

2017-2022 Local Innovation Plan



Brazosport Independent School District



BRAZOSPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2017-2022 LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Brazosport Independent School District is to graduate every student to be future ready. To accomplish this mission, the district implemented a strategic plan to move classrooms away from an outdated 20th century factory model to an innovative, collaborative and cutting edge 21st century learning experience. This strategic move is aligned with the district's beliefs. In BISD,

- We believe that every child deserves the highest quality education.
- We believe everyone is accountable for student success.
- We believe students find purpose through connections with their schools.
- We believe collaborative partnerships are vital to strengthening the learning experience.
- We value and support the contributions of our staff.

Our vision is to set the standard for educational excellence. Our district goals align with this vision. We are dedicated and committed to:

- Providing a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure that every student is future ready;
- Having learning environments that are safe and conducive to learning;
- Promoting, communicating and marketing the accomplishments, achievements and successes of students and staff;
- Exercising fiscal responsibility to ensure financial strength and providing the resources to equip and maintain quality facilities and educational programming; and
- Recruiting, developing and retaining highly effective staff.

With the passage of House Bill 1842 in the spring of 2015 by the 84th Legislative Session, and with the subsequent creation of Texas Education Code §12A, traditional independent school districts now have increased flexibility through statute exemptions typically reserved for open enrollment charter schools should they complete the process to become a district of innovation. The Brazosport Independent School District recognized an opportunity to fulfill the district mission and improve student outcomes by innovating in the areas of:

- Student discipline;
- Optional flexible day;



- Instructional calendar;
- Teacher certification;
- Teacher contracts;
- Teacher appraisals;
- Maximum class size;
- Minimum minutes of instruction; and
- Minimum attendance for credit or final grade.

INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

On October 25, 2016, the district's Board of Trustees passed a resolution to initiate consideration for being designated as an Innovation District. A public hearing was held on November 15, 2016, and the Board of Trustees took action that evening to approve pursuing designation of the district as an innovation district. A Local Innovation Plan (LIP) Development Team was appointed and met for the first time on December 7, 2016, to begin work on the development of a Local Innovation Plan. During the months of January and February, subcommittees met to explore ten areas for possible innovation. In addition to the list of innovations above, the district also considered innovating in the area of extended year. The LIP Development Team convened again on February 2, 2017, and voted to innovate in the area of instructional calendar. On February 9, 2017, the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) met and approved the instructional calendar innovation. The LIP Development Team convened again on March 20, 2017, to consider the innovations for the remaining nine areas. The eight remaining innovations from the above list were all approved unanimously, and the subcommittee responsible for exploring extended year reported that current district extended year activities and initiatives do not require any exemptions from Texas Education Code. On April 6, 2017, the Local Innovation Plan was approved by the DEIC. The LIP will be presented to the Board of Trustees on April 18, 2017. The board will vote on their intent to adopt of the LIP at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 16, 2017, and a letter will be sent to the Commissioner of Education on April 19 informing him of their intent. On May 16, 2017, the board will make a decision on whether or not to adopt the innovation plan. Should they vote affirmatively, Brazosport ISD will become an Innovation District.

PROVISION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

In August of 2015, the Brazosport Independent School District entered a new era of instruction with the rollout of a 1:1 mobile device initiative. Three elementary school campuses participated in the inaugural year, and due to the success of the rollout, all secondary school campuses were added in August of 2016. In August of 2017, the remaining elementary schools will be included in the initiative making all BISD campuses 1:1. With the advent of 1:1 capabilities comes opportunity to innovate the way instruction is delivered, the use of instructional time, the instructional calendar and accessibility to



instruction. Innovations to support this new capability include optional flexible school day and minimum minutes of attendance for credit or final grade.

Furthermore, the Brazosport Independent School District is located in the heart of a major petro-chemical complex that is expanding rapidly. The need for high school graduates with industry certifications is growing. Finding certified teachers in specialized Career and Technical Education fields is challenging. Additionally, the district recognizes that with additional flexibilities, it is possible to hire experts in non-industrial fields to provide additional enrichment classes to students. To address these challenges, the LIP Development Team, which included representatives from the area's largest industrial employers and local businesses, included innovations in teacher certification and teacher contracts that provide the district with the flexibility to hire experts in the field who are not certified teachers.

The Brazosport Independent School District is committed to recruiting, developing and retaining high quality staff. Administrators use the state appraisal system as a tool to further develop proficient, accomplished and distinguished teachers, and to support developing and improvement needed teachers. The teacher appraisal innovation will allow the district to develop an alternate appraisal system that would release teachers and administrators from burdensome requirements in the teacher and administrator evaluation system, while at the same time ensuring that a robust process for evaluating and developing teachers is maintained. There are already processes and procedures for documenting outstanding or poor performance outside the formal evaluation process. Thus the district is seeking simplicity in formal teacher and administrator evaluation processes. Brazosport ISD will develop new localized growth and appraisal processes for both which are better aligned with the district's strategic goals and student assessments. The district would gain local flexibility to evaluate various performance measures, including classroom observations, goal setting and tracking, and student growth progress.

With a greater focus on inclusive, collaborative professional development that does not require the removal of teachers from the classroom the district needs greater flexibility in instructional minutes. Statute requires students to attend class for a minimum of 420 minutes per day and prohibits an instructional day of less than seven hours. The district, in innovating minimum minutes of instruction, created flexibility to include early release days and embedded professional development into the annual instructional calendar, and will use the flexibility created by the instructional calendar innovation to move the first day of instruction up seven days to balance the fall and spring semesters. In time, the district will explore the use of flexible minutes of instruction in supporting research-based practices in the use of technology to support instruction, practices such as incorporating a blended learning model of instruction.

With the substantial increase in construction in the local petro-chemical plants, the population of the district is growing. The district seeks to maintain a 22:1 student to teacher ratio in grades K-4, but is forced to submit maximum class size exception waivers at different times throughout the year. Schools



begin the school year with staff based on projections of student enrollment. Despite efforts to predict enrollment for grades K-4, each year enrollment exceeds projections in one school while being below projections in another. As a result, teachers and/or students must be moved from one campus to another to meet the 22:1 students to teacher ratio limit for grades K-4 forcing students leave behind friends and teacher relationships they have already formed, and teachers to prepare a classroom and meet new students after the school year has begun. Being exempted from the 22:1 ratio requirement will allow students to remain with the teacher and classmates they began the year with, thus fostering continuity and stability which will support increased student achievement. Incoming students can remain in their preferred or neighborhood school rather than have to be transported to a different campus. District Bilingual students will not have to be separated from siblings in order to balance Bilingual Education classes. In seeking a Class Size Innovation, the district is seeking to relieve itself of the waiver requirements of Texas Education Code §§25.112 and 113. The district is not, however, relieving itself of efforts to maintain K-4 classroom sizes that do not exceed 22:1 students to teacher. To that end, the district will attempt to keep all K-4 core classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. In the event a K-4 classroom exceeds this ratio, the district will allow class sizes to go to 24:1 in order to provide greater flexibility in keeping students on their preferred or neighborhood campus. Should a class size exceed 22:1 for more than 35 days, the Board of Trustees must approve the exception.

The district's B*Success Academy is providing a creative means by which students can complete the requirements for high school graduation. Embedded in their approaches to dropout prevention is an optional flexible day schedule that permits qualifying students with the flexibility to adjust instructional time around jobs and childcare needs. Texas Education Code §25.081 includes a requirement for securing a waiver before optional flexible day scheduling can be implemented. The Local Innovation Plan includes an Optional Flexible Day innovation. Exemption under this innovation will permit the district to offer alternative programming with fewer minutes that focuses on quality programming and cost savings designed to fit the needs of at-risk students without having to apply for an annual waiver.

The Brazosport Independent School District supports the successful learning of all students by providing financial and personnel resources to support efforts to reduce disruption to instruction by students with significant behavioral issues. Teachers, administrators, counselors, interventionists, and behavior specialists deliver tiered behavioral interventions within a structured system of discipline. Efforts have resulted in a four-year reduction of discretionary placements to the Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP). There remain, however, a few students who, despite receiving extensive tiered interventions, persistently behave in a manner that substantially disrupts the learning of other students. Section one of the innovation on discipline provides the district with the option of discretionarily placing students, who persistently engage in misbehavior, at the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). After all tiered interventions have been exhausted on campuses and at the district's DAEP, students with documented persistent misbehavior may be removed from class and expelled to the JJAEP under TEC §37.007. The second exemption sought under the discipline innovation is to remove the



requirement that each campus have a designated behavior coordinator who is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline and implementing the provisions under TEC §37. Brazosport ISD is seeking an exemption from TEC §37.0012, so that the district can continue to promote a more collaborative discipline program in which multiple members within the organization collectively support students and maintain student discipline. This collaborative approach to discipline will be under the direction of the campus principal.

INNOVATIONS

The plans that follow include the nine innovations sought by the Brazosport Independent School District. Each plan includes a section identifying the specific chapters and sections of the Texas Education Code for which an innovation is being sought. Also included is a listing of district local policy that will require revision once the plan is adopted. The rationale for each innovation follows and precedes the description of the innovation itself. Each plan concludes with a section on the required exemptions from Texas Education Code being sought.



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Discipline

Revision Approved by The District Educational Improvement Council:

May 4, 2017

Innovation Title	
Texas Education Code Chapters: §37.0012 Designation of a Campus Behavior Coordinator; §37.007(c) Discretionary Placement of Students to the JJAEP	Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FOD (create LOCAL)• FODA (create LOCAL)• FO (LOCAL)• FOA (create LOCAL)• FOC (create LOCAL)• GRA (LOCAL)
Rationale: <p>Innovation #1--BISD Strategic Plan Goal 2 is designed to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning. Brazosport ISD utilizes positive behavioral interventions and supports embedded within a Response to Intervention model to support students with behavioral deficits. Teachers, administrators, counselors, interventionists, and behavior specialists deliver tiered behavioral interventions within a structured system of discipline. The district is restricted from utilizing the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for students whose persistent misbehavior disrupts instruction.</p> <p>After all tiered interventions have been exhausted on campuses and at the district's DAEP, by including students with documented persistent misbehavior in those who may be removed from class and expelled under TEC §37.007(c), the District will be better able to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning.</p> <p>Innovation #2--BISD Strategic Plan Goal 2 is designed to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning. BISD District Improvement Plan Performance Objective 4 is to provide campus-based support systems to assist campuses with the utilization and enforcement of the district-wide student management plan resulting in an 8% drop in out-of-classroom placements. Designation of one person who will be primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline restricts the District's ability to promote a more collaborative discipline program in which multiple members within the organization collectively support students and maintain student discipline.</p>	
Innovation: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. After all tiered interventions have been exhausted on campuses and at the district's DAEP, include students with documented persistent misbehavior within those who may be removed from class and expelled to the JJAEP under TEC §37.007(c).	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Discipline

Revision Approved by The District Educational Improvement Council:

May 4, 2017

2. Promote a more collaborative discipline program in which, under the direction of the campus principal, multiple members within the organization collectively support students and maintain student discipline.
3. Costs: We currently budget \$30,000 for JJAEP placements. The proposal is to add an additional \$10,000 to this budget for a total of \$40,000.

Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:

By obtaining exemption from TEC §37.0012, the District will be better able to focus on establishing district behavior management protocols and implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) within a culture of collaboration.

By obtaining exemption from TEC §37.007(c), the district gains greater flexibility in ensuring that learning environments are safe and conducive to learning.



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Flexible Daily Schedule

Approved by District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

Innovation Title	
<p>Texas Education Code Chapters: §25.081 Operation of Schools</p>	<p>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EB (LOCAL)
<p>Rationale: BISD Strategic Plan Goal 1 is designed to provide a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure every student will be future-ready. Many students (including parents, parents-to-be, homeless, over age, etc.) need flexible schedules to allow them to meet their educational goals. BISD Strategic Plan Goal 2 and district improvement plan are designed to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning. Goal 2, Performance Objective 1: 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 are designed to provide flexible schedules for students who have dropped out of school or are at-risk for dropping out of school.</p> <p>Districts are required to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction annually. For students who attend the district's credit recovery / alternative education program, TEC §29.0822 provides districts an annual waiver for exemption of this requirement for this population.</p>	
<p>Innovation:</p> <p>Being exempt from the minimum minutes requirement will permit the district to offer alternative programming with fewer minutes that focuses on quality programming and cost savings, designed to fit the needs of the at-risk students without having to apply for an annual waiver.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Option 1: Students can attend full time. 2. Option 2: Students can attend part time during the day or evening hours through the B*Success Academy. 3. Option 3: Qualifying students working on Individualized Transition Plans. 	
<p>Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:</p> <p>By obtaining an exemption from TEC §25.081, the district will no longer have to apply annually for an Optional Flex Day waiver.</p>	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: School Calendar

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: February 9, 2017

Innovation Title	
<p>Texas Education Code Chapters: Texas Education Code §25.0811 First Day of Instruction, §25.0812 Last Day of School</p>	<p>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EB (LOCAL)
<p>Rationale: BISD Strategic Plan Goal 1 is designed to provide a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure every student will be future-ready. We value and support the contributions of our staff, and we value the collaborative partnerships as vital to strengthening the learning experience.</p> <p>Designation of the fourth Monday in August as the first day the district may begin instruction for students restricts the District's ability to provide balanced semesters, create more time before state testing dates, align with college semesters for students taking dual credit classes, collaboratively determine with local partners on how best to strengthen the learning experience. By obtaining exemption from TEC §25.0811, the District will be better able to create balanced grading periods while still ending the first semester prior to the holiday break and aligns with the local community college semester dates. In addition, the district will also be able to start school mid-week, allowing for a smoother transition at the beginning of school. Finally, individual campuses will have the flexibility to provide year-round school of choice for identified populations.</p>	
<p>Innovation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow local control through the use of a collaborative committee made of up community partners and district staff members to develop an instructional calendar that provides balanced semesters, is in alignment with the community college, begins mid-week, and begins instruction prior to the fourth Monday in August. 2. Provide flexibility for campuses to provide year-round school of choice for identified populations. 	
<p>Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code: TEC §25.0811, §25.0812</p>	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Teacher Certification

Revision Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council:

May 4, 2017

Teacher Certification	
<p>Texas Education Code Chapters: Texas Education Code §21.003 Certification Required; §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates</p>	<p>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DBA(LEGAL) ● DBA(LOCAL) ● DK(LEGAL) ● DK(LOCAL) ● DK(EXHIBIT)
<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The current certification requirements inhibit the District's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics (STEAM) courses. In order to provide more students the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such individuals in lieu of the requirements set forth in law. ● Currently, a certified teacher cannot be hired for a position or be assigned to a subject outside his/her certification, limiting the District's ability to effectively utilize personnel to ensure quality instruction. 	
<p>Innovation: Brazosport ISD Human Resources Department will submit a written request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent or designee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For an individual with professional or vocational experience who does not possess a traditional teaching certificate, but is highly credentialed as evidenced by a license, degree or experience, to teach non-core courses such as CTE. ● For a certified teacher to teach a subject area out of his/her certified field in grades 5th - 12th. <p>Candidate Qualification may include a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional work experience; ● Formal training and education; ● Relevant industry licensure, certification, or registration; and/or ● Any combination of work experience, training and education, or industry credential related to the subject matter he/she will be teaching. <p>The written request will outline the reason for the request and it will document the credentials possessed by the recommended teacher which qualify him/her to teach the subject. In addition, the written request must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee for approval prior to employing them as a teacher.</p>	



Local Innovation Plan
Innovation Initiative: Teacher Certification
Revision Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council:
May 4, 2017

Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:

21.003 Certification Required; §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Teacher Contracts

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

Teacher Contracts	
<p>Texas Education Code Chapters: Texas Education Code §21.002, Teacher Employment Contracts; §21.102(b) Term of Probationary Contract; §21.202(a) Probationary contract required prior to issuing a term contract.</p>	<p>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC(LOCAL) • DCA (LOCAL) • DCB (LOCAL)
<p>In alignment with our current practice, returning certified teachers will be given a Chapter 21 contract.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, an applicant cannot be hired to teach a subject without appropriate certification, causing vacancies or deficiencies. • Currently, it is a BISD practice to issue a Chapter 21 contract for the remainder of the school year to certified teachers hired after the first day of instruction, binding the District to potentially ineffective instruction for students. • Currently, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years, limiting the time period to fully determine the staff member's effectiveness. 	
<p>Innovation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brazosport ISD Human Resources Department will submit a written request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent without issuing a Chapter 21 Contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a noncertified applicant to teach • For a teacher hired after the first day of instruction (late hire) <p>The written request will outline the reason for the request and it will document the credentials the recommended teacher possesses which qualify him/her to teach the subject. In addition, the written request must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee for approval prior to employing the applicant.</p> 2. The Superintendent will approve recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a second and/or third year probationary contract for teachers employed by the District, who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years and have completed their first probationary year with the District, in order to continue to evaluate the staff member's effectiveness. 	
<p>Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code: Texas Education Code §21.002; §21.002(b); §21.202(a)</p>	



Local Innovation Plan
Innovation Initiative: Teacher Appraisals
Revision Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council:
May 4, 2017

Teacher Appraisals	
Texas Education Code Chapters: Texas Education Code §21.352(a)(2) Local Role in Appraising Teachers	Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DN(LOCAL)• DNA (LOCAL)• DNB(LOCAL)
Rationale: Allowing Brazosport ISD to develop an alternate appraisal system would release teachers and administrators from requirements that are burdensome in the teacher and administrator evaluation system. There are already processes and procedures for documenting outstanding or poor performance outside the formal evaluation process. Thus simplicity should be allowed in formal teacher and administrator evaluation.	
Innovation: Brazosport ISD will develop new localized growth and appraisal processes for teachers and administrators, which are better aligned with BISD strategic goals and student assessments. This exemption would allow local flexibility to evaluate various performance measures, including classroom observations, goal setting and tracking, and student growth progress.	
Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code: Texas Education Code §21.352(a)(2)	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Class Size Exception

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

Innovation Title	
<p>Texas Education Code Chapters: §25.112 Class Size; §25.113 Notice of Class Size</p>	<p>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BF (Legal) Waivers ● EEB (Legal) Kindergarten-Grade 4 1., 2.; Exception to Class Size Limits; Notice to Parents
<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools begin the school year with staff based on projections of student enrollment. Often, enrollment will exceed projections in one school while under projections in another. As a result, teachers and/or students must be moved from one campus to another to meet the 22 to 1 student to teacher ratio limit for grades K-4. As a result, students leave behind friends and teacher relationships they have already formed. ● Being exempt from the 22 to 1 ratio requirement will allow students to remain with the teacher and classmates that they began the year with, thus fostering continuity and stability which will support increased student achievement. ● Incoming students can remain in their preferred or neighborhood school rather than have to be transported to a different campus. ● District Bilingual students will not have to be separated from siblings in order to balance Bilingual Education classes. ● When a class size exceeds the 22 to 1 ratio, parents of students in that class must be notified even when the school is impacted by high mobility. 	
<p>Innovation:</p> <p>The class size exception innovation is described as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brazosport ISD will attempt to keep all K-4 core classrooms to a 22 to 1 ratio. ● In the event a K-4 classroom exceeds this ratio, the district will allow class sizes to go to 24 to 1 in order to provide greater flexibility in keeping students on their preferred or neighborhood campus. ● Should a class size exceed 22 to 1 for more than 35 days, the Board of Trustees must approve the exception. ● While the class size exception innovation will allow K-4 classrooms to exceed the 22 to 1 ratio, the district will implement the following action steps in its effort to keep those classrooms to 22 to 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survey campus enrollment, staffing ratios and class sizes at the beginning of each school year and monitor throughout. ○ Apply district staffing ratios to support students and teachers in classes where the class size ratios exceed 22 to 1. 	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Class Size Exception

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

- Regularly review campus enrollment, staffing ratios and class sizes with the Superintendent and his Cabinet.

Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:

- The class size exception innovation seeks exemptions from the requirements of Texas Education Code §§25.112 and 113 of a class size exception waiver and notification to parents when K-4 classes exceed a 22 to 1 ratio.



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Minimum Minutes of Instruction

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

Innovation Title	
Texas Education Code Chapters: §25.081(e) 420 Minutes of Instruction; §25.082(a) Seven Hour School Day	Corresponding Board Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EB (Legal) School Year• EC (Legal) School Day
Rationale: <p>Districts have become constrained by efforts to meet time requirements that are based upon an antiquated model of schooling. Now that technology has become available to most of the students in the Brazosport Independent School District, they now have access to information and personalized learning that expands learning beyond the classroom. Students now have access to the curriculum outside of school hours and learning time can be expanded. Teachers can use blended learning, flipped lessons and Google classroom to make learning more accessible to students outside the classroom. And those are just a few of the many tools available to teachers to expand learning opportunities for students. Using time differently can actually provide the much needed time for interventions, extension and other supports students need to learn at high levels.</p> <p>The Texas Education Code §25.081(e) and §25.082(a) inhibit the district by reducing flexibility to a “seat time” model driven by funding and not learning. Flexibility is needed to move learning beyond the classroom and the seven hour, 420 minute school day. By having more flexibility, the school day can be altered depending upon the needs of students and teachers.</p>	
Innovation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This exemption will provide Brazosport ISD with the flexibility to meet the 75,600 minutes of full-day instruction and 37,800 minutes of Pre-K half-day instruction in a creative manner without the restriction of 420 minutes of instruction per day and the seven hour daily minimum.• This exemption will further assist the district with personalizing learning to better meet individual student needs.	
Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas Education Code §25.081(e) - 420 minutes of instruction; and• Texas Education Code §25.082(a) - Seven hour school day	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Minimum Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (90 percent rule)

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

Innovation Title	
Texas Education Code Chapters: §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade	Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">FEC (Local) Attendance for Credit
Rationale: <p>In order to be awarded credit or a final grade for a class, a student is required to attend class 90 percent of the days class is offered regardless of whether the student's absences are excused or unexcused. According to statute, a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 shall not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance 90 percent of the days the class is offered. The 90 percent minimum and the 75 percent floor are arbitrary percentages that are based on "days in class" and not mastery of content. Brazosport ISD implemented a one-to-one device initiative in 2016-17 that placed a Chromebook in the hands of every secondary school student. As a result, students who are absent from school have greater flexibility in making up assignments or completing classwork using their device. Students can electronically communicate with teachers and access missed work. Exemption from §25.092 will provide educational advantages to students of the District by promoting active learning through innovation in the methods, locations, and times instruction may be delivered to students, thereby accommodating students with legitimate scheduling conflicts or absences, and reducing the number of dropouts and increasing the number of qualifying graduates.</p> <p>Relief from §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) will not in any way impact or alter existing compulsory attendance requirements or University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules. Moreover, opting out of §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) in no way limits or modifies a teacher's right to determine the finality of a grade in accordance with Texas Education Code §28.0214, nor does it restrict or alter a teacher's right to assign grades in accordance with Texas Education Code §28.0216.</p>	
Innovation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Both the 90 percent and 75 percent rules governing attendance are based on "days in class", and not mastery of content.While Brazosport ISD will continue to stress and enforce the 90 percent rule, the district is seeking an exemption to §25.092 in order to provide greater flexibility to principals and attendance committees in awarding credit or a final grade to students who:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Earn a passing grade in order to receive credit;Demonstrate mastery of the content;Are present for less than 75% of days in class due to district-approved extenuating circumstances;	



Local Innovation Plan

Innovation Initiative: Minimum Attendance for Credit or Final Grade (90 percent rule)

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: April 6, 2017

- Provide district-approved documentation supporting the extenuating circumstances; and
- Meet all requirements in the principal's plan and/or the requirements of the attendance committee for receiving credit or a final grade.

Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:

- The Minimum Attendance for Credit or Final Grade innovation seeks exemption from the requirements of Texas Education Code §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) for percentage of "days in class" attendance requirements for awarding credit or final grade.

Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307(d)

Innovation District

Please submit, on district letterhead, a letter to the commissioner of education stating the date that the board of trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District.

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- 1) Innovative Curriculum
- 2) Instructional Methods
- 3) Community Participation
- 4) Governance of Campuses
- 5) Parental Involvement
- 6) Modifications to the school day or year
- 7) Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding
- 8) Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
- 9) Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.

A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan. Please use the form below to check the statutes specifically identified in your district's local innovation plan as inhibiting a goal of the plan. Checking a specific statute does not necessarily indicate eligibility for an exemption from all subsections of the statute. The local innovation plan controls with regard to the specific exemptions adopted by a district. The form below provides a reporting mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirements of the statute. Entire sections of code may not be eligible for exemption and each district should consult its legal counsel in developing its innovation plan.

Exemptions claimed for an Innovation District apply only to the specific provision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) cited, which may or may not be governed by a separate legal requirement. The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement. Each district should consult its legal counsel to ensure adoption of necessary local policies to ensure compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of exemptions.

Term of Plan: May 2017 – May 2022

Plan applies to: **Entire District**

Campus (list) _____

Other (please describe) _____

Chapter 11 – School Districts

Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts

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§11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making

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§21.401 Minimum Service Required

§21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff

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- §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
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- §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
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- §21.415 Employment Contracts
- Subchapter J – Staff Development**
- §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
- §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
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- §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
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- §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- X §25.112 Class Size
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- X §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
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Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management

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- §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- §44.043 Right To Work
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Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions

- §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
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- §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

Chapter 45 – School District Funds

Subchapter G – School District Depositories

- §45.205 Term of Contract
- §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- §45.207 Award of Contract
- §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- §45.209 Investment of District Funds

Other

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan:

- X §21.202 (Probationary Contract Required)