

Consider approval of the application submission for the delay of teacher certification requirements and the district's plan for implementation.

1. Background:

Per TEC, §21.003, a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B, which includes any State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)-issued certificate (intern, probationary, standard, or enhanced standard) or emergency permit for the subject area and grade level. Previously, the Southwest Independent School District chose to exempt itself from this certification requirement and has hired uncertified individuals through an approved DOI Plan.

HB 2's new TEC, §21.0032, now limits districts' ability to include exemptions from some certification requirements under TEC, §21.003, in their DOI plan, specifically those related to foundation curriculum courses. These limitations will be phased in over the next three academic years, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Non-foundation subject areas will not be impacted by these limitations.

Districts may submit a plan to the Commissioner of Education requesting approval to delay the implementation of teacher certification requirements for teachers of record in foundation curriculum courses until the beginning of the 2029-2030 school year. The district has developed a plan to request a delay of this implementation.

2. Process:

Guidance from the HB 2, TEC, §21.003, and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) was used to develop a plan as part of the application submission for the delay of teacher certification requirements.

3. Fiscal Impact:

None.

4. Recommendation:

That the board approve the application submission for the delay of teacher certification requirements and the district's plan.

5. Required:

Board action.