

Bosqueville ISD District of Innovation Plan

Bosqueville ISD – District of Innovation Committee Members

James Skeeler – Superintendent
Kelly Bray – Bosqueville Elementary Principal
Kim Granger – BISD Middle School Principal
Dustin Thomas – Bosqueville High School Principal
Cherie Cummings – BISD Teacher
Monica James – BISD Teacher
Amanda Compo – BISD Teacher
Jason Cummings – BISD Teacher
Dawn Holmes – BISD Elementary Counselor
Judy Nunn – BISD MS/HS Counselor
Lacey Merrifield – BISD Technology Director
Melissa Adams – District Curriculum Director

Timeline

- March 1, 2023 – District of Innovation Committee Members meet to discuss/propose renewal of the current Bosqueville ISD (DOI) Plan.
- March 2, 2023 – Proposed District of Innovation Renewal Plan is disseminated to staff and posted on the District website.
- March 15, 2023 – Public Hearing is held to consider the final version of the (DOI) Plan renewal. Bosqueville ISD (DOI) Committee votes (8-0) to approve proposed Renewal Plan.
- March 28, 2023 – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner of Education is sent notification of Intent to Renew the Bosqueville ISD (DOI) Plan.
- May 8, 2023 – Bosqueville ISD Board of Trustees will vote to adopt the proposed (DOI) Plan renewal.
- May 9, 2023 – The approved (DOI) Plan will be sent to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner of Education

INTRODUCTION

During the 84th Texas Legislative Session House Bill (HB) 1842 was passed which allowed Texas Public Schools to formulate a District of Innovation (DOI) Plan. This

District of Innovation designation allows eligible school districts to exempt certain provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC) in an effort to allow local school district flexibility in the district planning and decision-making process.

On December 11, 2017, the Bosqueville ISD Board of Trustees approved a Resolution to explore the development of a District of Innovation Plan in order to increase local control and create the flexibility for the school district to implement practices that will support innovation.

TERM

The term of the (DOI) Plan is for five years, beginning June 1, 2023, and ending May 31, 2028, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If within the term of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of (HB) 1842, the Board will appoint a new DOI committee to consider and propose additional amendments to the initial Plan. Any amendment adopted by the Board will not extend beyond the 5-year term, the district may not implement two separated plans at any one time.

AREAS OF INNOVATION: State Law Considered for Exemptions

Bosqueville ISD declares exemption from the below listed statutory provisions, as well as any implementing rules or regulations pursuant to the listed provisions by any state agency/entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency (TEA), State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), and the State Board of Education (SBOE).

1. **School Start Date/End Date** – Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.0811; Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.0812. Board Policy EB(LEGAL).

Currently (TEC) 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday in August. (TEC) 25.0812 states that a school may not schedule the last day of student instruction before May 15th. The current law limits the districts' ability to build in any flexibility to the academic school calendar including unequal semesters, limits opportunities for staff development during the school year, and creates a calendar that does not meet the needs of our students, staff, parents or community.

Input for the academic school calendar will be received from the staff, parents and community. The recommendation for the academic school calendar will be made by the DOI committee for approval by the BISD Board of Trustees.

2. Probationary Contracts – Texas Education Code (TEC) 21.102(b). Board Policy DCA(LEGAL).

Currently (TEC) 21.102 states that for teachers new to the district that have taught for five of the past eight years are allowed to remain on a probationary contract for no longer than one year. One year is not a sufficient time to evaluate a teacher's effectiveness and contract renewal timelines result in contract decisions being made prior to receiving state assessment results.

It is proposed that Bosqueville ISD may issue a probationary contract for up to two years for teachers, counselors, and RN's who have been employed by another school district for five of the last eight years. This will allow the district a more effective timeline to evaluate these employees. All BISD employees are evaluated annually.

3. Admission, Transfer, and Attendance (Inter-District Transfers) – Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.036. Board Policy FDA(LOCAL).

Currently (TEC) 25.036 allows a school district to accept transfers who do not reside within the school district boundaries. Currently (TEC) 25.036 is interpreted to require a school district to keep a transfer student for an academic school year once they have been accepted for transfer.

Bosqueville ISD transfer criteria requires the student applying for transfer to have met the state compulsory attendance guidelines and to have a discipline record with no serious offenses. Bosqueville ISD is requesting to amend FDA(LOCAL) Board policy to allow a transfer student's standing in the District to be revoked at any time during the academic school year if they fall below the 90% compulsory attendance requirement or if they commit a serious discipline offense that results in (in/out of school suspension or placement into a DAEP setting).

4. School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) – Texas Education Code (TEC) 28.004. Board Policy BDF(LEGAL).

Bosqueville ISD is proposing to have the (SHAC) committee meet at least one time per school year. BISD's size and the difficulty to have a stable membership do not support the need for the current four required meetings per year. The district will ensure that student needs that are affected by the (SHAC) committee decisions will continue to be met.

5. Teacher Certification – Texas Education Code (TEC) 21.003; (TEC) 21.053; (TEC) 21.057. Board Policy DBA(LEGAL)/(LOCAL); DK(LEGAL)/(LOCAL).

Currently (TEC) 21.003 states that a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate permit issued by the appropriate state agency. Special Education, bilingual/ESL, and Pre-Kindergarten teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.

(TEC) 21.053 requires a teacher to present his or her certificate to the District before their employment contract will be binding, and prohibits the District from paying an educator for teaching if the educator does not hold a valid certificate at the time.

(TEC) 21.057 requires that the District provide written notice to parents if an inappropriately certified or non-certified teacher is assigned to a classroom for more than 20 consecutive instructional days.

Bosqueville ISD is proposing to be able to employ an individual with experience in the content area of CTE elective courses to teach through a local teaching certificate. The campus principal would specify in writing the purpose for the request and would present the persons educational and work experience that would qualify them to teach the proposed course(s). Example: A certified electrician to teach a CTE on electrical trades, a licensed welder to teacher CTE welding courses, an RN to teach health science courses.

Bosqueville ISD is proposing to allow a current certified teacher to teach out of their area of certification. Bosqueville ISD will continue to seek teacher's certified for the specific position but when not possible to seek the best possible candidate to fill the position. Examples of this scenarios include, but are not limited to the following:

- Allow a teacher certified in elementary grades to teach Kindergarten
- Allow a teacher certified through 6th grade to teach 7th & 8th grade courses
- Allow a teacher certified in middle/high school grades to teach at the elementary grades

Bosqueville ISD will require the campus principal to specify in writing the purpose for the request and would present the persons qualifications that would make them the appropriate candidate for the position.

6. Teacher Contract Days – Texas Education Code (TEC) 21.401. Board Policy DCB (LEGAL)/(LOCAL).

Current Chapter 21 law defines a teacher contract as a ten-month contract equivalent to 187 days.

Bosqueville ISD is proposing to reduce teacher contract days from 187 to 182 with no effect on teacher salaries. This will allow several benefits for staff:

- Better alignment between teacher days and student days
- This will increase the daily rate for staff members
- Enhance teacher morale and recruitment efforts
- Allows more flexibility with summer professional development
- All employees on a work calendar of less than (226 days) will be adjusted consistent with this 5-day reduction