

Proposed Amendment to the District of Innovation Plan approved by the Agua Dulce ISD Board of Trustees on March 22, 2022

Within our current local innovation plan, with regard to each area of innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provisions, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.

Agua Dulce ISO has determined a need to apply for an amendment to our District Innovation Plan to allow exemptions to allow us extended flexibility under:

The following exemptions are being proposed:

- TEC 33.025, 33.026 -SLAC Library Committee
- TEC 26.0062 - Instructional Plan District Website
- TEC 26.011,26A.001, 26A.002, and 26A.003 - Parent Grievances Process

Local School Library Advisory Council

Current Code and Proposed Exemptions

Texas Education Code - 33.025

Related Board Policies EFB (Local) – Instructional Resources: Library Materials

Current Law:

Current law requires the school district to establish a School Library Advisory Council at any campus where either 10% of parents or 50 parents (whichever is fewer) submit a written request for such a council. The council would then be tasked with reviewing library materials, providing input on the selection and removal of resources, making recommendations to ensure materials are age appropriate and aligned with community values, reviewing all books and other material objected to by any District parent, and advising on such objections.

Proposed Exemption:

Agua Dulce ISD encourages and supports all campus efforts to involve District parents and community members as active participants in the education of Agua Dulce ISD students. In accordance with Policy EFB (Local), Agua Dulce ISD maintains an established appeal process for library materials. This process ensures that parents, guardians, and community members have a clear pathway to request reconsideration of library materials.

While the newly required councils are not required to be formed until such a petition is received, once the petition is received, the Board will be statutorily required to create these councils. Should that occur, the councils will not be optional for the District. Accordingly, Agua Dulce ISD seeks to be exempt from Texas Education Code §33.025, which mandates the creation of a School Library

Advisory Council upon petition by 10% of parents or 50 parents. The District believes this requirement is redundant and unnecessary, as Agua Dulce ISD already has strong, board-approved procedures in place for selecting, reviewing, and reconsidering library materials – led by certified librarians and educators and aligned with state-mandated requirements and guidance from the Texas Education Agency. Creating such advisory councils risks undermining the professional judgment of educators and librarians, introduces the judgment of non-certified individuals, introduces potential for politicization of instructional resources, and could very easily lead to inconsistency across campuses. Furthermore, the statute presents an administrative burden, requiring staff time and resources that would be better directed toward student learning and support. Agua Dulce ISD's existing processes already allow for meaningful parent review and involvement, including access to their child's library checkout records if requested, formal challenge procedures, and transparency in material selection. In addition, concerned individuals may also speak with teachers, administration, and/or the school board through District complaint processes and/or during the open forum of any regularly scheduled board meeting. The District remains committed to ensuring age appropriate and educationally sound resources while maintaining an efficient and effective oversight structure that includes educator expertise and parent input, without the disruption and/or duplication caused by the statutory requirements in 33.025.

To support ongoing compliance and continuous improvement, Agua Dulce ISD has established a Library Review Committee consisting of: Campus Librarians and other district personnel.

The Library Review Committee will:

1. Meet six (3) times per year to:
 - Review existing library collections.
 - Review and, as needed, revise policy and procedures related to library materials.
 - Recommend updates to maintain alignment with district goals, curriculum, and community standards.
 - Ensure that collection development and review processes reflect both professional library standards and the requirements of SB 13.

Professional Development

- All Agua Dulce ISD school librarians will receive annual training on SB 13 to ensure understanding of legal requirements, advisory processes, and best practices for collection development.
- Training will include updates on any legislative changes affecting library services.

Acquisition of Library Materials

Exemption From: Texas Education Code § 33.026

Related Board Policies: EFB(LOCAL) – Instructional Resources: Library Materials

Current Law

Current law outlines specific procedures school districts must follow before acquiring library materials. The law requires that materials be reviewed and approved in advance by a certified school librarian and be verified for compliance with age-appropriateness, educational suitability, and community standards. Additionally, it mandates a multi-step vetting process, documentation of acquisition decisions, and the public posting of selected materials for 30 days before they are made available to students. Finally, current law requires the Board of Trustees to approve every library book or other resource material acquired by the District.

Proposed Exemption

Agua Dulce ISD requests to be exempt from this statutory provision because the District already has **robust, board-approved policies implemented by certified librarians in place that govern** the acquisition of library materials in a manner that ensures transparency, appropriateness, and educational value. These policies and procedures are fully compliant with the standards required by Texas law and guidance from the Texas Education Agency. The statutory process under §33.026 introduces **redundant and restrictive requirements** that may delay access to timely instructional and enrichment resources. It also places bureaucratic barriers in front of trained library professionals who are certified to select age-appropriate, curriculum-aligned materials, that are consistent with standards set by Texas law. Additionally, the public pre-approved requirements undermine the expertise of certified school educators and creates delay and roadblocks in getting library materials to students who benefit from them. Furthermore, the mandated documentation process creates an **administrative burden** that consumes time and resources better allocated to instructional support. While Agua Dulce ISD fully supports transparency and parental engagement in the school library process, the rigid requirements of TEC §33.026 are **unnecessary and duplicative** of local safeguards already in place. This exemption allows Agua Dulce ISD to preserve instructional flexibility, uphold librarian professionalism, and provide students with timely access to enriching and appropriate materials—without compromising accountability or community trust.

Instructional Plan District Website

Current Code and Proposed Exemptions

Texas Education Code 26.0062

Related Board Policies: EFA (Local)

Current Law:

TEC 26.0062 requires school districts to adopt a policy to make available on the District's website at the beginning of each semester an instructional plan or course syllabus for each class offered in the district for that semester.

Proposed Exemption:

Agua Dulce ISD will provide High School and Middle School course catalogs, which include course descriptions for each course offered. These course catalogs will be posted on the District and Campus websites for public access.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each grade level, K-5, and each secondary content area will be made available on the District website by providing links to access the PDF/web versions at the Texas Education Agency website.

Parent Grievances Process

Texas Education Code 26.011, 26A.001, 26A.002, and 26A.003

Related Policies: FNG (Local), DGBA (Local), GF(Local)

Current Law:

The Texas Education Code and the Texas Constitution require school boards to establish complaint procedures to address concerns that rights have been denied.

TEC Chapter 26.011, 26A.001, 26A.002, and 26A.003 require the Board of Trustees of each school district to adopt a grievance procedure that complies with Chapter 26A under which the Board shall address each grievance that the Board receives concerning a violation of a right guaranteed by this Chapter, of a Board of Trustees policy, or of a provision of this title.

Proposed Exemption:

Agua Dulce ISD has always and will continue to adhere to an established grievance policy with procedures and timelines outlined in local Board policies DGBA, FNG, and GF. Such policies ensure thorough documentation of each step in the grievance process and provide adequate time for complaints to be filed and heard. All records related to a grievance, including submitted forms, communications, investigations, findings, resolutions, and any corrective actions, are systematically maintained at the district level to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with legal and policy standards. The District is committed to monitoring the legality and appropriateness of every decision and action taken. The District is further committed to hearing, reviewing, and attempting to resolve all complaints, as well as taking corrective action, where appropriate. Agua Dulce ISD's long standing grievance policy will ensure that all such complaints are carefully reviewed and that District responses are in alignment with state and federal regulations, as well as all other local board policies.

Agua Dulce ISD follows established grievance procedures as outlined in district policy, specifically in relation to the timelines for filing an appeal and for hearing such complaints thus making Texas Education Code 26A.002 unnecessary. The District believes that a requirement for complaints to be submitted within 15 District business days from the date the grievant either knew or with reasonable diligence should have known of the decision or action that is the subject of the grievance ensures prompt attention and resolution of concerns. In cases where the grievant does not receive the requested relief at the prior grievance level or if the response deadline has passed without a reply the parent may proceed by requesting a conference with the Superintendent or

the Superintendent's designee to appeal the previous decision. This appeal must be submitted in writing, using the district provided form within ten (10) district business days of receiving the written response from Level One or Level Two. If a written response is not provided, the appeal must be submitted within ten (10) days following the deadline for the response at the applicable level. The District's current grievance policies also provide for a Level Three grievance to the board of trustees except for grievances related to extracurricular activities. Accuracy of information and access to individuals that are needed to provide necessary information surrounding an issue could be compromised after 60 to 90 days. It is imperative that grievances and complaints are filed in a timely manner to ensure the best prompt response. Current grievance policies will ensure that all such complaints are carefully reviewed and that district responses are in alignment with state and federal regulations, as well as all other local board policies. The District also believes its locally elected Board of Trustees is best suited to address any grievance outcomes with the Superintendent, as may be appropriate. The District believes in local control when addressing stakeholder concerns, except as may otherwise be required by law.

Agua Dulce ISD seeks to be exempt from the timelines, processes and procedures imposed by 26.011, 26A.001, 26A.002 and 26A.003 and will continue to follow established grievance procedures as outlined in district policy. This will allow the District to hear and consider parent, employee, and community complaints in an orderly and responsive manner and to resolve those concerns as quickly as possible.