

Final-- District of Innovation—Approved(unanimously) by Board of Trustees on May 9 2017

Hull-Daisetta ISD

1. **Teacher Certification** (DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (TEC 21.003) Currently In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position, or a teacher is assigned to a subject outside of his/her certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. Approval or denial of this request must then be issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Proposed To best serve Hull-Daisetta ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. The District's goal will continue to be hiring certified teachers; however, flexibility is needed in the areas that are difficult to fill. A. Hull-Daisetta ISD proposes to submit a request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent or designee: i. For a certified teacher to teach one subject out of his/her certified field; or ii. To allow an individual who holds a four-year degree to teach in a Spanish classroom, if he/she is willing to pursue a Spanish certification and is eligible to take the Spanish exam, and/or be enrolled in an appropriate Alternative Certification program. B. The written request would outline the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which would qualify this individual to teach the subject, and must be submitted by the principal to the Superintendent or designee for approval. The request will afford the District the flexibility to hire professionals in certain trades and vocations to teach the crafts of those trades and vocations, such as welding, health sciences, architecture and construction, and other career and technical courses.
 - a. Rationale: Exemption from TEC 21.003 would enrich applicant pools in specific content areas and enable more students to obtain the educational benefit of career and technical course offerings.
2. **School Start Date** (EB Legal) (TEC 25.0811) Currently Texas Education Code provides that students may not begin school before the fourth Monday of August. Proposed To best serve the students of Hull-Daisetta ISD, we propose to be allowed to create a school calendar which serves the needs of our local community. We propose moving the mandatory start date back one week, so that students will begin school no earlier than the third week of August.
 - a. Rationale: The number of days in the fall and spring semesters will be more balanced than they are currently
3. **Minimum Minutes of Instruction** (EC LEGAL & EB LEGAL) (TEC 25.081) Currently House Bill 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 with language requiring districts and charter schools to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction (including intermissions and recess). The bill also allows school districts and charter schools to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disasters, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or other reasons. Proposed To best serve the Hull-Daisetta ISD community, the exemption from TEC 25.081 would allow our Superintendent or designee to determine whether to amend our District calendar to make up lost instructional time.
 - a. Rationale: The proposed exemption from TEC 25.081 will allow Hull-Daisetta ISD to avoid submitting waiver requests to TEA in cases of unforeseen changes to school

calendar, and will further allow Hull-Daisetta ISD to adjust school day schedules to better meet the instructional needs of students.

4. **Kindergarten – Grade 4 Class Size** (EEB LEGAL) (TEC 25.112-13) Currently Kindergarten – 4 th grade classes are to be kept at a 22 to 1 student-teacher ratio according to State law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. Along with the waiver, a letter is required to be sent home to each parent in each class/section exceeding the 22:1 ratio, informing them a waiver has been submitted. In many instances, soon after the waiver process is complete, the class size drops below the maximum 22:1 ratio due to students withdrawing from the district and/or school. Proposed To best serve the needs of Hull-Daisetta ISD students and staff, the District will attempt to maintain the 22:1 ratio in all K-4 th core classrooms. However, if the class size exceeds this ratio, the Superintendent will report the circumstance to the Board of Trustees. In the event a K-4 th grade core classroom reaches 25:1, the campus will contact the parents of the students in the classroom and inform them of the situation. The District will provide relief by placing an instructional aide in the classroom for the duration of time it remains at or above the 25:1 ratio.
 - a. Rationale: While the District believes small class size plays a positive role in student learning, this must be balanced with the logistics and timing of adding staff. We do not believe there is a negative impact to student achievement when one or two additional students are added to a class. Most importantly, research demonstrates it is the teacher in the classroom, not absolute class size, which has the greatest impact on student learning. A TEA waiver request will not be necessary when a K-4 th grade classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.