

# **Daingerfield Lone Star ISD District of Innovation Plan (HB1842) 2021-2026**

## **1. School Start Date**

TEC §25.0811

### **Uniform School Start Date**

A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system. A district may not receive a waiver for this requirement.

### **Proposed**

This flexibility of start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. It also offers the following opportunities:

- An early start date permits students an additional week of instruction prior to state assessments.
- Students will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts and staff will be able to attend summer professional development classes as well.
- Students participating in Dual Enrollment opportunities will work with balanced semesters, which align with our local colleges.

### **Local Guidelines:**

Daingerfield-Lone Star ISD will determine, annually, when each school year will begin.

## **2. Employment Contracts**

TEC § 21.102

Employment Contracts Currently, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years.

# **Daingerfield Lone Star ISD District of Innovation Plan (HB1842) 2021-2026**

## **Proposed**

Under current guidelines, probationary periods for newly hired teachers and counselors who have been in public education for at least five of the previous eight years cannot exceed one year. This limited time period is insufficient in some cases to fully determine the staff member's effectiveness. Relief from TEC Code §21.102 will permit the district the option to issue a probationary contract for a period of up to two years for experienced teachers and counselors hired in Daingerfield-Lone Star ISD.

## **Local Guidelines**

At the time of contract recommendation consideration, newly hired teachers and counselors with the district, who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years and have completed their first probationary year with the district, may receive a probationary contract for the second year in order to continue to evaluate the staff member's effectiveness.

## **3. Teacher Certification Requirements**

TEC §21.003(a), TEC§21.053, TEC §21.057

TEC §21.057

A person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless that person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. 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 request emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and /or State Board of Educator Certification. This system is burdensome and does not take into account the unique financial and/or instructional needs of the district.

However, all special education and bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.

TEC §21.053

This requires a teacher to present his or her certificate to the District before their employment contract will be binding, and prohibits the District from paying an educator as a teacher if the educator does not hold a valid certificate **at** the time.

TEC §21.057

# **Daingerfield Lone Star ISD**

## **District of Innovation Plan**

### **(HB1842)**

### **2021-2026**

This requires that the District provide written notice to parents if an inappropriate or uncertified teacher is assigned to a classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days.

### **Proposed**

The district will maintain its current expectations for employee certification and will make every attempt to hire individuals with appropriate certifications for the position in question. However, when that is not reasonably possible, the district will have the flexibility to hire individuals who are knowledgeable in the area and equipped to effectively perform the duties of the position in question. Exemption from TEC §21.003 would allow the district the ability to locally certify teachers in order to better meet the educational needs of our students, allow more flexibility in scheduling, enrich applicant pools, lead to industry based certifications and provide more options for our students.

1. Individuals with certain qualifications who are not certified as teachers can be eligible to teach in positions including but not limited to: Math, Spanish, ELAR, and Career and Technical education.
2. Certified teachers, due to their education, background, and/or experience, could be equipped to teach a course outside of their certification area or grade level. This would allow the district the option of locally certifying them to do that.
3. Out of state certified teachers could be considered for positions upon a local review of experience, education, and credentials.
4. Teachers with industry certifications and native speakers with qualified experience could be eligible to teach a course through a local teaching certification.
5. These areas would include, but are not limited to CTE and languages other than English. Teachers with industry certifications and native speakers with qualified experience could be eligible to teach a course through a local teaching certification.

### **Local Guidelines**

1. The campus principal may submit a request to the superintendent for local certification for an individual. The individual may have background, experience, skills, work related or industry experience, an industry certification, or a post-secondary degree at a bachelor's level or higher. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document the credentials the individual possesses to teach the subject.
2. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified

# **Daingerfield Lone Star ISD District of Innovation Plan (HB1842) 2021-2026**

teacher to teach a subject and/or in a grade level out of their certification area. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document the credentials the certified teacher possesses to teach the subject/grade level.

3. The campus principal may submit a request to the superintendent for local certification of a qualified applicant holding an out of state certificate.
4. The superintendent may approve or deny requests for local certification.
5. A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.
6. An employee working under a local certification will receive a non-chapter 21 contract and will be paid in accordance with district guidelines.
7. An employee working under a local certification will be appraised under the same teacher appraisal system as required of all certified teachers.
8. An employee working under a local certification will adhere to the same professional standards, ethics, and requirements of certified teachers including 30 clock hours per year of continuing education.

## **4. Inter-district Transfers**

### **TEC §25.036**

Inter-district transfers Under Texas Education Code, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district. Under TEC §25.036, a transfer is interpreted to be for a period of one year.

### **Proposed**

Daingerfield-Lone Star ISD maintains a transfer policy requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application yearly. In approving transfer requests, the student's disciplinary history and attendance records are evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the District. TEC §25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one year commitment by the District. Daingerfield-Lone Star ISD is seeking the flexibility to eliminate the provision of a one year commitment in accepting transfers in any of the following circumstances:

1. The student's behavior warrants suspension (In or out of school), placement in an alternative program, or expulsion.
2. Student attendance falls below the TEA attendance standard of 90%.
3. Parent/Guardian is uncooperative in addressing behavior or attendance.

# **Daingerfield Lone Star ISD District of Innovation Plan (HB1842) 2021-2026**

## **Local Guidelines**

1. Non-resident students who have been accepted as a district transfer may have such transfer status revoked by the Superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expelled.
2. Non-resident students not meeting the state 90% attendance standard will be subject to immediate revocation of transfer status.
3. Non-resident students whose parent/guardian is uncooperative in addressing the student's behavior or truancy concerns will be subject to immediate revocation of transfer status.

## **5. Class Size and Notice of Class Size**

### **TEC §25.112**

Class Size and Notice of Class Size TEC §25.112 limits the number of students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade to 22. While the maximum number of students in K-4 classrooms may be addressed by a state waiver, the waivers must be applied annually. TEC §25.113 requires districts to notify each parent in the class section that exceed the 22:1 ratio, and inform them the waiver has been submitted.

### **Proposed**

While we 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. DLSISD will attempt to keep all K-4th core classrooms to a 22-1 ratio. However, should it become necessary for the class size to exceed this ratio, the class size will be reviewed by the appropriate district and campus staff and the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K-4th classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio. This will give the DLSISD the flexibility without having the bureaucracy of waivers within the Texas Education Agency.