

Lytle ISD

District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)

2016-2017

During of the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 was passed in order to provide more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to utilize the exemptions in Education Law that charter schools currently are entitled to. We feel this is a great opportunity for our local district to create a plan based on the needs of our students and community that will remain in effect for the next five years (2016-2021).

Committee Members

Erica Barrientos – Parent
Christina Ytuarte – Parent
Blanca Cantu - Parent
Mae Flores – School Board Member
Wendy Conover – Primary School Principal
Harry Piles – Elementary School Principal
Kenneth Dykes – Junior High Principal
Loretta Zavala – High school Principal
Amy Bibler – DAEP Principal
JanaBeth Parker – Teacher
William Cross – High School Assistant Principal
Jimmy Gouard – Assistant Superintendent

1. Teacher certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT)

Current Law

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request. In certain circumstances, a district can use a local one-year permit.

Proposed

In order to best serve Lytle ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally.

- a. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach subjects out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses in which would qualify this individual to teach this subject.
- b. An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all the individual's credentials. The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual could be an asset to students. The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will be at-will.
- c. This proposal will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

2. Submitting waivers for Kindergarten – Grade 4 class size

(EEB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.111) (Ed. Code 25.112) (Ed. Code 25.113)

Current Law

Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes are to be kept at a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. These waivers are never rejected by TEA. This is a bureaucratic step that serves no purpose. Along with the waiver, it is required that a letter is sent home to each parent in the section that exceeds the 22:1 ratio, informing them the waiver has been submitted. Many times soon after the waiver is submitted, students move out of the district and we are below the 22:1 ratio.

Proposed

While we certainly believe that small class size plays a positive role in the classroom, we do not believe it has a negative effect when you only add one or two more students. Many times it is not the number of the students but the makeup and chemistry of the classroom which influence the learning environment.

- a. Lytle ISD will attempt to keep all K-4th core classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. However, in the event the class size exceeds this ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.
- b. In the event a K – 4th core classroom reaches 25:1, the campus will notify the parents of the students in the classroom and inform them of the situation.
- c. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K – 4th classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.
- d. This gives Lytle ISD the flexibility without having the bureaucracy of waivers within the Texas Education Agency.

3. School start date

(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

Current Law

Students are prohibited from starting school before the 4th Monday of August. For years, this was strictly a local decision.

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

To develop a calendar that fits the needs of the community of Lytle. We have developed a calendar that we feel meets the students, community, and staff needs.

- a. Students will begin no earlier than the 3rd Monday of August.
- b. This will allow the first and second semesters to be somewhat equal in the number of days of instruction.
- c. The goal is to improve the district attendance rate and student success through the flexibility in the calendar.
- d. This would allow more time in June for summer school.