



Bryson Independent School District

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Bryson ISD Innovation Plan (16-17 through 20-21)

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, the Bryson Independent School District's Board of Trustees passed a Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation in order to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community. On August 25, 2016 the Board of Trustees appointed the Local Innovation Committee as follows:

David Stout, Eric Wilson, Missy Coufal, Laurie Kelley, Misti Nail, Elizabeth Gulley, Gary Kirby, Helen Guinn, Crystal Whitaker, and Ken Kaiser.

On September 15, 2016 the Innovation Committee met and developed and reviewed this innovation plan.

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

Teacher Certification

(TEC 21.003) (OBA LEGAL) (OBA LOCAL)

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 school 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 Career and Technical Education, 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.



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Manner in which statute inhibits the certification goal of the plan:

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.

The campus principal may 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. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment should also be noted. The current certification requirement severely limits the districts options to hire professionals with work related experience or degrees to teach a variety of courses dealing with languages other than English, Fine Arts, and Career and Technology courses. In order to maximum 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 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 and 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 Texas Education Agency when this process is completed to allow for local certification to teach languages other than English, fine Arts, or Career and Technology courses.



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School Calendar

(TEC 25.0811) (EB LEGAL) (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 a period of 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 student's 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 that warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative education program, or expulsion; unacceptable academic performance; or if student attendance falls below the TEA truancy standard.

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

David Stout

Superintendent, Bryson ISD