

August 19, 2016

ACTION REQUIRED

Subject: House Bill 2610 Funding Implications for the 2016–2017 school year

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED (TAA):

The 84th Legislature amended Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.081, and created TEC, §25.0812, in order to move from a school year where districts were required to provide 180 days of instruction to a school year where districts are required to provide 75,600 minutes of instruction. This TAA addresses funding for the 2016–2017 school year only. Local education agencies should consult their own legal counsel for additional legal consideration that may apply as a result of this legislation

Funding

- **Except for half-day prekindergarten programs, FSP funding will be proportionately reduced for attendance generated on any campus that does not meet the 75,600 minutes of operation for the school year without an approved waiver from the TEA. This funding reduction will be based on your submitted campus calendars.**
- If your district or charter school has applied for and received approval for waived minutes of instruction, then the sum of operational and waiver minutes must be at least 75,600.
- Questions related to the state funding implications of this mandate should be directed to Al McKenzie, Director of State Funding, at (512) 463-9238 or at Al.McKenzie@tea.texas.gov.

Student Attendance

- For a student to be eligible for full-day funding, the student must be offered and provided at least 240 minutes of instruction (classroom) time.
- For student to be eligible for half-day funding, the student must be offered and provided at least 120 minutes of instruction (classroom) time.
- There is no change to the way student attendance is taken.
- The Student Attendance Accounting Handbook has been updated and can be found by following this url: <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=25769817607>
- Questions related to student attendance accounting should be directed to: Chanda Williams at (512) 475-2012 or Yolanda Walker at (512) 463-0947 or at attendance@tea.texas.gov

Waivers

- School districts must provide 75,600 minutes of operation beginning with the 2016–2017 school year.
- Dropout recovery campuses (charters, alternative education programs and disciplinary alternative education programs) operating with less than 75,600 minutes in prior years (and continuing with the same number of operational minutes in 2016–2017) **will need to apply for a one-time waiver** for the 2016–2017 school year to receive full funding.
- Half-day prekindergarten programs operating with less than 37,800 minutes in prior years (and continuing with the same number of operational minutes in 2016–2017) **will automatically be granted a one-time waiver** for the 2016–2017 school year and will receive full prekindergarten funding based on a minimum of 120 minutes of classroom time per day.
- Documentation related to the granting of waivers associated with Charter Schools, AEP, DAEP, and Prekindergarten can be found by following this url: <http://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=25769825239&libID=25769825335>
- Questions related to waivers should be directed to Leah Martin, Director of Accreditation & School Improvement, at (512) 463-8597 or at Leah.Martin@tea.texas.gov.

Calendar Reporting

- Beginning with the 2016–2017 school year, districts and charter schools are required to submit calendars for all campuses to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) demonstrating compliance with the new statute. This submission will take place as part of the third Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) submission due June 22, 2017.
- Documentation on the submission requirements for campus calendars can be found by following this url: <http://castro.tea.state.tx.us/tsds/teds/2017A/teds-ds2.1.pdf>
- Calendar data will be reported using the Reporting Period Extension and Calendar Date Extension complex types.
- Questions related to data submissions should be directed through the TSDS Incident Management System (TIMS) or emailed to TSDSCustomerSupport@tea.texas.gov.

Regards,

Leo Lopez, RTSBA
Associate Commissioner for School Finance /
Chief School Finance Officer