

Sherman ISD
District of Innovation Amendment
Approved Exemptions

OUR PROCESS:

In August of 2019, the District of Innovation Committee came back together to discuss potential changes to the Innovation Plan adopted during the 2016-2017 school year. Changes under consideration related to new laws passed during the 85th legislative session. The Committee rotated through discussion areas to review and discuss current exemption areas, ask questions, and provide feedback. At the end of the evening Committee members were given the option to determine if any areas needed to be amended. The DOI committee agreed to maintain the current plan, however, wanted to add two additional areas for exemption. The DOI committee took the plan to the school board for finalization in February 2020.

TERM:

The amendment adopted by the Board will adhere to the same term as the original plan.

APPROVED AMENDMENT EXEMPTIONS:

I. Three-day limitation on suspensions (TEC §37.005(c) & FOB(Legal)

Current Provision:

§37.005(c) states that a student who is enrolled in a grade level below grade three may not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off of school property, the student engages in:

1. Conduct that contains the elements of an offense related to weapons under Penal Code 46.02 or 46.05;
2. Conduct that contains the elements of a violent offense related under Penal Code 22.01, 22.011, 22.02, 22.021; or
3. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of any amount of:
 - a. Marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Health and Safety Code Chapter 481, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.;
 - b. A dangerous drug, as defined by Health and Safety Code Chapter 483; or
 - c. An alcoholic beverage.

Exemption and Benefits:

Sherman ISD is committed to providing a high-quality learning environment for all students. Great care is taken when determining appropriate discipline for a student, including those in grade k-2. An exemption to the current limitations allows principals to choose suspension or a DAEP placement for violations for the SISD Student Code of Conduct and would provide greater flexibility for our school leaders to discipline appropriately and to maintain a positive learning environment.

II. Transfer Students (TEC §25.036) (FDA LEGAL, FDA LOCAL)

Current Provision:

Any child, other than a high school graduate, who is younger than 21 years of age and eligible for enrollment on September 1 of any school year may transfer annually from the child's school district of residence to another district in this state if both the receiving district and the applicant parent or guardian or person having lawful control of the child jointly approve and timely agree in writing to the transfer.

Exemption and Benefits:

The ability to revoke a transfer for a student at any time during the year based on behavior, attendance or academic achievement allows our district to continue accepting the greatest number of transfer students seeking a different educational setting than what is available where they reside. Students who experience challenges while on an interdistrict transfer deserve the ability to be returned to their home district to receive the greatest amount of support possible.