of the District, this plan exempts the District from the statutory provision above that requires the advisory council to meet at least four times each year. This innovation will be implemented by the District as follows:

- The SHAC will meet twice per year—once in the Fall and once in the Spring.
- Additionally, the Board will be kept informed following both meetings.
- This exemption directly supports the District's commitment to health education and instruction.

Implementation

In order to offer students additional opportunities, this Innovation Plan has been created with guidelines in which the District will operate. Campuses and departments in the District will develop specific implementation plans. Adjustments to Board Policy will be adopted if necessary.

Respectfully,

Greg London
Superintendent, Bryson ISD