

District of Innovation Implementation Guidance for Uniform Start Date Exemption TEC 25.0811 First Day of Instruction

TEC 25.0811 states: “(a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.”

Rationale for NEISD

NEISD seeks exemption from TEC 25.0811 in order to:

- Better balance the school year so that the number of days in each semester is relatively equal with the possibility of ending the school year earlier;
- Better balance distribution of instructional time for one-semester coursework;
- Complete fall semester exams before dismissing for Winter Break;
- Provide opportunities for graduates to take advantage of the full array of summer offerings at institutions of higher education; and
- Provide opportunities for staff to take advantage of summer offerings at institutions of higher learning.

Implementation Guidance for NEISD

The District will have the flexibility to designate the first day of school each year to best meet the needs of our students and community. The District does not intend to implement this exemption for the purpose of altering the language in or application of teacher contracts. This exemption will be implemented as follows:

- The District calendar process will continue to receive input from staff and community when developing the school calendar.
- All calendar options will include provisions for a more balanced distribution of instructional time between the two semesters.
- During the calendar development process, each campus will have the opportunity to vote on calendar options.
- Calendar options and the results of campus votes will be presented to the District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC).
- The DEIC will then make a calendar recommendation to the North East ISD Board of Trustees for approval.