

# GALENA PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN

## 1. Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (TET/02 T1.044, T1.003)

### Currently

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position, or a teacher is assigned to a subject outside of his/her certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. Approval or denial of this request must be issued by the Texas Education Agency (TET/A).

### Proposed

To best serve Galena Park ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. The District's goal will continue to be hiring certified teachers; however, flexibility is needed in the areas that are difficult to fill or in high demand. Galena Park ISD proposes to submit a request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent or designee:

- A. In order to adequately supply programs with qualified candidates, the district requires the flexibility to hire community college and university professors, as well as current staff members who would qualify for placement in assignments outside of their traditional certification areas and to retain them. The request would outline what entails the community college/university professor and/or certified teacher possesses which would qualify this individual to teach the subject outside of the individual's traditional area of certification.
- B. The district will establish local qualifications and training requirements for professionals and experts to teach career and technical courses in lieu of state requirements. The district will make decisions on certification needs for the various special programs including, but not limited to trade and vocational courses such as, welding, health sciences, architecture and construction, and other career and technical courses. These exemptions are of

- i The employee creates a Texas Educator TEAL account and applies for and pays for their (1) review of out of state credential, (2) one year temporary certification, (3) fingerprints; and
- ii The employee agrees to register for appropriate content and Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exams.

D. A teacher who has a four-

Planning and Advisory Committee for approval. Our District Planning and Advisory Committee already includes a member from each of our campuses.

#### Proposed

To best serve the needs of Galena Park ISD staff, we propose to allow one district committee of administrators and teachers the option to develop alternate appraisals for specific groups of teachers, where the adopted teacher evaluation may not be the most appropriate evaluation. Such groups of teachers could include Life Skills, PASS, SLC, Elementary Specials, and CTE classes, among others.

We propose to allow one district committee of administrators and teachers the option to develop a local teacher evaluation that can be used in the place of the commissioner's recommended instrument (T-TESS). The newly developed instrument would not include a student growth measure, nor would it require annual online recertification for appraisers.

#### Rationale

Districts already have the right to develop alternate appraisals, but each appraisal instrument must be approved by the District Planning and Advisory Committee and each Campus Planning and Advisory Committee. Our District Planning and Advisory Committee already includes representation from each campus.

## 4. Minimum Minutes of Instruction

(EC LEGAL & EB LEGAL) (TEC 25.081)

#### Currently

House Bill 2610, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, amends the Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.081, by striking language requiring 180 days of instruction and replacing with language requiring districts and charter schools to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction (including intermissions and recess). The bill also allows school districts and charter schools to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disasters, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or other reasons.

#### Proposed

To best serve the Galena Park ISD community, the exemption from TEC 25.081 would allow our



