



CASTLEBERRY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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District of Innovation Plan

June 6, 2022- June 6, 2027

Teacher Certification §21.003

This exemption allows CISD to accomplish the goal of hiring flexibility in specific instructional areas (like CTE, etc.). In renewing this exemption, our district will be able to continue determining local standards for hiring qualified individuals from nontraditional backgrounds for teaching positions in certain areas. The exemption does not allow for exemptions for bilingual or special education certification requirements. Nor does it allow for an exemption from teachers required to hold a bachelor's degree in core content area classes.

Probationary Contract §21.102

This amendment will allow the district to seek an exemption to offer more than one year of probationary contracts to teachers with prior experience (5 of the last 8 years) who are new to the district. CISD would issue a probationary contract for a period of up to two years for certified educators in the case that the one-year probationary period was insufficient in determining a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

First Day of Instruction §25.0811

This exemption allows CISD to take advantage of the opportunity to create a more localized calendar by exempting the district from laws that impose the mandatory school start and end dates. The Texas Education Code requires that districts start on or after the last Monday in August. The renewal of this exemption in our District of Innovation Plan will allow us to continue to develop our district calendar to address student instruction and focused professional learning.

Class Size §25.112

This amendment will allow the district to seek an exemption from submitting a waiver to the Commissioner of Education if the class size in a K-4 classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio. The proposed amendment is needed due to continued growth and mobility throughout the school year. The amendment gives flexibility for the Superintendent to notify the Board of Education of class needs and make hiring recommendations quickly based on class sizes.

Amendments
Approved by Castleberry Board of Education
October 16, 2023

Contract Service Days §25.081

The Texas Education Code required districts to change their number of instructional days to a required number of minutes but made no provision for employee contracts. This exemption allows CISD to increase the daily rate of teachers as approved by the Board of Education to coincide with adjustments made.

Transfer of Student §25.036

Castleberry Independent School District is seeking an exemption from Texas Education Code 25.036(a) that requires districts to allow transfer requests to remain for a full year, once granted. This exemption will allow CISD to revoke an inter-district transfer agreement during the school year if the student violates the terms of the agreement. The agreement will include, but is not limited to acceptable levels of attendance, transportation must be provided to and from the school by the parent or legal guardian, and the student must follow all district policies.

Operation of Schools §25.081

This amendment will allow the District to seek an exemption from the required 75,600 minutes of schooling for REACH High school students. The amendment will allow Castleberry Independent School District to determine, with stakeholder input, a plan to include various options for completing an alternative education program in order to graduate from REACH High School. While the programming at the campus would continue to focus on meeting academic standards, it will also be designed to meet the needs of at-risk students by also offering innovative scheduling options for non-traditional students.

Removal for Certain Conduct §37.006

Castleberry Independent School District is seeking an exemption from Texas Education Code 37.006 making it mandatory that districts place students in a District Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) for possessing, using, selling, giving, or delivering to another person an e-cigarette. The exemption will allow CISD to implement its own disciplinary management system, as outlined in the CISD Student Code of Conduct, and exempt e-cigarette offenses that do not involve THC or other controlled substances or illegal drugs. The proposed exemption is needed in order to assign less punitive consequences at its discretion, paired with counseling intervention for a first offense, with the goal of providing better support early in the intervention process. Offenses involving TCH or other controlled substances or illegal drugs will continue to be subject to mandatory DAEP or JJAEP as per the Texas Education Code and Castleberry ISD Code of Conduct.