

Bynum Independent School District

"Home of the Bulldogs"

P.O. Box 68 • Hwy 171 • Bynum, Texas 76631

Phone (254) 623 – 4251 Fax (254) 623 – 4290

www.bynumisd.net

Larry Mynarcik, Superintendent

Lyndsey Pederson, Principal

Bynum ISD District of Innovation Plan

In April 2017, the Bynum ISD Board of Trustees charged the administration to develop a "District of Innovation Plan" as permitted by the Texas Legislature under HB 1842 (TAC Chapter 102). The District of Innovation Plan, as developed, is intended to enhance the educational environment in Bynum ISD. The ultimate goals of the plan are to advance innovative curriculum, instructional methods, community participation, governance of campuses, and parental involvement by eliminating obstacles that prevent efficiency in small districts and focusing district resources on what matters most.

Term

The term of the plan is for five years beginning August 1, 2017 and ending July 31, 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The committee will monitor the effectiveness of the plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications.

Immediate Advantages Resulting From the Exemptions Sought

- Hiring the best teachers / staff available.
- Providing greater flexibility in assigning teachers in hard-to-fill areas.
- Providing greater flexibility over the school calendar ensuring that it reflects the preferences of the local committee and the Board of Trustees and aligns with post-secondary entities calendars.
- Increasing and improving Bynum ISD course offerings
- Increasing enrollment by potentially accepting more transfer students.
- Improving instruction and addressing local unexpected needs in a timelier fashion by having the flexibility to shorten the day for professional development purposes on an as needed basis.
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District of Innovation Plan: Areas of State Law Considered for Exemptions

Bynum ISD will consider ALL permitted exemptions as described in the District of Innovation legislation (TAC 102) of 2015. The following items identify exemptions that the District will seek immediately. Bynum ISD reserves the right to examine and approve exemptions in all areas identified in statute or Commissioner Rules.

Chapter 21: Educators

Teacher Certification

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

Bynum ISD will be exempt from the requirements which limit the district's ability to hire the best candidate for a job based solely on certification issues.

There are rare instances when an uncertified person is the best individual for the job. There are professionals from various academic or vocational fields that can be the best candidate to teach a particular course even if they are not yet certified to teach. Bynum ISD will continue to seek and

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504 Child Find Notice

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students. For additional information about the rights of parents of eligible children, or for answers to any question you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504 programs, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator, Brenda Speer at 254-623-4251 or by mail at P. O. Box 68, Bynum, TX 76631.

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employ fully certified teachers.

Teacher Instructional Assignment

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

Bynum 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 BISD 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 (i.e. 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 course work and/or expertise.
 - Allow for greater flexibility in determining appropriate CTE experience in order to teach a CTE course.
- District of Innovation Plan: Areas of State Law Considered for Exemptions
- Allow for greater flexibility in determining appropriate CTE experience in order to teach a CTE course.

Chapter 25: Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

School Calendar

Statutory Citation: Texas Education Code (TEC) Section 25.0811 and Section 25.0812:EB Legal

Bynum ISD will be exempt from the first day of instruction requirements listed in TEC 25.0811 and the last day of instruction requirements listed in TEC 25.0812.

Current law mandates a school start date of the 4th Monday of August or later. This requirement creates unequal semesters, poor decisions on scheduled holidays, and a school year that includes a grueling spring semester in order to finish the semester prior to June 1. Bynum ISD, using educator and community input, should be allowed to develop a school calendar that best meets the needs of our students, parents, staff, and community. Multiple calendar options will be developed for consideration. The calendars will be presented to district staff for a vote. The calendar with the majority vote will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their review and consideration. Final calendar approval, including when the BISD school year begins and ends, will be made by the locally elected BISD Board of Trustees.

Length of School Day

Statutory Citation: TEC 25.081 and 25.082

Bynum ISD will be exempt from the length of school day as listed in TEC 25.081 and 25.082.

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The flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction within a designated school day will assist with personalizing learning to better meet student needs. This flexibility has the added benefit of allowing the possibility of an altered length of a school day, which may include, for example, a later start/early release time which will accommodate professional learning/collaboration opportunities for teachers.

As a component of the annual school district calendar development process, BISM will carefully analyze the needs of students and employees to determine which dates should be modified. Modification to the length of certain dates will be recommended when there is a clearly identified purpose, such as professional learning, focused on meeting the needs of students and employees. It is recommended that future SBDM calendar sub-committees fully explore the flexibility found within this exemption by reviewing the current practice of modifying the length of school days and fully consider options that will provide the maximum benefits to students, teachers, and families.

Inter-District Transfers

Statutory Citation: FDA LOCAL, TEC 25.036

Currently, under Texas Education Code 25.036, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district, but TEC 25.036, has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of one school year.

Bynum ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (Local) requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history records, work habits, and attendance records are also 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. The district is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. On rare occasions, student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall below the TEA truancy standard. In these rare cases, Bynum ISD seeks exemption from the one year transfer commitment.

Local Guidelines

Nonresident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfer students 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 expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the transfer status.

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