

Innovations and Exemptions

The following section discusses certain statutory requirements of the Texas Education Code that inhibits the goals of the plan from which SEISD will be exempt upon adoption:

1. First Day of Instruction (current law)

TEC Sec. 25.0811. First Day of Instruction. (a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Benefits of Exemption from TEC, Sec. 25.0811:

- Teachers would have more days prior to the STAAR/EOC to prepare students to be successful
- Semesters and 9-week periods are balanced
- Decreases summer slide
- Breaks would be more frequent

Local Guidelines:

- Remediation would be provided to students during intersession
- Instructional time would be balanced in the semesters

2. Teacher Certification (current law)

TEC Sec. 21.003 Certification Required. (a) 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.

TEC Sec. 21.053. Presentation and recording of certificates. (a) A person who desires to teach in a public school shall present the person's certificate for filing with the employing district before the person's contract with the board of trustees of the district is binding.

Benefits of Exemption from TEC, Sections 21.003 and 21.053:

- Students will benefit from high demand CTE programs within San Elizario ISD
- Will allow the District to continue to promote career and technology courses
- The District will be able to find personnel in hard to fill positions within CTE programs
- This exemption will allow qualified industry certified individuals to work in the district before attaining certification via alternative certification

Local Guidelines:

- The district's goal will always be to first hire SBEC certified CTE teachers.
- With the exception of CTE credentials identified in 19 TAC §233.13, all CTE instructors regardless of Texas Teaching Credential attainment, must present the appropriate and required Educational and Work-based experience as identified in 19 TAC §233.14. CTE instructors will also be required to complete appropriate training in state and federal requirements regarding

work-based learning and safety and also complete identified TEA approved training for select CTE courses. These trainings are identified in the State Board for Educator Certification 19 TAC §231 document.

- The district could consider out-of-state certified teachers for positions upon a local review of experience, education, and credentials.
- The district will continue to provide support to CTE non-certified teachers.
- The CTE non-certified teachers will be required to pursue their SBEC certification via an approved alternative certification program and personally assume all cost this may entail.
- All special education and bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.

3. Class Size (current law)

TEC Sec. 25.111. Student/Teacher Ratios. Except as provided by Section 25.112, 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.

TEC Sec. 25.112. Class size. (a) Except as otherwise authorized by this section, a school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class.

TEC Sec. 25.113. Notice of Class Size. (a) A campus or district that is granted an exception under Section 25.112 (d) from class size limits shall provide written notice of the exception to the parent of or person standing in parental relation to each student affected by the exception.

Benefit of Exemption from TEC, Sections 25.111, 25.112(a), and 25.113(a):

- Financially, resources could be allocated to other areas.
- The benefit of the class size waivers would be that students do not need to be moved once a new classroom has been set up due to hiring a new teacher.

Local Guidelines:

- The district's first option is to maintain a 22:1 student to teacher ratio
- The district will consider the 24:1 student to teacher ratio once all sections are at the 22:1 capacity
- The District Cabinet currently monitors the need for class size waivers and that practice would still ensure that our class ratios remain low to best support our students.