



**DISTRICT OF INNOVATION**



# **“DOI” legislation gives traditional ISDs the flexibilities available to charter schools such as:**

- instructional minutes**
- minimum attendance**
- school start date**
- governance**
- certification**
- appraisal system**
- etc.**





A DOI is more about local control than “innovation.” It gives local communities the opportunity to decide for themselves what is best, not the legislators in Austin.







**Are there any laws a  
district cannot choose  
to be exempt?**

# **YES!** An ISD cannot be exempt from rules such as:

- **elected boards of trustees**
- **powers and duties of school boards, superintendents, and principals**
- **PEIMS**
- **BE/ESL/SPED/PK**
- **curriculum and graduation requirements**
- **academic accountability**
- **other state and federal laws outside of TEC**
- **and a few others**

# How is Denton ISD going about the DOI process?



**Every campus has a teacher rep; and there are also administrators, parents, business and community reps as well.**





**Because no new monies are involved, the challenge is to think “inside the box.”**

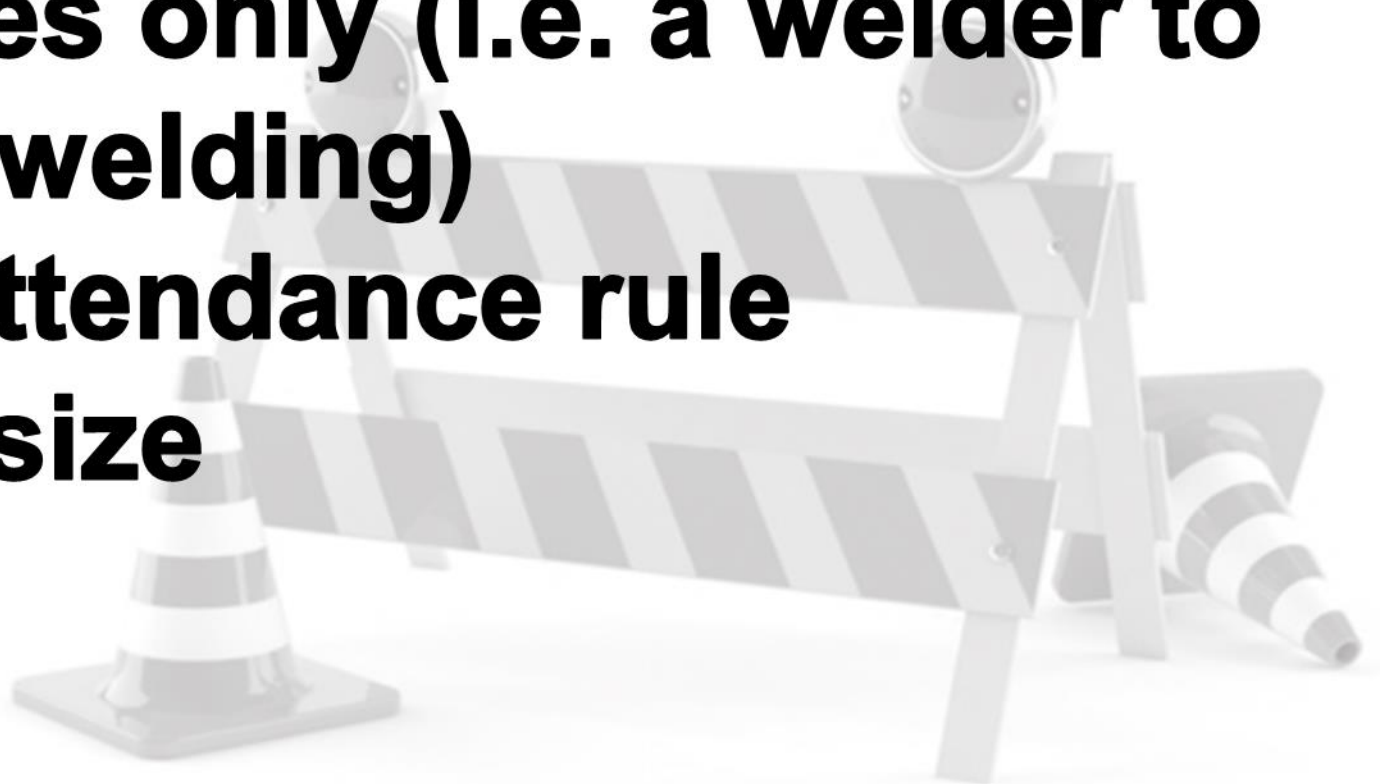


**The DOI Committee has been meeting to identify barriers to student achievement and/or local control.**



**Thus far, the committee has identified the following barriers:**

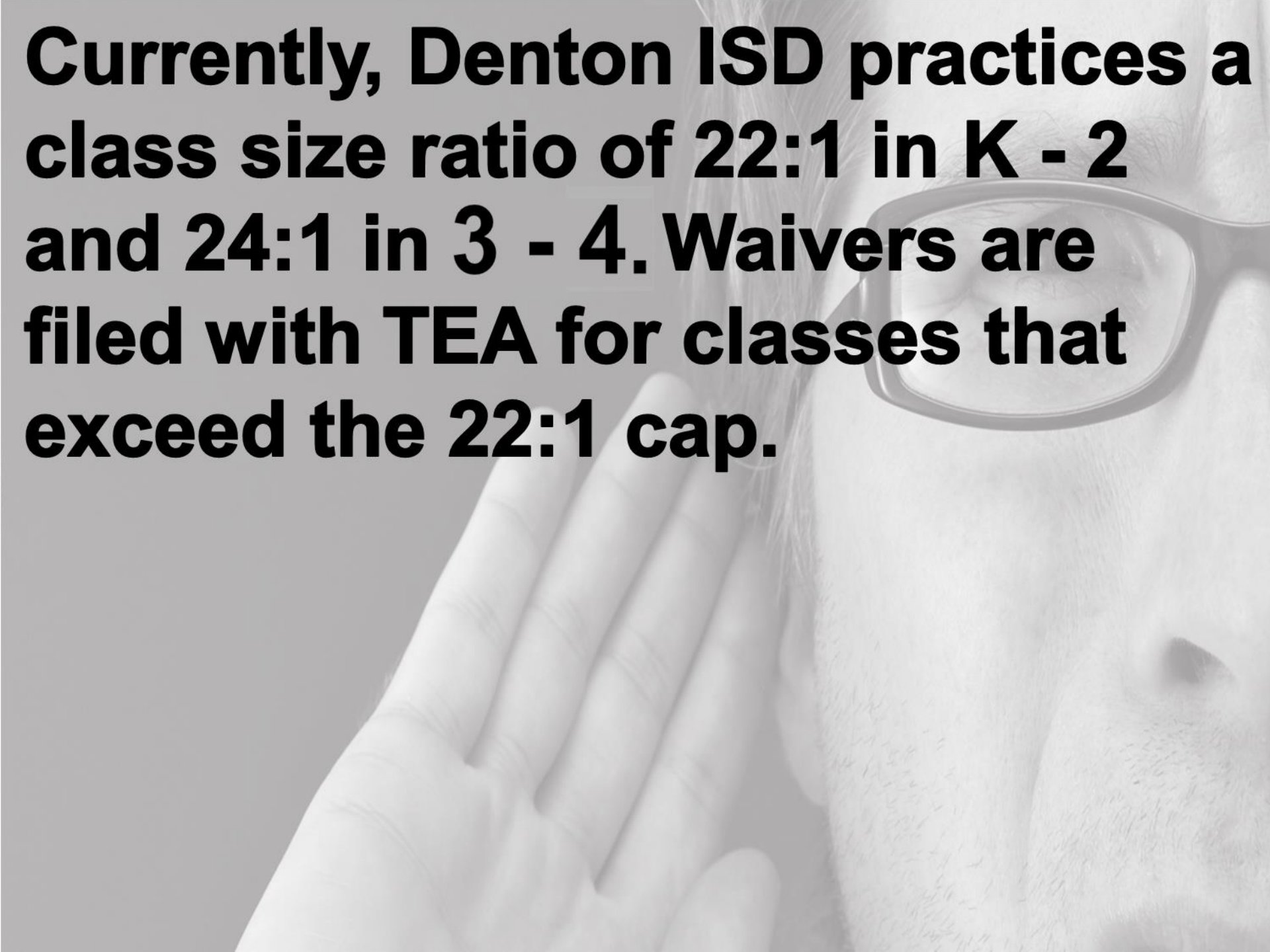
- **school start date**
- **certification (related to CTE courses only (i.e. a welder to teach welding))**
- **90% attendance rule**
- **class size**





**Wait a minute!  
Explain the  
class size issue.**





**Currently, Denton ISD practices a class size ratio of 22:1 in K - 2 and 24:1 in 3 - 4. Waivers are filed with TEA for classes that exceed the 22:1 cap.**



**Will the district start filling K - 4th  
Grade classes with 30+ students?**





**No. Nothing will change from current practice other than the requirement of staff filling out more paperwork with TEA.**



<https://youtu.be/8yPnfZERCwl>

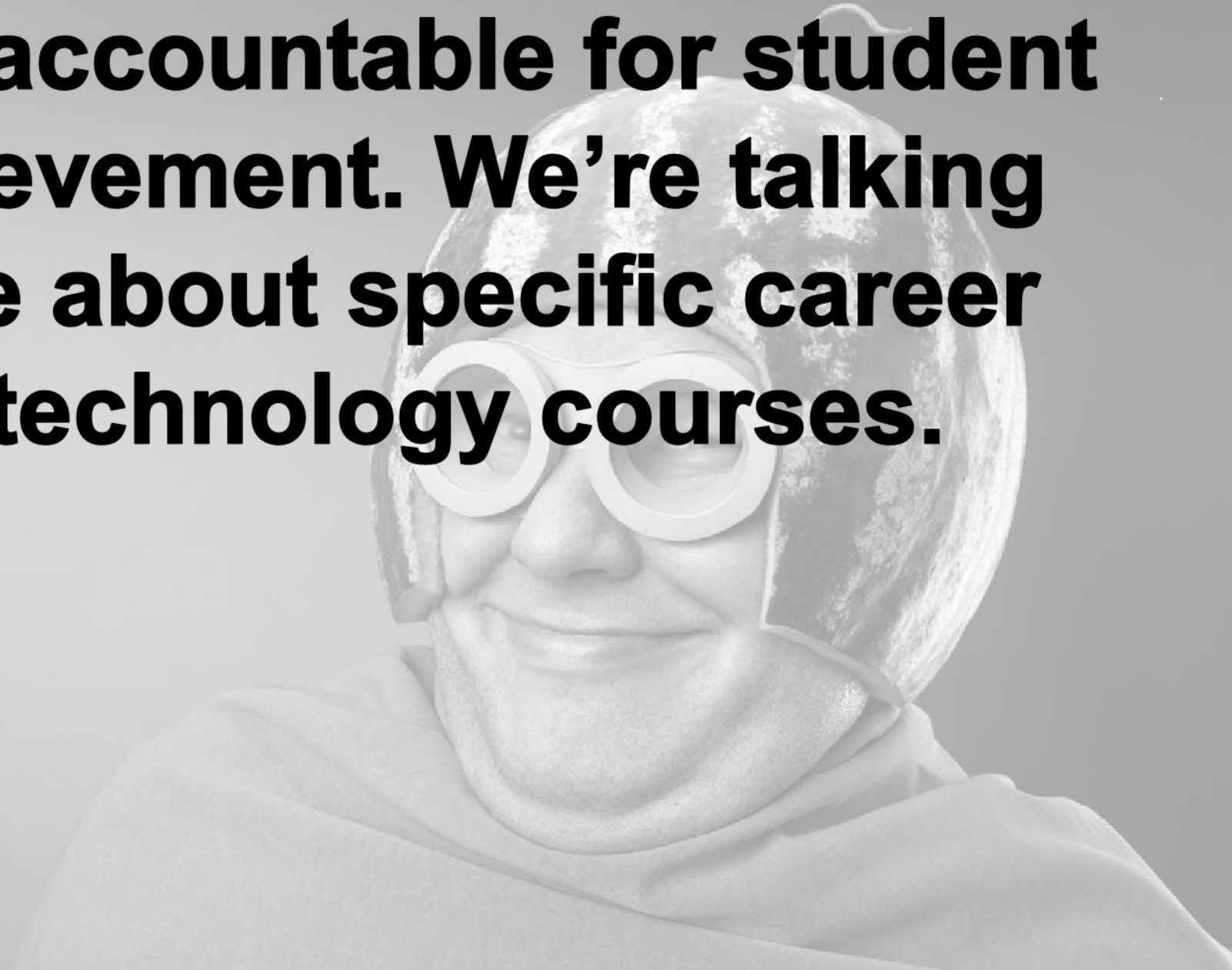


And certification? Are we going to let anyone off the street teach?





**NO! Remember, the district is still accountable for student achievement. We're talking more about specific career and technology courses.**



<https://youtu.be/aZaCDMuD8Ik>



**So, no more attendance  
rules for students?**





**This barrier is specifically  
in regards to the 90% rule.**



<https://youtu.be/RxhCln6gcxQ>



None of this sounds very innovative.?!





**Not yet. While these barriers are about local control, the DOI Committee is embracing the term “innovation” and is collecting ideas for further discussion.**





Again, DOI is more about local control than “innovation.” It gives local communities the opportunity to decide for themselves what is best, not the legislators in Austin.





# What does the Denton ISD DOI plan look like?





Home > Programs & Services > District of Innovation > Denton ISD DOI Plan DRAFT

## DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

Overview

DOI Committee

DOI Resources

DOI Colloquy 09/27/16

DOI Colloquy 09/13/16

DOI Colloquy 07/19/16

Denton ISD DOI Plan DRAFT

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN



# DENTON

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Under the [Texas Education Code Chapter 12A: Districts of Innovation](#), Denton ISD has identified the following requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the Denton ISD Innovation Plan:

### 1. First day of instruction

Currently:

A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Texas Education Code(s):

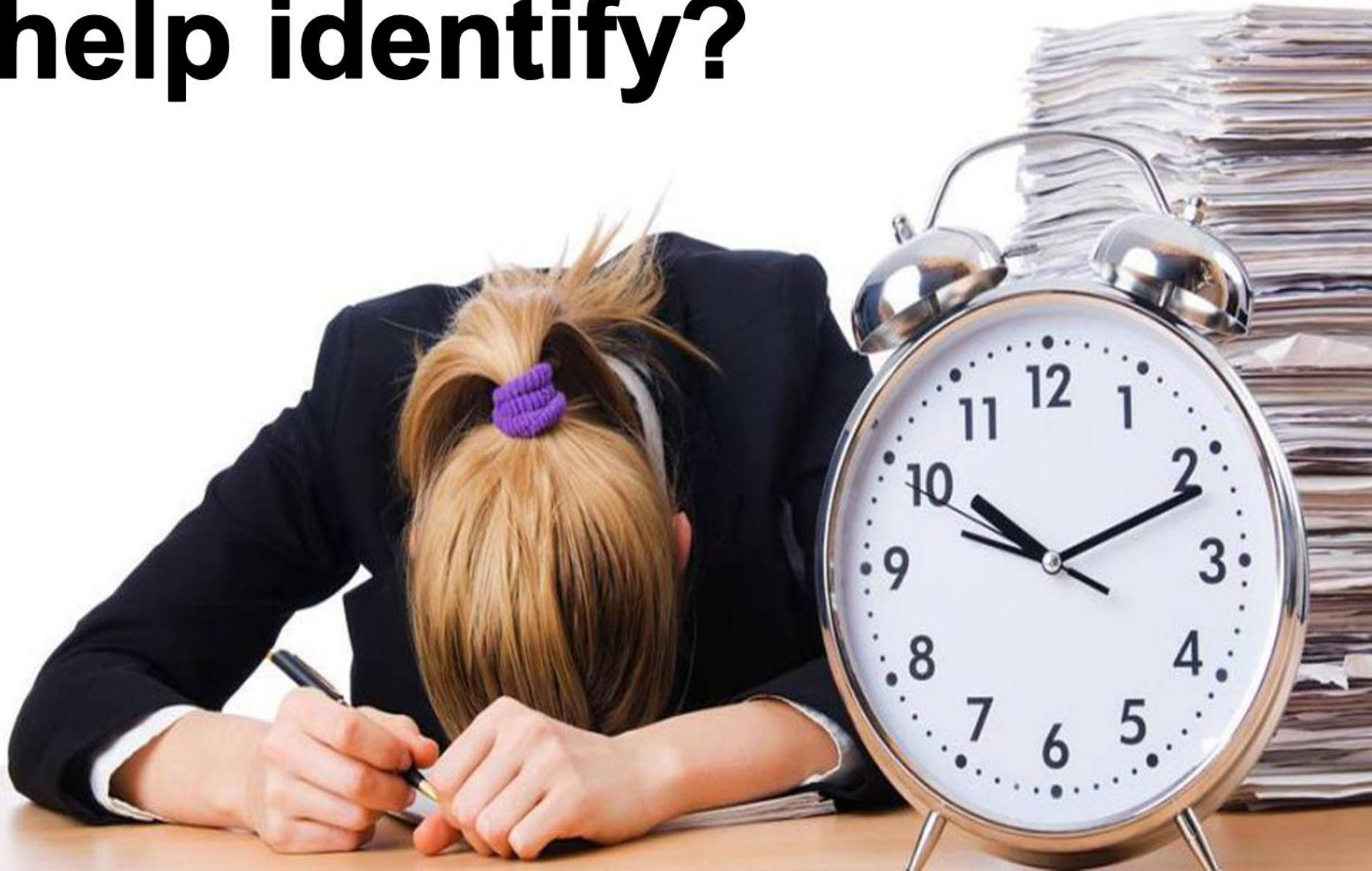
[§25.0811](#)

Rationale for exemption:



<https://youtu.be/m8bFMlZ4NEs>

# What barriers can you help identify?



Teaching and Learning: Student Achievement										Teaching and Learning: Local Control									
<b>What barriers prevent Denton ISD from meeting students' needs and/or impedes teaching and learning?</b>										<b>What barriers prevent Denton ISD from meeting students' needs and/or impedes teaching and learning?</b>									
Time: 9-week grading periods										Time: school calendar									
<b>Explain this barrier in more detail.</b>										<b>Explain this barrier in more detail.</b>									
Currently, secondary schools have 9-week grading periods and elementary schools have a 6-week grading periods. Standards based grading requires more time; and a 9-week grading period would give students more time to master the content. Teachers are also required to submit "failure reports" every 3 weeks. A parent with a struggling student is getting notified 12 times per year that his/her child is not meeting standards. This same benefit would extend to our special education students, who would now receive IEP progress notes 4 times a year instead of six. This will have the novel effect of reducing special education paperwork and the workload of special education teachers so they can focus on instruction instead of forms.										Texas law prohibits school districts from beginning instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the District operates a year-round system. School districts may not receive a waiver of this requirement, but a district of innovation plan can exempt the district from this start date. By starting school earlier, professional development days could be spread throughout the school year (i.e. federal holidays, etc. for students and families) and the semester for secondary students could be balanced ensuring equal class time in both the fall and spring semesters.									
<b>What would evidence of its implementation look like?</b>										<b>What would evidence of its implementation look like?</b>									
A new report card. A different look for secondary syllabus.										A calendar that begins prior to the fourth Monday in August									
<b>What evidence could demonstrate its impact?</b>										<b>What evidence could demonstrate its impact?</b>									
Report card grades, common assessment scores										Student grades and standardized assessment scores									
<b>Is this internal (i.e. local policy, procedure, etc.) or external (i.e. federal or state law, mandate, etc.)?</b>										<b>Is this internal (i.e. local policy, procedure, etc.) or external (i.e. federal or state law, mandate, etc.)?</b>									
Internal										External									
<b>Any additional comments or feedback regarding this barrier?</b>										<b>Any additional comments or feedback regarding this barrier?</b>									
Elementary Curriculum is interested in discussing this further. It is important to note that all work done in the Elementary Curriculum Department for use by elementary classrooms are written and "kid tested" by real teachers with real student! If it is determined that a nine week reporting system is appropriate, a large committee of teachers would be assembled. This work would take months and lots of dollars to complete. To say the least, it is an extensive process!										The local district should decide what is best for its students. In high schools, our students would be more competitive with AP testing with an additional 2 weeks at the beginning of the year, trimming those 2 weeks from the end of the school year, where teachers have difficulty keeping those kids engaged after their testing is done. The same could be said for STAAR testing as well.									

**What barriers prevent Denton ISD from meeting students' needs and/or impedes 1) teaching and learning, 2) student opportunities, 3) school culture/climate, and/or 4) growth and management?**





# What innovative ideas do you have?





Rich text editor toolbar with icons for undo, redo, bold, italic, text color, background color, link, unlink, list, indent, outdent, table, and other formatting options.

Here's an innovative idea...

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P

1 **Here's an innovative idea...**

2 Create a "collegiate" high school where students can earn an associate degree or certification upon graduation from high school.

3

4 **Here's an innovative idea...**

5 Go back to a teacher appraisal system like PRIDE. T-TESS is simply too time-consuming for both teachers and administrators to complete the steps efficiently. (For example, it took my administrator and me 3 tries to meet for a goal-setting conference because of disciplinary issues she had to deal with.) Our time is simply too valuable to sacrifice it trying to get together to meet. It is still possible for teachers to have and share goals without needing such a cumbersome process.

6

7 **Here's an innovative idea...**

8 Allow teachers to develop innovative courses by giving them a free class period for one semester to work out the curriculum, assessment, and resources for district implementation. Perhaps allow 2-3 teachers to co-construct the course.

9

10 **Here's an innovative idea...**

11 Provide learning opportunities for the community to utilize district facilities to raise awareness of programs and push furthering education of community members. Example: Open ATC to the public for a makerspace opportunity. Students with Teachers can teach classes etc. Many people want to make and to build things, but don't have the knowledge or even the access to proper equipment.

12

13 **Here's an innovative idea...**

14 Create a partnership program with local universities for master teacher/student teacher partnerships that are equally beneficial. For example, student teachers could be paired with teachers in their 10th year. The master teacher would gradually turn the class over to the student by the spring semester. The master teacher would spend the spring semester coaching the student teacher 1 day per week and spend 4 days a week observing and learning from other experienced teachers in the district. Both would have a year of hands on learning that would directly impact their craft in future years.

15

16 **Here's an innovative idea...**

17 DentonISD student tutoring site. Peers tutoring peers. Similar to a distance learning but empowering students to own their education and extend their knowledge to others. To add benefits to the students tutoring :pay? earning community hours? credit?

18

19 **Here's an innovative idea...**

20 If k-4 class sizes are in between the 22:1 (state standard) and 24:1 (waiver standard), a instructional aide is hired to help with small group instruction and intervention.

21

22 **Here's an innovative idea...**

23 Develop our own version of a TEDtalk -- teachers, administrators, students would provide talks at an event that may focus on a theme. Invite critical community members plus educators, parents.

24

25 **Here's an innovative idea...**

26 <http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/pineapple-charts/>

27

28 **Here's an innovative idea...**

29

30

31 **Here's an innovative idea...**

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34 **Here's an innovative idea...**

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**What questions do  
you have?**

