



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

Original DOI Plan Adopted May 21, 2018, Amendment 1 adopted February 2020

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.

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)

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 (3rd Monday in August or a mid-week after the 3rd 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 teacher 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 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.
- 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.

Amendment 1

4. Preclusion from providing alternative Uniform Group Coverage Program once the program of coverages under Chapter 1579, Insurance Code is implemented.

Amendment approved by board 2/24/2020 (Ed. Code 22.004(i))

Currently

Texas Education Code 22.004(i) states that a school district may not make group health coverage available to its employees pursuant to TEC 22.004(b) after the date a District implements the program of coverages provided under Chapter 1579 of the

Texas Insurance Code. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of group health insurance benefits to fit the needs of all District employees. This provision also prohibits the District from procuring group health insurance benefits that may provide better coverages for its employees and at a lower cost. This provision does not give the District the flexibility needed to acquire benefits packages that would potentially more attractive to prospective employees.

Benefit of Exemption to RISD

- In order to have the option to offer additional benefits options to employees, the District proposes that the District of Innovation Plan be amended to exempt the District from the health insurance requirements in Texas Education Code 22.004 (i).

Local Guidelines:

- District employees will be presented with various health care plans, to include TRS Active Care, and will not be precluded from opting for the plan that they deem best for them and their family.