

District of Innovation Proposed Amendment
Presented to DAC on May 11, 2026 – APPROVED
Presented to the LISD School Board on June 17, 2026 - _____

Background:

Texas law requires districts to notify parents in writing if their child is assigned for more than 30 consecutive instructional days to an uncertified teacher, an uncertified substitute, or an inappropriately certified teacher.

Impact of HB 2: Recent legislative updates stipulate that school districts can no longer use District of Innovation (DOI) plans to bypass or alter these parent notification requirements.

Current Levelland ISD District of Innovation Plan:

2. Teacher Certification (TEC §21.003, §21.044, §21.053 and §21.057)

State law states that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. In the event, a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must request emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and/or State Board of Educator Certification.

Innovation Strategies

Levelland ISD will continue to seek highly effective certified educators for teaching positions. By establishing local certification instead of requirements set in the Texas Education Code, Levelland ISD will be able to best serve students by employing high quality educators that might not ordinarily qualify under the traditional teacher certification pathway. The flexibility in allowing Levelland ISD to make local decisions about teacher certification would provide a better opportunity to offer innovation in course selections for CTE and high demand courses as well as hard to fill positions. Upon hire, the district will continue to encourage all staff to attain credentials as set forward by the State Board of Educator Certification.

Based on local need, this exemption from teacher certification requirements will enable greater flexibility in staffing and will enrich applicant pools in areas of need. This would allow for the following:

- Provide more flexibility in scheduling
- Provide more options for students in class offerings
- Allow degreed individuals who may not be certified to teach hard-to-fill or high demand courses
- Allow experienced teachers to teach a course in an area they have qualified knowledge but do not have that particular certification
- Allow industry certified and/or trade professionals to teach specialized certification courses

The principal may submit to the superintendent and/or the designee a request for a local certification outlining the individual's credentials/qualifications.

The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the teacher possesses to qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. The superintendent will report the action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignments.

A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, notifications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency or other district stakeholders.

Special Education and Bilingual/ESL teachers will continue to be SBEC certified.

*The section highlighted in yellow will be deleted in order to comply with the requirements of HB2. All other language and information in the plan will remain the same.

**The amended DOI plan will be submitted to the school board for their approval and then to TEA for their approval. Once approved, the amended plan will be posted on the district's website.