

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MOUNT VERNON ISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN
ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY BOARD, MAY 9, 2017
AMENDED JUNE 8, 2020

Mount Vernon ISD has determined a need to apply for an amendment to our District of Innovation Plan to modify guidelines in the current approved plan and allow additional exemptions under Texas Education Code. Exemptions sought by this Amendment are indicated below:

Texas Education Code Chapter 25. Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

§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.

§25.0812 Last Day of School

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a school district may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15.

Proposed:

Original district plan guidelines gave a specific start date parameter of 3rd Monday in August for students to begin school. This exemption and updated district guidelines allows local district control of the academic calendar that affords advantages such as the elimination of imbalanced six weeks and semester schedules prior to the holiday break, alignment with local community colleges and Advanced Placement curriculum, ensure that hour/seat time requirements are met for certification courses, and creates flexibility to pursue extended school year calendars as needed for identified student populations.

Texas Education Code Chapter 21. Educators

§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.

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 TEA. TEA then approves or denies this request.

Proposed:

Original district plan guidelines for this exemption were too limiting and only applied to existing certified teachers in district. Mount Vernon ISD is committed to hiring qualified professionals with appropriate certifications and will continue to seek teachers to best serve its students. This exemption will grant additional flexibility to hire professionals in specialized trades and vocations to teacher career and technical education courses and local elective offerings. Also, there is high demand for elementary bilingual teachers and native speakers to teach Languages other than English courses. With this exemption, native speakers with qualified experience can be utilized if certified teachers are not available. This exemption also permits these professionals to meet standards designated by the State of Texas and permits districts to obtain the same weighted funding as would be available should the professional hold a traditional teaching certification for the course.

AMENDMENT APPROVED:

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: June 8, 2020



Chandra White, Chair
Assistant Superintendent

MOUNT VERNON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: June 16, 2020



Aaron Sanders, President



Brook Bussell, Secretary