March 12, 2015

Re: 2015–2016 Optional Flexible Year Program (OFYP)

To the Administrator Addressed:

Your school district or charter school may modify its instructional calendar for up to 10 days to provide a flexible year program to meet the educational needs of its students, including providing intensive instructional services. A flexible year program is for students who did not, or are likely not to, perform successfully on an assessment instrument administered under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §39.023, or who would not otherwise be promoted to the next grade level.

To apply to participate in the OFYP, your district or charter school must submit a number of items to the Texas Education Agency. These items are: 1) a completed 2015–2016 application, 2) a modified 2015–2016 instructional calendar, and 3) a letter describing the proposed modifications to the instructional calendar that includes a description of the OFYP that will be provided under the TEC, §29.0821. The letter must indicate the date on which the board of trustees approved the modified instructional calendar. Please take note of the 2015–2016 Student Assessment Testing Calendar and reporting dates when considering the placement of the OFYP days.

To participate in the OFYP, your district or charter school must provide no fewer than 180 days of instruction to students who meet the eligibility criteria stated in the TEC, §29.0821. For example: 177 instructional days plus 3 staff development days does not meet the 180-day requirement. Approval to modify the number of instructional days is limited to one year.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Ashley Behnke by email at Ashley.Behnke@tea.texas.gov or by phone at (512) 463-4834.

The rules, application, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the OFYP can be found at <http://tea.texas.gov/Finance_and_Grants/State_Funding/Additional_Finance_Resources/Optional__Flexible_Year_Program/>.

Sincerely,

Amanda Brownson

Director, State Funding

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