

Chapter 21: Educators - Teacher Contract Days

Statutory Citation: DCB Legal, DCB Local TEC 21.401

Current education law in Chapter 21 defines a teacher contract as a 10 month contract equivalent to 187 days. Proposal would reduce teacher contract days from 187 to a decreased length with no effect on teacher salaries. This would be an attempt to better align the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required of students.

- Increase the daily rate the district pays teachers
- Enhance teacher recruitment
- Improve teacher morale

Chapter 21: Educators - Teacher Instructional Assignment

Statutory Citation: TEC 21.003, TEC 21.044, TAC Title 19 Part 7 Chapter 231, Subchapters A-G

Buckholts ISD will be exempt from the requirements which limit the district's ability to assign staff to meet local needs. Current requirements sometimes limit the ability of MISD to staff hard-to-fill positions. While BISD will continue to seek and employ fully certified teachers, exemptions from these requirements will allow the district to meet its staffing needs. Examples of these exemptions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Allow an elementary certified teacher with expertise in early grades (ie. 1st/2nd grade) to teach kindergarten.
- Allow a teacher certified to teach through 6th grade to teach courses in grades seven and/or eight.
- Allow a teacher certified to teach elementary reading to be the reading teacher of record for middle and/or high school students.
- Allow a teacher certified in middle school and/or high school mathematics to teach elementary grades such as fourth and/or fifth.
- Allow a teacher to teach one or two classes out of their certified field in an area or areas that the teacher has college coursework and/or expertise.
- Allow for greater flexibility in determining appropriate CTE experience in order to teach a CTE course.

These exemptions will allow the District to be innovative as educators and offer courses and class sizes previously impossible to have contemplated. This kind of flexibility will allow the District to move our personnel to places where their greatest talents and passions may be, regardless of where there certification might be limiting them, and in turn, they may take our students to greater and higher achievements.

Chapter 21: Educators - Teacher Certification

Statutory Citation: TEC 21.003, TEC 21.044, TAC Title 19 Part 7 Chapter 231, Subchapters A-G, DK Legal, DK Local, DK Exhibit

The flexibility in allowing Buckholts ISD to make local decisions about teacher certification would provide a better opportunity to offer innovation in course selections for CTE courses as well as hard to fill, high-demand dual credit courses. By obtaining exemption from existing teacher certification requirements, the District will have the flexibility to hire professionals from diverse academic or vocational fields that qualify the candidate to teach a particular course they may not be certified to teach, internal applicants seeking assignments outside their traditional certification area, as well as enrich applicant pools in specific content areas in order to afford more students the opportunity to take dual credit courses if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses. At the same time, when best for the curriculum for our students, BISD will continue to seek and employ fully certified teachers.

Chapter 28: Courses of Study; Advancement - School Health Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: TEC 28.004, BDF Legal

Buckholts ISD will be exempt from the requirement to hold a minimum of four meetings per year. The BISD SHAC committee shall meet at least once per year. The district's size and the stability of the membership of the SHAC committee ensures that committee members are aware of the needs of the district's students and are often able to review, advise, and revise plans in fewer than four meetings. The BISD Board of Trustees and the members of the SHAC committee should determine how often the committee should meet.

Chapter 25: Admission, Transfer, and Attendance - Inter-District Transfers

Statutory Citation: FDA Local, TEC 25.036

(a) Any child, other than a high school graduate, who is younger than 21 years of age and eligible for enrollment on September 1 of any school year may transfer annually from the child's school district of residence to another district in this state if both the receiving district and the applicant parent or guardian or person having lawful control of the child jointly approve and timely agree in writing to the transfer. (b) A transfer agreement under this section shall be filed and preserved as a receiving district record for audit purposes of the agency.

Buckholts 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. Buckholts ISD is seeking the flexibility to eliminate the provision of a one year commitment in accepting transfers in any of the following circumstances:

- The student's behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in an alternative program, or expulsion.
- Student attendance falls below the TEA attendance standard of 90%.
- Unacceptable academic performance. Students must maintain a passing average of 80 in each class.
- Parent/Guardian is uncooperative in addressing behavior or attendance.

Local Guidelines

Board Approved DOI Amendments 06212022

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.

Chapter 45: Bank Depository Contract Term

Statutory Citation: TEC 45.206, TEC 45.205, BDAE (Legal), BDAE (Local)

In a small district and a small town, the choices for depository banks are limited. Often in the rebidding process the district does not hear back from competitors at all. Therefore, under this exemption, Buckholts ISD will continue to use the local depository for the District without rebidding. Instead, at the end of each two year term, the District and depository bank may agree to extend the contract for multiple two additional year periods. The District must review the contract to ensure the best value and support for the District and obtain Board approval for each of the two year periods. Nothing in this process would hinder the District's ability to undertake bidding the District Depository Bank at the end of any of the two year periods. Further, this entire Innovation Plan must be reviewed and renewed at the end of five years, including this provision. The time saved by the superintendent and the board of trustees by not having to deal with this ministerial duty every two years will allow the superintendent and the board more time for studying and planning for student progress, instructional strategies, and innovative options for the district educational goals.

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