

L A R E D O   I N D E P E N D E N T   S C H O O L   D I S T R I C T

# BUSINESS & SUPPORT SERVICES

## C O M M I T T E E M E E T I N G

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District of Innovation  
HB2 Delay of Certification Requirements



# Legislative Background

- House Bill (HB 2) passed during 89th Legislature, 2025
- HB updates Texas Education Code (TEC) §21.003 and creates new TEC§21.0032.
- In alignment with TEC §21.003, districts must ensure that all uncertified teachers in foundation subjects (Math, Science, ELAR, Social Studies) hold appropriate SBEC-issued certification specific to the subject area and grade level
- To support districts during this transition, HB 2 introduces a provision under TEC§21.0032 that allows districts to apply for a delay in implementation certification requirements until 2029-2030 school year.
- Districts seeking approval from Commissioner of Education to delay implementation of teacher certification requirements, as specified in (TEC) §21.003 and new TEC§21.0032 must complete **the Delay of Teacher Certification Application**.

# Purpose of the Transition to Certification Plan

- LISD seeks approval from Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath for a **delay of certification requirements** for existing uncertified foundational subject teachers through the **2029-2030 school year**.
- Commissioner Morath's approval provides critical staffing stability, allowing eligible teachers to remain in their assignments throughout the transition period while completing certification requirements. This stability is especially important given the district's geographic and workforce challenges.
- Submit the application to the Commissioner
  - Application Window: October 16, 2025 – March 2, 2026
  - Notification of Approval: By March 31, 2026

# Legal Requirements and Implications

- Without Commissioner Approval:
  - The District cannot continue employing uncertified foundational subject teachers beyond the limited options allowed in HB 2 statute
  - Uncertified foundational-subject teachers cannot continue teaching:
    - Secondary (grade levels 6-12) foundational subjects in 2027-2028, unless they become certified
- With Commissioner Approval:
  - LISD may legally delay certification requirements for existing uncertified foundational subject teachers (until the 2029-2030 school year)
  - LISD is authorized to continue employing these teachers during the transition period, consistent with HB2 timelines

# Components of the LISD Transition to Certification Plan

- Districts must report number of uncertified teachers, currently assigned to foundation subjects (2025-2026)

Total uncertified teachers assigned to foundation curriculum courses (ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies): **19 teachers**

SUBJECT	High School
Math	5
ELAR	2
Science	4
Social Studies	2
<b>TOTAL TEACHERS</b>	<b>13</b>

Subject	Middle School
Social Studies	2
Science	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

# Components of the LISD Transition to Certification Plan (cont.)

- Identify at least one Educator Preparation Program (EPP) partner to support certification efforts.
  - **Teach Us – Texas (1-866-349-0888)**
  - EPP responsibilities include:
    - Completion of required coursework and exam preparation resources according to specific timeline
    - Passing required certification exams (e.g. content exam, PPR)
    - Maintaining satisfactory performance evaluations and meeting instructional expectations
    - Demonstrating annual progress toward full certification as outlined in the district's Delay of Certification Plan
- Provide board of trustees' approval date and a weblink to the board meeting agenda and the board approved plan posted publicly.

# Phase In Timeline for Certification Compliance Goals for 2029-2030

- Provide comprehensive report for all LISD foundational subject teachers to earn and maintain a valid Texas teaching certificate (standard, intern, or probationary)
- Achieve full statewide compliance with TEC§21.0032 by ensuring all foundational subject teachers hold valid Texas certification.
- Recruitment plans and teacher pipeline initiatives to increase and hire the number of certified teachers:
  - Partnership with Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) specifically collaboration with the Dean of the College of Education
  - Attend and conduct scheduled job fairs to recruit certified teachers

# Phase In Timeline for Certification Compliance Goals for 2029-2030

- Provide release time during academic school day to participate in test preparation sessions conducted by Teach Us
- Substitute teacher coverage funded by the district to support release time to attend sessions
- Completion of required coursework and exam preparation resources according to specific timeline
- Teachers maintain satisfactory performance evaluations and meeting instructional expectations
- Teachers demonstrating annual progress toward full certification as outlined in the district's Delay of Certification Plan
- District provides ongoing guidance and support to ensure timely progress toward certification
- Reimbursement for certification-related expenses (i.e. reimbursement payment for certification examination if they earn a passing score)
- Reimbursement of the fee for applying for standard certificate
- Passing required certification exams (e.g. content exam, PPR)

# 2025-2026 School Year

- LISD maintains currently approved DOI plan which may include exemptions from TEC §21.003; LISD may continue hiring based on their current DOI certification plan exemptions.
- LISD administrators continue preparing for full compliance.
- Officially enroll all uncertified foundational teachers in various Educator Prep Programs (EPPs) to begin certification pathways.

# 2026-2027 School Year

- Complete 150 hours of EPP (educator prep program pre-service) coursework no later than 45 days after the last school day.
- Complete 50 hours of state-required Field-Based Observations within the same timeline.
- Maintaining satisfactory performance evaluations and meeting instructional expectations.
- Complete EPP requirements for recommendation to register for appropriate TExES content exam(s).

# 2027-2028 School Year

- Complete 100 additional hours of EPP (educator Prep program) coursework no later than 30 days after the last school day.
- Maintaining satisfactory performance evaluations and meeting instructional expectations.
- Complete EPP requirements for recommendation to register for appropriate TExES content exam(s).
- Earn passing score(s) on required TExES content exams on or before the deadline.

# 2028-2029 School Year

- Maintaining satisfactory performance evaluations and meeting instructional expectations.
- Complete all EPP requirements for recommendation to register for appropriate TExES content exam(s).
- Earn passing score(s) on required TExES content exams on or before the deadline.

# 2029-2030 School Year

- All LISD uncertified teachers assigned to foundation curriculum courses are required to complete all state and Educator Prep Program (EPP) requirements
- Earn a passing scores on the appropriate TExES content and pedagogy examinations and meet all criteria necessary to obtain a standard Texas teaching certificate specific to the subject area and grade level no later than May 31, 2030.

# Board Review & Approval

- Board reviews the plan, then district completes required public postings before submission to Commissioner Morath.

# THANK YOU