

LA VEGA ISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION



La Vega ISD seeks the freedom and flexibility to make decisions at the local level. The purpose of the plan is to pursue innovations in curriculum, instructional methods, governance of campuses, parent and community involvement, modifications to the school day or year, budgeting and sustainable program funding, accountability and assessment above state requirements, or other innovative ideas.

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*District of Innovation**La Vega ISD Local Innovation Plan Committee Members*

Dr. Sharon Shields	Superintendent
Ms. Diane Roepke	Deputy Superintendent for Finance
Mr. Todd Gooden	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Dr. Peggy Johnson	Director of Elementary Education
Dr. Charla Rudd	Director of Secondary Education
Dr. Linda Volz	Director of Special Education
Ms. Lisa Seawright	Primary School Principal
Ms. Shaunte Stewart	Elementary School Principal
Ms. Kristi Rizo	Intermediate School Principal
Mr. Chris Borland	Junior High School Principal
Mr. Chuck Klander	High School Principal
Dr. Jan Hungate	Early College High School Principal
Ms. Jennifer Chaudoin	Junior High School Teacher
Mr. Mareau Crain	Junior High School Teacher
Ms. Cynthia Denmark	Elementary Literacy Coach
Ms. Lisa Drafahl	Family Engagement Specialist
Ms. Ginny Ellis	Junior High School Assistant Principal
Ms. Ann Garrett	Instructional Specialist
Ms. Sandra Gibson	High School Assistant Principal
Ms. Jennifer Gillen	Literacy Coordinator
Ms. Alex Gomez	Elementary School Teacher
Ms. Kerry Halstead	Elementary School Teacher
Mr. Derrick Keller	High School Teacher
Ms. Karye Maine	Primary School Teacher
Ms. Veronica Olvera	Primary School Teacher
Ms. Sondra Russell	Intermediate School Teacher
Ms. April Wagner	Intermediate School Teacher
Ms. Marilyn Wilson	Migrant/LEP Specialist
Commander Jim Gompper	High School Teacher

Mr. Dennis Hataway	High School Teacher
Mr. Kenneth Maedgen	Junior High School Teacher
Ms. Tamara Smith	Junior High School Teacher
Ms. Ann English	Intermediate School Teacher
Ms. Teresa Nickell	Intermediate School Teacher
Ms. Holly Jones	Elementary School Teacher
Ms. Melanie Morgan	Elementary School Teacher
Ms. Amy Winkleman	Primary School Teacher
Chief Lydia Alvarado	Community Representative
Ms. Maria Amaro	Parent
Ms. Betty Bentura	Parent
Mr. James Castellano	Business Representative
Ms. Diana Castro	Parent
Ms. Randi Connor	Parent & ESL Interventionist
Ms. LeeAnn Ermis	Primary School Teacher
Ms. Rosie Escobedo	Parent
Mr. Gene Hicks	High School Assistant Principal
Mr. Dennis Koester	La Vega Maintenance
Pastor Larry Krueger	Community Representative
Ms. Vanessa Kruse	Primary School Librarian
Mr. Simitrio Ledesma	Student Council LVJH
Mr. Lamar Lee	Student Council LV High School
Mr. Ernesto Loreda	Parent
Dr. Alfreda Love	Junior High Assistant Principal
Ms. Chyrll McDonald	High School Teacher
Ms. Cindy Michaelis	Pirate Education Foundation
Ms. Sabrina Miles	Parent
Ms. Liz Newton	Intermediate School Teacher
Mr. Charles Outlaw	Junior High School Teacher
Mr. Justin Peebles	La Vega Technology
Ms. Carla Powers	Community Representative
Ms. Christina Ramirez	Community Representative

Ms. Brenda Rocha	La Vega Board of Trustee
Ms. Jan Skrabanek	High School Classroom Teacher
Ms. Cyndi Sykora	Paraprofessional Representative
Ms. Karen Thompson	Primary School Teacher
Mr. Nick Urmston	Junior High Teacher
Ms. Jai'Briel Woods	Parent

Timeline

November 14, 2016	Superintendent and Curriculum & Instruction Department discuss parameters and process for becoming a District of innovation
November 15, 2016	Board Meeting – LVISD Board of Trustees discuss rules and process for being a District of Innovation. Board Meeting – Board directs Superintendent to develop the La Vega Innovation Plan.
November 16, 2016	Curriculum and Instruction Department craft initial innovation ideas for the school district.
November 17, 2016	Administrative team meets to discuss innovative ideas for the district to investigate.
November 28, 2016	Executive Team, Special Forces, and Campus Administrators meet to review data and discuss calendar options and focus areas.
November 30, 2016	Vision in Action Team meets to review the focus area and possible calendar options. VIA team approves District of Innovation areas and makes edits.
December 5, 2016	Administrative team meets to discuss innovative ideas and make edits as suggested by VIA.
December 6, 2016	Final draft review completed with approval from all central administration officers, curriculum and instruction, and campus administrators.
December 6, 2016	Board of Trustees holds a Public Hearing to hear comments about the LVISD Innovation Plan.
December 12, 2016	<u>Administrative</u> team meets to <u>final</u> draft of the LVISD Innovation Plan.
December 13, 2016	Superintendent’s Advisory Committee meets to review, discuss, and provide input on the final draft submitted from all central administration officers, curriculum and instruction, and campus administrators.
January 26, 2017	District Quality Improvement Council meets to review, discuss, and provide input on the final draft submitted from all central administration officers, curriculum and instruction, and campus administrators.
January 27, 2017	District of Innovation plan posted on district website for public comment
March 2017	Board votes to notify Commissioner of its intention to vote on adopting final LVISD Innovation Plan.
March 21, 2017	Board approves final LVISD Innovation Plan.
March 21, 2017	Board authorizes the superintendent to notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board-approved LVISD Innovation Plan.
April, 18 2017	Board Ratifies LVISD Innovation Plan.
April 2017	Board authorizes the superintendent to notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board-Ratification of the LVISD Innovation Plan.

Introduction

On November 15, 2016, the La Vega ISD Board of Trustees approved the administration to begin work to develop a “District of Innovation Plan” as outlined by the Texas Legislature under HB 1842 (TAC Chapter 102). The plan provides the opportunity for Texas public schools to modify state requirements at the local level to better meet the unique needs of their student populations.

La Vega ISD seeks the freedom and flexibility to make decisions at the local level. The purpose of the plan is to pursue innovations in curriculum, instructional methods, governance of campuses, parent and community involvement, modifications to the school day or year, budgeting and sustainable program funding, accountability and assessment above state requirements, or other innovative ideas.

As a District of Innovation (DOI), La Vega ISD has the ability to pursue flexibility choices, especially with respect to the school calendar and attendance, which could impact funding calculations positively. The district will seek relief from unfunded and partially funded mandates that are counter to effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars for educating students of the district.

The impact of DOI designation on local policies may necessitate adjustments to legal policies to reflect that some legal provisions may be affected by the District’s innovation plan. Under current law, the plan has a term of up to five years, and it may be amended, rescinded, or renewed during that time period.

Review of the plan included teachers (Vision in Action team (VIA), Superintendent Advisory Committee (SAC)) and parent, community and business partners through the District Quality Improvement Committee (DQIC). Revisions to the proposed plan as requested by each group.

Summary

The DOI plan is intended to enhance the environment and capabilities of teachers and other instructional staff of LVISD. The ultimate goal of the proposed plans are to advance innovative curriculum, instructional methods, community participation, governance of campuses, and parental involvement – primarily by ELIMINATING costly and/or counter-productive compliance requirements – in an effort to focus resources and energy on what really matters ...student success at all levels.

Texas Education Code under investigation

The La Vega ISD intends to investigate ALL permitted exemption categories as specified by the District of Innovation legislation (TAC 102) of 2015. The following items identify exemptions immediately sought. La Vega ISD reserves the right to examine and approve changes in all additional areas identified by statute or Commissioner Rules.

Chapter 11 – School Districts

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

- §21.044 Educator Preparation
- ☒ §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- ☒ §21.055 School District Teaching Permit
- ☒ §21.057 Parental Notification

Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts

- ☒ §21.102 Probationary Contract

Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts

- ☒ §21.158 Notice under Continuing Contract

Subchapter E – Term Contracts

Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives

Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

- ☒ §21.401. Minimum Service Required
- §21.402. Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- §21.4021 Furloughs
- §21.422 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program
- §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
- §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Club, ...
- §21.408 Right to Join or Not to Join Professional Associations
- §21.409 Leave of Absence for Temporary Disability

- §21.415 Employment Contracts

Subchapter J – Staff Development Requirements

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

Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers

Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

- ☒ §25.081 Operation of Schools
- ☒ §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- ☒ §25.0812 Last Day of School
- ☒ §25.082 Minutes of Instruction in a Day
- ☒ §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

Chapter 11 – School Districts

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

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 11.251. PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Sec. 11.252. DISTRICT-LEVEL PLANNING AND DECISION –MAKING

Sec. 11.253. CAMPUS PLANNING AND SITE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

Related Board Policy:

BQ: PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

BQ(LOCAL); BQ(LEGAL)

BQA: PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS DISTRICT-LEVEL

BQA (LOCAL); BQA (LEGAL)

BQA: PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS CAMPUS-LEVEL

BQA (LOCAL); BQA (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

According to Sec. 11.251 stipulates that the board of trustees of each independent school district shall ensure that a district improvement plan and improvement plans for each campus are developed, reviewed, and revised annually for the purpose of improving the performance of all students. Sec. 11.252, (e), “The district-level committee established under Section 11.251 shall hold at least one public meeting per year.” Sec 11.253 mirrors the language found in the district-level committee for the campus-level committee. The section also requires each “campus-level committee hold at least one public meeting per year.” La Vega ISD holds six to nine meetings yearly. However, considering the various committee roles and responsibilities outlined in both the education code and in board policy require members at a minimum to address the areas of planning, budgeting, curriculum, staffing patterns, staff development, school organization in addition to a host of other responsibilities identified in a number of additional sections of the education code, one – or even nine – meetings are not sufficient to discuss any of the required topics much less “extensive training” to be able to productively contribute to a discussion of the topic.

Furthermore, in addition to effective planning methodology as outlined in Sections 11.251, 11.252, and 11.253 including a comprehensive needs assessment, measurable performance objectives, strategies, resources (including staff), and evaluative measure, the number of strategies identified in Sec. 11.252 that must be included are excessive. District Improvement Plans (DIP) and Campus Improvement Plans (CIP) become compliance documents and not as helpful as the district’s strategic plan, Performance Based Improvement Required Plan or Campus Improvement Required plan. While it may be necessary to have some compliance information compiled for federal purposes, others should be researched for elimination or incorporated in innovative instructional methodology.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

Reduce or eliminate plan requirements that are redundant with other local planning processes to enable LVISD to implement a good comprehensive plan.



Chapter 21 – Educators

Subchapter A – General Provisions

Subchapter B – Certification of Educators

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 21.003. CERTIFICATION REQUIRED

Sec. 21.0031. FAILURE TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION; CONTRACT VOID

Sec. 21.053. PRESENTATION AND RECORDING OF CERTIFICATES

Sec. 21.055. SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHING PERMIT

Sec. 21.057. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

Related board policy:

DBA: EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS CREDENTIALS AND RECORDS

DBA (LEGAL); DBA (LOCAL)

DK: ASSIGNMENT AND SCHEDULES

DK (LEGAL);

DK (LOCAL);

DK(EXHIBIT)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

TEC 21.003 states that a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or trainee, librarian, education aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

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 21.055 states that if a teacher is not certified, the District may issue a teaching permit to employ the individual. This process requires notice to the Commissioner and its usefulness is extremely limited. Additionally, the language of this section could be construed to prohibit the issuance of a local teaching certificate.

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

Proposed Innovation Plan:

LVISD will maintain its current expectations for 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.

An individual with experience in the content of an *elective course* (not core content) could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or elective course through a local teaching certificate. The principal and HR department will maintain documentation of credentials or life experience the teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. (Example: An experienced home builder teaching a building trades course, a licensed corrections officer teaching a criminal justice course, a retired CPA teaching an entry level accounting course, a community college advisor providing counseling to dual credit students). LVISD will ensure that all individuals assigned to teach have the knowledge and resources necessary to be successful.

Whenever possible, instructional planning for the uncertified teacher's course will be created in partnership with certified teachers in the same field. Uncertified teachers will be provided teacher mentoring, increased observations and feedback, professional development or instructional resources, or other supports.

The superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees following the assignment of a locally certified individual.

Teacher certification waiver requests, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency. LVISD will ensure that all individuals have sufficient background checks to ensure their appropriateness in working with students.

Further, the district shall no longer be required under Sec. 21.057 to provide parental notification of “inappropriately certified or uncertified teachers nor nullify teacher contracts for failure to obtain and presenting appropriate certification prior to signing a contract with the district.



Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts

Texas Education Code:

TEC 21.102 (b) PROBATIONARY CONTRACT

Related Board Policy:

DCA (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

For experienced teacher new to the district, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. A one year probationary period is not sufficient to evaluate the teacher’s effectiveness in the classroom since teacher Contracts renewal timelines demand that employment decisions be made seven months after the first day of employment and prior to district receipt of state assessment results.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

For experienced teachers, counselor, or nurses new to the district that have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years. All other teachers hired in the district may remain on probationary status for three years, and may be issued a fourth year of probation in accordance with TEC 21.102.



Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 21.158 NOTICE UNDER CONTINUING CONTRACT

Related Board Policy:

DF (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

Sec. 21.158 requires the Board of Trustees to notify the teacher of a proposed suspension without pay.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

Then superintendent manages the day to day affairs of the district. S/He will have the authority to suspend a teacher without pay. Such decisions can still be appealed to the Board; thus due process is preserved. Oftentimes, the necessity for the suspension is many days before the next called board meeting. LVISD is seeking relief from this notification requirement.



Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 21.401 MINIMUM SERVICE REQUIRED

RELATED BOARD POLICY

DC (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

TEC 21.401 states that a contract between the District and an educator must be for a minimum of ten months of service. An educator employed under a ten-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

TEC 25.081 references the Commissioner may reduce the number of days of service, but such a reduction by the Commissioner does not reduce an educator’s salary.

TEC 25.081 requires that a school district provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction each school year, including intermission and recess. However, when the required number of minutes are met, teachers are required to work well beyond the instructional and professional development days needed for the school year.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

Relief from this statute will allow LVISD the flexibility to consider the reduction in contract days to align with the 75,600 minutes required of students. Should the district experience financial distress or need to remain competitive with surrounding districts, as stated in TEC 25.081, teacher contract days may be reduced without reducing teacher pay. The benefits of this plan will naturally increase the daily rate paid to teachers with no additional cost. A reduction in days will enhance teacher retention and recruitment.



Subchapter J – Staff Development Requirements

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 21.451 Staff Development Requirements

Sec. 21.458 Teacher Mentor

Related Board Policy:

DL (LEGAL)

DMA (LEGAL)

DEAA (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

Sec. 21.451 prescribes staff development requirements. TEC 21.458 sets eligibility requirements for teacher mentors and mentors. This provision states that the district may only assign a mentor to a teacher with less than two years of teaching experience, despite the fact that a teacher at any level of experience may benefit from a mentor- mentee relationship.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

LVISD seeks relief from §21.451 by protecting planning and preparation time through scheduled professional learning time and adding additional professional learning days throughout the school year. These professional learning days have been purposefully placed throughout the calendar to allow for teachers to analyze data in addition to engaging in relevant, targeted professional development.

LVISD seeks flexibility to assign mentors to more experience teachers in need of assistance. The statute also sets eligibility requirements for teacher mentors. An exemption from these requirements would allow for teachers with more than two years of experience to be assigned a mentor that excels in areas that are targeted for improvement or innovation, such as 1:1 technology, project-based learning, and AVID. In addition, mentors would be exempt *from* the qualifications described in Subsection (b), thus increasing the pool of teachers from which the district could draw for these target mentoring programs.



Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

Texas Education Code:

- Sec. 25.081 OPERATIONS OF SCHOOLS AND
- Sec 25.082 MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION for DAY
- Sec. 25.0811 FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION
- Sec. 25.0812 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Related Board Policy:

EB (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

Sec 25.081 amended the requirement of 180 days of instruction and replacing the requirement with language requiring districts and charter schools to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction each school year (including intermission and recess). Sec 25.082(a) addresses the length of the instructional day by limiting it to “420 minutes of instruction” or “seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses.” The requirement stipulates that school districts and charter schools must seek a waiver from TEA in order to provide fewer than the required number of instructional minutes in the case of natural disaster or calamity. Districts and charter schools must add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disasters, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailments, or other reasons.

Sec 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system. Sec. 25.0812 states a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of school calendars to fit the need of the community of the wishes of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in the matter.

Previously, districts had the option of applying to TEA for a waiver to start earlier, even as early as the 2nd Monday in August. The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped because they believed it was hurting their tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that districts may not begin until the 4th Monday, with no exceptions.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

Relief from Sec. 25.081, 25.082(a) will allow LVISD Superintendent to determine whether to amend the District calendar to make up lost instructional time. Exemption from Sec. 25.081 will

enable La Vega ISD to avoid submitting waiver requests to TEA in cases of unforeseen changes to school calendar, and will further allow La Vega ISD to seek more creative ways without being limited to either 420 minutes or seven hours of instruction every day. The length of the instructional day cannot be changed without the District becoming a District of Innovation.

Exempting completely from the 420-minute requirement would give the District a significant amount of local control over scheduling without the fear of diminishing state funding or losing credit for instructional time that might cause the district to fall out of compliance with annual minute requirements.

Exemption from Sec. 25.0811 will allow La Vega ISD to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. Altered school start dates allow Early College High School students and dual credit students to have calendars that match the institutions of higher education and provide for increased local control of the instructional calendar in order to be responsive to community needs and align with local universities, college entrance exams, and STAAR timelines. This empowers LVISD to personalize learning, increase college and career readiness, and balance the amount of instructional time in each semester. The district would not need to seek waivers for professional development or early release days.



Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 25.083 School Day Interruptions

Related Board Policy:

EC (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

The Sec. 25.083 stipulates that the Board of Trustees of each school district will adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting interruptions of classes during the school day for no academic activities such as announcements to once during the school day except in the course of an emergency. The provision also requires that no more than 10 % of the school day be allocated for school tutorials.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

LVISD is seeking relief from this requirement for greater flexibility and local control. Decisions on how to spend each school day should be the sole purview of the campus/district. There are situations when announcements must be made several times during the day to increase

efficiency. There are times when more than 10% of a child’s day should be spent in tutoring, studying, and/or intervention.



Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Related Board Policy:

FEC: ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC (LEGAL) FEC (LOCAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

“A student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 may not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance for at least 90% of the days the class is offered.” LVISD believes the 90% “seat time” determines mastery of content mastery is an arbitrary rule. Penalizing students for participation in extra- and co-curriculums activities, academic competitions, and/or other extenuating circumstances exacerbates student disinterest and apathy.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

By exempting the state requirement, LVISD can put local policies in place to curb absenteeism while abstaining from penalizing students who miss class time due to legitimate conflicts. Acknowledgment of scheduling conflicts and accommodating students will reduce dropouts and increase the number of eligible graduates. The relief from Sec. 25.092 does not in any way impact or alter existing compulsory attendance requirements or University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules. Furthermore, in a way does this exemption limit a teacher’s right to determine the finality of a grade in accordance with Texas Education Code Sec. 28.214, nor does it restrict or alter a teacher’s right to assign grades in accordance with TEC 28.216.



Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios: Class Size

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 25.111 STUDENT TEACHER RATIOS

Sec. 25.112 CLASS SIZE

Sec. 25.113 NOTICE OF CLASS SIZE

Related Board Policy:

EB (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

Sec 25.111 specifies that each school district must employ a sufficient number of teachers certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to maintain an average ratio of not less than one teacher for each 20 students in average daily attendance. Sec. 25.112 requires districts to maintain a class size of 22 students or less for Kindergarten–4th Grade classes. When any class exceeds this limit, the district must complete and file a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. These waivers are never rejected by TEA. This is a bureaucratic step that serves no purpose.

Sec. 25.113 requires school districts to notify parents of waivers or exceptions to class size limits. In many cases, the class has returned to a smaller student to teacher ratio before the waiver is even approved negating the need for this notice.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

The district has a goal to begin each school year with enough teachers to establish 22:1 in each Kindergarten through Fourth grade classroom. While we believe that small class size plays a positive role in the classroom, this must be balanced with the logistics of adding staff and the best student: teacher ratio based on student needs. In the event any class size exceeds this 22:1, the superintendent will report this information to the Board of Trustees. Decisions regarding the most appropriate student to teacher ratios will be made at the local level, taking into consideration the age and grade level of students, the subject matter of the class, and the needs of student groups and the availability of additional instructional staff members.

Therefore, a TEA waiver request will no longer be filed when a K-4 classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio. Parents will continue to be notified as per TEC 25.113.

Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order

Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 37.0012 DESIGNATION OF CAMPUS BEHAVIOR COORDINATOR

Related Board Policy:

FO (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

Sec. 37.0012 requires that each school appoint one Campus Behavior Coordinator. In order for the district to promote the social and emotional learning of its students and foster the connection between actions and consequences, the district seeks relief from the code.

Proposed Innovation Plan:

The Principal and Assistant Principal already serve in this capacity and it is unnecessary to “designate” one of them as such. By seeking relief the district will allow for more collaborative behavior management programs that have the support and buy-in of the students and local community.



Chapter 44 – Fiscal Management

Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 44.031 PURCHASING CONTRACTS

Sec. 44.0331 MANAGEMENT FEES UNDER CERTAIN COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACTS

Sec. 44.0352 COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

Sec. 44.042 PREFERENCE TO TEXAS AND UNITED STATE PRODUCTS

Sec. 44.043 RIGHT TO WORK

Sec. 44.047 PURCHASE OR LEASE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

Related Board Policy:

CH (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

No changes recommended at this time.



Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions

Texas Education Code:

Sec. 44.902 LONG RANGE ENERGY PLAN TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY

Related Board Policy:

CL (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goal of the plan:

Chapter 44 establishes their requirement of districts to reduce annual electric consumption by 5 percent and to develop plans for that purpose

Proposed Innovation Plan:

The statewide arbitrary 5% rule is indicative of a “one size fits all” mentality. Energy consumption and savings are a building by building, district by district calculation. Districts that have older facilities struggle to cut energy consumption by the very nature of the building’s age. Therefore, relief from the requirements to develop plans are not necessary.



The La Vega ISD reserves the right to add/delete changes in the areas permitted by this legislation – with the consent of the VIA and/or Board when applicable.