



ALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 27, 2017

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mike Morath, Commissioner of Education
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
commissioner@tea.texas.gov

Re: Notice to the Commissioner of Education of Allen ISD Board of Trustees' Approval of Amendment to Local Innovation Plan

Dear Commissioner Morath,

In accordance with T.A.C. §102.1313, Amendment, Rescission, or Renewal which specifies:

(a) A district innovation plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed if the action is approved by a majority vote of the district-level committee established under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §11.251, or a comparable committee if the district is exempt from that section, and a two-thirds majority vote of the board of trustees.

(1) Amendment. An amendment to an approved plan does not change the date of the term of designation as an innovation district. Exemptions that were already formally approved are not required to be reviewed,

Please be advised that the Allen ISD Board of Trustees formally unanimously approved at their June 26, 2017 board meeting the attached amendment which was approved by a unanimous vote of the District Improvement & Planning Committee at a public meeting on May 24, 2017. This amendment is submitted to amend the Local Innovation Plan approved by the board November 28, 2016 with notice of intention to adopt sent to the Commissioner on September 27, 2016, and final submission to the Commissioner on November 29, 2016.

As specified in §102.1313(a) (1), the exemptions that were formally approved are not required to be reviewed. Therefore, we are attaching the amendment which seeks exemption from: Texas Education Code Chapter 25 – Operation of Schools: Minimum minutes of instruction §25.081(e). Also attached is TAC Fig. 19, with that exemption marked as well.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Dr. Maroba Zoeller, Chief Governmental Relations Officer at maroba_zoeller@allenisd.org.

Sincerely,

Louise Master, President
Board of Trustees, Allen Independent School District
Louise_master@allenisd.org

Cc: Leah Martin, Accreditation and School Improvement, Texas Education Agency
Leah.Martin@tea.texas.gov

Enclosures: 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ALLEN ISD DISTRICT INNOVATION PLAN
ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY BOARD, NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Allen ISD has determined a need to apply for an amendment to our District Innovation Plan to allow an exemption to allow us flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction to assist with personalized learning to better meet student needs. It also has the added benefit of allowing the possibility of an altered length of school day, which may include, for example, a later start/early release time which will accommodate additional professional development/collaboration opportunities for faculty and staff. Exemption sought by this Amendment to our Local Innovation Plan:

Texas Education Code
Chapter 25 – Operation of Schools
Minimum minutes of instruction §25.081(e)
Currently:

House Bill (HB) 2610, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, amends the Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.081, by striking language requiring 180 days of instruction and replacing this language with language requiring districts and charter schools to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disaster, flood, extreme weather condition, fuel curtailment or another calamity. For each school year, each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses. For the purposes of this Code, a day of instruction is 420 minutes in meeting the 75,600 minutes for the year.

In order to conduct the best innovative program we can for AISD students, staff and the community, AISD may want to vary the length of the school day to provide flexibility in scheduling. The District understands that there may be funding implications to this component of the Innovation Plan.

Proposed Exemption: Minimum Minutes of Instruction (EC LEGAL & EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.081)

- TEC §25.081: For each school year, each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses, for students.

AMENDMENT APPROVED

DATE: May 24, 2017

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Maroba M. Zoeller

Dr. Maroba M. Zoeller, Chair
Chief Governmental Relations Officer

AMENDMENT APPROVED:

DATE: June 26, 2017

ALLEN ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Louise Master, President

Amy Gnadt, Secretary

Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307(d)

Innovation District

Please submit, on district letterhead, a letter to the commissioner of education stating the date that the board of trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District.

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- 1) Innovative Curriculum
- 2) Instructional Methods
- 3) Community Participation
- 4) Governance of Campuses
- 5) Parental Involvement

A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan. Please use the form below to check the statutes specifically identified in your district's local innovation plan as inhibiting a goal of the plan. Checking a specific statute does not necessarily indicate eligibility for an exemption from all subsections of the statute. The local innovation plan controls with regard to the specific exemptions adopted by a district. The form below provides a reporting mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirements of the statute. Entire sections of code may not be eligible for exemption and each district should consult its legal counsel in developing its innovation plan.

Exemptions claimed for an Innovation District apply only to the specific provision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) cited, which may or may not be governed by a separate legal requirement. The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement. Each district should consult its legal counsel to ensure adoption of necessary local policies to ensure compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of exemptions.

Term of Plan: 2017-2018 to 2021-22. Amends Allen ISD Local Innovation Plan filed November 29, 2017. Plan applies to:

X Entire District Campus (list) _____ Other (please describe) _____

Chapter 11 – School Districts

Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts

- §11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board
- §11.162 School Uniforms

Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making

- §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process
- §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making
- §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making
- §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

Chapter 21 – Educators

Subchapter A – General Provisions

- §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts
- §21.003 Certification Required
- §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

Subchapter B – Certification of Educators

- §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.
- §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- §21.057 Parental Notification

Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts

Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts

Subchapter E – Term Contracts

Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives

- §21.352 Local Role
- §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance
- §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators
- §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

- §21.401 Minimum Service Required
- §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- §21.4021 Furloughs
- §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
- §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule

- §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
- §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
- §21.415 Employment Contracts

Subchapter J – Staff Development

- §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
- §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
- §21.458 Mentors

Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers

Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits

- §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

- §25.081(e) Minimum Minutes of Instruction**
- §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- §25.0812 Last Day of School
- §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size

- §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- §25.112 Class Size
- §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size

Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order

Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management

- §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator

- §37.002 Removal by Teacher
- Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management

Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts

- §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- §44.043 Right To Work
- §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions

- §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- §44.903 Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs in Instructional Facilities
- §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

Chapter 45 – School District Funds

Subchapter G – School District Depositories

- §45.205 Term of Contract
- §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- §45.207 Award of Contract
- §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- §45.209 Investment of District Funds

Other

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan: