

Texas Education Code Exemptions

The Haskell CISD staff in conjunction with the District Innovation Committee has reviewed the Texas Education Code and determined which exemptions currently inhibit the local district from making the best use of time for student instruction and educational opportunities for our students at Haskell CISD.

I. UNIFORM START DATE (TEC §25.0811)

State law currently prohibits a school district from starting school before the fourth Monday in August unless you are a Year-Round District.

RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTION

If the District has the flexibility in the start of school date, we can determine locally what best fits the needs of our students and school. This flexibility will also help coordinate dates with the students that are taking dual credit courses through a college. The District will also have the ability to build a calendar that is more balanced with the number of days in each semester.

II. LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY (TEC §25.081)

Current State law requires that all school days must be 420 minutes long each day for ADA funding and calculations. The total number of minutes for the year must be at least 75,600.

RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTION

This exemption would allow our District to alter the days needed for additional staff development or other educational needs as determined by the District where the students would benefit educationally.

This exemption would also allow the District to have a flexible amount of time to review student data so that certain determined target areas are covered thoroughly. Haskell CISD will use this time to maximize instruction and prepare the instructors.

III. TEACHER CERTIFICATION (TEC §21.003, §21.044, §21.053 AND §21.057)

Current State Law states that a person may not be employed as a teacher/instructor by a District unless they hold the appropriate permit or certification issued by an

appropriate State Agency. Currently, we have to notify the State in order to request an emergency certification if we can't find a certified individual.

RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTION

The current State requirements do not allow a District to hire teachers unless they have a specific certification for a specific assignment. This would allow the flexibility to have a teacher that could teach a content area that might be out of their certified area. Haskell CISD would have their own local requirements that would target the best cross curriculum move that would also enhance the instruction of the students. The teachers that would teach out of their certified areas would be required to have additional instructional development. The campus Principal would have to approve the teacher and take that recommendation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent would consult with the School Board before final decision was made.

IV. CONTRACT SERVICE DAYS (TEC §21.401)

State law requires educators that are employed on a 10 month contract to work a minimum of 187 days.

RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTION

With the passage of HB 2610 and TEC §25.081 which changed the required instructional days to minutes, the law did not address the contract days for 10 month employees. The number of days required for teachers should be a local decision. Our District will know what areas of staff development are needed for our educational institution and how many days it will take for that training.