

District of Innovation Amendment Request

School Counselor Responsibilities

Exemption from: TEC §33.006 (d-h)

TEC §33.006 (d-h) passed during the 87th legislative session, requires a school counselor to spend at least 80 percent of the school counselor's total work time on duties that are components of a counseling program, requires the Board to adopt a related policy, and requires the district to provide documentation relating to compliance to the Commissioner of Education. To comply, counselors must track/log time spent on duties daily.

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

The statute impedes the district's ability to meet the ever-changing needs of its students and school operations by restricting the ability of Wylie ISD counselors to fulfill other important roles throughout the district, including but not limited to, special education and 504 monitoring, scheduling, student assessment, etc. While it is still the intent and goal of Wylie ISD that its certified counselors focus on the school counseling program, temporal restrictions and time logging/tracking requirements, which would be necessary to confirm strict adherence to an 80/20 duty allocation, are an ineffective use of employee time and impedes the district's ability to use its counseling staff in a variety of roles to best serve the needs of Wylie ISD students and the community.

Innovation strategies

- a. To best serve Wylie ISD students, decisions on counselor duties and allocation of work time will be locally determined. This exemption will grant Wylie ISD greater flexibility in appropriately allocating limited resources to accomplish necessary district goals and to better meet student needs.