



Dr. Sylvia G. Rios  
*Superintendent of  
Schools*

January 17, 2019

Board of Trustees

Commissioner Mike Morath  
Texas Education Agency Commissioner's Office  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701

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Dear Commissioner Morath,

On January 16, 2019, the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees approved an amendment to the previously approved District of Innovation Plan to include Teacher Certification for Career and Technical Education and Dual Credit. In addition, this amendment was approved by our District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) on January 14, 2019.

Texas Education Code Sections 21.003 and 21.053 limit the District's ability to hire teachers to teach hard-to-fill, Dual Credit and Career and Technical (CTE) Courses when certified teachers are not available. An exemption would allow Laredo ISD the flexibility to consider workforce professionals to teach CTE courses and dual enrollment courses.

By obtaining an exemption from existing teacher certification requirements for Dual Credit and Career and Technical teachers, the District would have the flexibility to hire credentialed community college instructors or university professors in specific content areas in order to offer more students the opportunity to take these courses if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses. In some instances, field-based experts are more qualified to teach Career & Technical (CTE) and Technology Application courses than certified educators, and the district needs the discretion to hire the most qualified individuals to teach these courses. Having the ability to recruit experts from the field and institutions of higher learning will enhance community partnerships and increase field-based opportunities for students.

Documents that pertain to our District of Innovation Plan are posted on the district's website at:

<http://laredo.ss11.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=328992&pageId=4249801>

Sincerely,

Dr. Sylvia G. Rios  
Superintendent of Schools