Delay of Certification Plan 25-26

House Bill 2 (HB 2) passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and was signed into law by Governor Abbott, limiting specific foundational subjects from certification exemption through a District of Innovation (DOI) plan. Wharton ISD has been operating under a DOI plan. For the 2025-2026 school year, districts were able to continue to hire based on their current DOI plan exemptions. By the 2027-2028 school year, districts can no longer include any foundational subject teacher in any grade level of a DOI plan exemption. TEC § 21.0032 authorizes the commissioner of education to approve district requests to delay implementation of certification requirements of existing uncertified teachers of record in foundation curriculum courses until the beginning of the 2029-2030 school year.

The application must include an evaluation of how the district will transition to certification during the extension, and requires the district to:

- Identify the total number of uncertified individuals currently assigned to teach foundation curriculum (K-12 Math, RLA, Science, Social Studies) courses (by subject area and grade level)

Grade Level	Subject	Number of Teachers
Kindergarten	Self Contained (All Core)	5
1st Grade	Self Contained (All Core)	1
1st Grade	Math/Science	1
2nd Grade	Math/Science	1
2nd Grade	RLA/Social Studies	3
3rd Grade	Math/Science	2
4th Grade	Math/Science	2
4th Grade	RLA/Social Studies	2
5th Grade	RLA	2
5th Grade	Math	2
5th Grade	Science/Social Studies	2

6th Grade	Math	1
6th Grade	RLA	1
6th Grade	Social Studies	1
7th Grade	Math	1
7th Grade	RLA	2
7th Grade	Social Studies	1
7th Grade	Science	1
8th Grade	Math	1
9-12th Grade	RLA	3
9-12th Grade	Science	2
9-12th Grade	Social Studies	3
Total Core Uncertified 25-26		**40**

- Indicate the total number of new, uncertified teachers hired on average each of the last three years

School Year	**Uncertified Hired**
2023-2024	23
2024-2025	15 (2 Intern Certified & 1 Out-of-State 1 yr)
2025-2026	13

- Identify at least one Educator Preparation Program partner who will be used to support certification efforts during the extension;
  Wharton ISD currently has teachers working with various ACP programs including: Texas Teachers, UHV Voice, A+ Texas Teachers, UHV 240, Teach Worthy, Teach Us, Houston Community College, Web-centric ACP, and iTeach. In addition, WISD has teachers working through the following universities: Grand Canyon University, University of Texas, University of Houston -Victoria, WGU, and University of Texas - Brownsville.

WISD Phase-In Plan:

2025-2026:

- Assigned mentor to all uncertified staff in a teaching role
- Met with all uncertified teaching staff and informed them of changes and expectations related to HB 2
- Review of each Core uncertified teacher file revealed: 4 are WISD GYO pursuing a degree/certification at district expense, 2 are pursuing a degree/certification independently, 3 have an Intern Certificate, 29 have a letter of commitment with an Alt Cert Provider, 2 do not have a commitment with an Alt Cert Provider
- February - Issued letter to all uncertified teaching staff who are not in the WISD GYO program with action steps and timelines for completion
- Entering into an agreement with Texas A&M - Victoria to be our EPP Provider for our LASO 4 PREP Program Allotment PREP Residency Preservice and GYO Programs
- Evaluating and improving our district Teacher Mentor Program for 2026-2027

2026-2027:

- WISD is committed to only hiring certified teachers in any core subject areas moving forward. If this is not possible, WISD will work with our EPP Provider to utilize the Preservice or Intern route.
- WISD's goal is to support at least 30% of our Core uncertified teachers in obtaining full certification
- WISD will work with WCJC or purchase a proven online certification preparation program for our teachers to use and allow them to use a professional development day when prepared to test

2027-2028:

- WISD's goal is to support at least 40% of our Core uncertified teachers in obtaining full certification.
- WISD will continue to work with WCJC or provide an online certification program for teacher use, and continue to allow the use of a professional development day when prepared to test.

2028-2029:

- WISD's goal is to support at least 30% of our Core uncertified teachers in obtaining full certification
- WISD will continue to work with WCJC or provide an online certification program for teacher use, and continue to allow the use of a professional development day when prepared to test.
- WISD will begin the 2029-2030 school year with all Core teachers fully certified.