



**Roosevelt ISD District of Innovation Plan  
2018-2023**



The 84th Legislature passed House Bill 1842, allowing Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. In an effort to better serve and accommodate the diverse needs of all 21st century stakeholders, including students, staff, parents and community members, Roosevelt ISD seeks to become a District of Innovation. This distinction allows the District increased local control over District operations to improve the quality of services benefiting all stakeholders. Roosevelt ISD is seeking to become a district of innovation for five years, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year through the end of the 2022-2023.

## Roosevelt ISD's District of Innovation Timeline

1/22/18

### **Adoption Resolution**

On January 22, 2018, the Board of Trustees adopt a resolution to explore the opportunity for Roosevelt ISD to become a District of Innovation

2/ 19 /18

### **Public Hearing**

On February 19, 2018, the Roosevelt ISD Board of Trustees hold a public hearing for public input on the District of Innovation Opportunity.

2/19/18

### **Appoint Committee**

On February 19, 2018, the Board of Trustees appoints a District Level Committee (DOIC) to develop a plan of innovation.

Feb.-April

### **Develop Plan of Innovation**

The DOIC discuss possible exemption plans

The DOIC drafts an initial plan

4/04/18

### **Public Hearing**

The DOIC holds a public meeting

The DOIC reviews final plan/votes on plan

The DOI Plan is posted on the district Website for more than 30 days

5/21/18

## **District of Innovation Plan**

The DOI Plan sent to the Commissioner of Education

The Board of Trustees will consider the DOI Plan for possible approval

# **Exemptions Requested in the Texas Education Code**

## **1. School Start Date/Last Day of School/Length of School Day (EB Legal) (EB Local) (EC Legal) (EC Local) (TEC 25.0811)(TEC 25.0812)**

### **First Day of Instruction**

Current Law Texas Education Code 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August.

### **Benefit of Exemption for RISD:**

- The District Calendar committee will have the flexibility to start school up to a week earlier (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in August or a mid-week after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in August).
- Starting a week earlier will allow better balance of semesters/grading periods and create more instructional time prior to state assessments.
- Relief from the statute will allow Roosevelt ISD to develop a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional learning in conjunction with the new instructional minutes' requirement, rather than days.

### **Local Guidelines:**

- The district calendar committee will receive input on calendar drafts and then subject to school board approval to determine the start date each year.

## **2. Teacher Certification (DK Legal) (DK Local) (DK Exhibit) (DBA Legal) (DBA Local) (TEC 21.003)**

Current Law TEC 21.003 states that "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."

In the event the District cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or where a teacher will teach a subject outside of his/her field of certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request.

**Benefit of Exemption for RISD:**

- The statutory certification requirements inhibit the district's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) and qualified professionals to teach foreign language courses.
- Local qualifications will allow the district to:
  - Allow experienced teachers to teach CTE classes
  - Expand CTE opportunities
  - Provide flexibility in scheduling and class options for students

**Local Guidelines:**

- The District will maintain its current expectations for CTE and Foreign Language employee certification. The District will make every attempt to hire individuals with appropriate certification for the position in question; however, where that is not reasonably possible, the District will have the flexibility to hire individuals who are knowledgeable in the area and equipped to effectively perform the duties of the position in question for CTE and Foreign Language Courses.
- The campus principal must specify, in writing, the reason for the request and document what credentials or life experience the teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject.
- The instructional planning for the uncertified teacher's course will be created in partnership with certified teachers. Uncertified teachers will be provided teacher mentoring, observations and feedback, professional development or instructional resources, or other supports.
- The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Education.
- Teacher certification waiver requests, state permit applications, or other paperwork requesting an emergency permit will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency. The District will ensure that all individuals assigned to teach these courses have the knowledge and resources necessary to be successful. Individuals will not be exempt from criminal history checks or reporting of educator misconduct.

### **3. Transfer of Student**

#### **(FDA LOCAL) (TEC§25.036)**

A district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district, and this code has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of one school year.

Roosevelt ISD seeks exemption from the one-year transfer commitment. RISD will be allowed to revoke a transfer if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative program or expulsion.

#### **Benefit of Exemption for RISD:**

- Roosevelt ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA(Local). Students who transfer into the district policy are expected to follow the attendance requirement rules, and regulations of the district. On rare occasions student behavior warrants suspension, placement in disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall below the TEA truant standard. In these cases, and following reasonable corrective measures, Roosevelt ISD seeks exemption from the one-year transfer commitment.

#### **Local Guidelines:**

- Nonresident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfer students may have such transfer status revoked by the superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline resulting in suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard, may also be subject to immediate revocation of their transfer status.