

Texas Education Agency



APPLICATION

Updated April 2024

Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP)

_____ School Year

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will make available to eligible school districts and open-enrollment charter schools an application form that must be completed and submitted annually to the TEA for approval.

Definition of Program Provisions

Eligible Students

A student in any grade level is eligible to participate in an OFSDP authorized under the [TEC, §29.0822](#), if the student is:

- at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by the [TEC, §29.081](#),
- attending a campus implementing an approved innovative campus plan,
- attending a TEA-designated ECHS as defined by the [TEC, §29.908](#), P-TECH, or ICIA,
- attending a community-based dropout recovery education program, as defined by the [TEC, §29.081\(e-1\) or \(e-2\)](#), or
- not meeting attendance requirements under the [TEC, §25.092](#), resulting in denied credit for one or more classes in which the student has been enrolled.

AND

There must be an agreement in writing to the student's participation:

- by the student, if the student is over 18 years of age; or
- by the student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student, if the student is less than 18 years of age and not emancipated by marriage or court order.

Assessment

The student must take the required state assessments specified under the [TEC, §39.023](#), during the regularly scheduled assessment calendar.

Participation in University Interscholastic League (UIL)

A student enrolled in an OFSDP under the [TEC, §29.0822](#), may participate in a competition or other activity sanctioned or conducted under the authority of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) only if he or she meets all UIL eligibility criteria.

Attendance Credit

A student attending an OFSDP under the TEC, §29.0822, may be counted in average daily attendance (ADA) for purposes of funding under the TEC, Chapters 46, 48, and 49, only for the actual number of contact hours the student receives, not to exceed 720 hours or 43,200 minutes per 12-month period. **Students enrolled in the traditional program for part of the year and the OFSDP program for part of the year may not earn more than one ADA.**

Board Approval

The board of trustees of a school district must include the OFSDP as an item on a regular agenda for a board meeting. Board of trustees of a school district must discuss the progress of the program before approving the program and applying to operate an OFSDP (see Appendix Two).

Continuation or Revocation of Program Authorization

Applications are approved for a period of one (1) school year. Continuation of the approval for the OFSDP will be contingent on the demonstrated success of the program. Determination of success will include a review and analysis of data provided in the mandatory final progress report(s). The commissioner of education may revoke authorization for participation in the OFSDP after consideration of relevant factors, including performance of students participating in the program on assessment instruments required under the TEC, Chapter 39; the percentage of students participating in the program who graduate from high school; and other criteria agreed to in the application and adopted by the commissioner of education. A decision to revoke approval of the program by the commissioner of education is final and may not be appealed.

Reporting Requirements

Following approval of the application, the applicant may be required to submit progress reports based on criteria selected by the applicant and agreed to by the commissioner. When requested, reports will require applicants to disclose the overall progress of the students in the program, the number of students enrolled in the program (disaggregated by ethnicity, age, gender, and socioeconomic status), the number of students graduating from high school (disaggregated by ethnicity, age, gender, and socioeconomic status), and additional criteria selected by the applicant and agreed to by the commissioner. The TEA will provide notice to applicants and additional instructions for completion of reports at least 45 days before the date a report is due, or as soon as possible, in order to give school districts and charter schools adequate time to prepare and submit the reports to the TEA. The TEA may request additional reports as necessary to monitor and assess progress of students participating in the program.

Provisions of Agreement

Article I – Parties to Agreement

This agreement is entered into by and between the Texas Education Agency, an agency of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the “TEA,” and

(Legal Name of School District or Open-Enrollment Charter School)

located at

(Physical Address)

hereinafter referred to as “district.”

Article II – Period of Agreement

The period of the agreement, as detailed by participating campus in **Appendix 5**, is for a maximum of one (1) school year plus an additional thirty (30) school days if the district is applying for credit recovery. **Note that the agreement term is subject to annual renewal.**

Article III – Purpose of Agreement

The district must perform all the functions and duties set out in the agreement, the authorizing program statute, and applicable regulations.

Article IV – Reporting Requirements

The district may be required to submit progress reports based on criteria selected by the applicant and agreed to by the commissioner. The TEA may request additional reports as necessary to monitor and assess progress of students participating in the program.

Article V – General and Special Provisions to the Agreement

Attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference is each of the provisions indicated below with an “X” beside it:

- Appendix One, Assurances
- Appendix Two, Board Approval
- Appendix Three, Attendance and Compliance Procedures of Proposed Program (Attach PDF File)
- Appendix Four, District Contacts
- Appendix Five, Participating Campuses, Student Eligibility, and Period of Agreement (Attach Excel File)

Article VI – Application Process

- For questions or assistance regarding this application, email opfex@tea.texas.gov or call 512-463-8916.
- Applications should be submitted 30 days prior to the start of the program. Start date(s) on Appendix 5 should be at least thirty (30) days after the application is submitted.
- Applications submitted by July 15th should be approved by August 15th.
- Email the complete application and attachments to: opfex@tea.texas.gov.
- Email subject line should indicate: OFSDP Application - District Name, County District Number

Article VII – Agreement

AGREED and accepted on behalf of the school district or open-enrollment charter school to be effective on the earliest date written above by a person authorized to bind the district.

Typed Name _____

_____ Authorized Signature

Typed Title _____

Appendix One Assurances

The definition of terms of the application applies to this Appendix One, Assurances. The school district or open-enrollment charter school hereinafter called “district” does hereby certify and agree to the following conditions of the agreement.

Page limit: Submit no additional pages for Appendix One. All information requested must be included with this form.

The district agrees to enroll only eligible students to participate in an OFSDP authorized under this application. A student is eligible to participate in an OFSDP authorized under the TEC, §29.0822, if:

1. the student meets one of the following conditions:
 - the student is at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by the [TEC, §29.081](#); or
 - the student is attending a campus implementing an approved innovative campus plan; or
 - the student is attending a community-based dropout recovery education program, as defined by the [TEC, §29.081\(e-1\) or \(e-2\)](#); or
 - the student is attending a campus with an approved early college high school program designation as defined by the [TEC, §29.908](#); or
 - the student, as a result of attendance requirements under the [TEC, §25.092](#), will be denied credit for one or more classes in which the student has been enrolled.

and

2. there is an agreement in writing to the student’s participation
 - by the student, if the student is over 18 years of age; or
 - by the student and the student’s parent or person standing in parental relation to the student, if the student is less than 18 years of age and not emancipated by marriage or court order.

The district agrees:

1. to administer mandatory assessment instruments during the regular assessment cycle to students enrolled in OFSDPs;
2. to ensure all instructional materials and facilities are comparable or exceed the required standards for students in similar programs;
3. that the students participating in an OFSDP will not be isolated from other academic and vocational programs of the school district and that all students will have access to school counselors for pre- and post-entry counseling, academic or personal counseling, and career counseling;
4. to provide faculty and administrators with baccalaureate or advanced degrees, highly qualified staff, and certified teachers as required by 19 Texas Administrative Code §129.1027 for the program;
5. to adopt a policy that does not penalize students participating in an OFSDP in accordance with the 90% rule (TEC, §25.092[a]) or the 75% to 90% rule for class credit (TEC, §25.092[a-1]);
6. to adopt a policy to require students to attend regularly scheduled instruction for the OFSDP with penalties for nonattendance including filing truancy charges, if appropriate;
7. to track the number of minutes the student receives instruction each day and to comply with applicable sections of the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#).

8. to comply with all reporting requirements established by the TEA;
9. not to discriminate based on disability, race, color, national origin, religion, or sex; and
10. to prohibit a student participating in an OFSDP from participating in a competition or other activity sanctioned or conducted under the authority of the UIL unless the student meets all UIL eligibility requirements.

AGREED and accepted terms and conditions of Appendix One on behalf of the school district or open-enrollment charter school by persons authorized to bind the district.

Name, Title, and Telephone Number of School Board President

Signature of SchoolBoard President

Date

Name, Title, and Telephone Number of District Superintendent or Charter School Chief Operations Officer

Signature of Person Authorized to Bind the District or Charter School

Date

Appendix Two
Board Approval

The definition of terms of the application applies to this Appendix Two, Board Approval. The school district or open-enrollment charter school hereinafter called “district” does hereby certify and agree to the following conditions of the agreement.

Page limit: Submit no additional pages for Appendix Two. All information requested must be included with this form.

1. The board of trustees of the school district or the governing board of the open-enrollment charter school **agrees to include the OFSDP as an item on the agenda** concerning the proposed application.

2. The board of trustees of the school district or the governing board of the open-enrollment charter school must discuss the progress of the program before applying to operate an OFSDP.

The proposed OFSDP application was on the agenda and discussed at the board meeting conducted on:

Month: _____

Day: _____

Year: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Agreed and accepted on behalf of the school district or open-enrollment charter school by persons authorized to bind the district.

Name, Title, and Telephone Number of School Board President

Signature of School Board President

Date

Name, Title, and Telephone Number of District Superintendent or Charter School Chief Operations Officer

Signature of Person Authorized to Bind the District or Charter School

Date

Appendix Three

Attendance and Compliance Procedures of Proposed Program

The definition of terms of the application applies to this Appendix Three, Attendance and Compliance Procedures of Proposed Program. The school district or open-enrollment charter school hereinafter called “district” does hereby certify and agree to the following conditions of the agreement.

Page limit: Submit a separate PDF document to concisely provide the information below, labeled with the corresponding number, for Appendix Three. All information requested must be included with this form and should be reviewed by the District PEIMS Coordinator prior to submission.

1. Describe the program goals and objectives.
2. Indicate the proposed schedule offered to students participating in the OFSDP, including days of the week and times.
3. Provide an outline of staff positions and resource personnel (teachers, administrators, counselors, support staff, etc.) associated with the program. Include contact hours each staff position will be obligated to the program.
4. Describe the procedures for identifying students, including how the school confirms and documents student eligibility and obtaining student and parental consent for OFSDP participation.
5. Indicate the estimated number of OFSDP students that will be served per teacher.
6. **If** the OFSDP program will offer special education, career and technology education, pregnancy-related services, or bilingual education, indicate how services will be provided, the teacher certification standards in each program area, and how services will comply with the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#).
7. OFSDP requires a teacher of record to record the actual number of students’ instructional minutes on any given day. NOTE: absences and days present do not exist in the OFSDP

Explain the following:

- a. How the classroom teacher will verify the number of instructional minutes a student receives each day.
- b. How the district will ensure that minutes for students who did not attend a minimum of 45 minutes on a particular day are not reported for funding.
- c. How the district will ensure that students transferring from the traditional program (ADA Codes 0-6) to OFSDP (ADA Codes 7-8) will not generate more than one ADA in total for the school year and that students will not receive more than 10,800 minutes per course. It is recommended that the district apply the following formula to determine the maximum OFSDP minutes a student is eligible = (Calendar School Days - Traditional Days Present) x 240.
- d. How the district will ensure that students are not coded in a traditional program on the same day that the student is accumulating OFSDP instructional minutes.
- e. How the district will ensure that attendance practices and records comply with Sections 2.2.3 and 11.6 of the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#).
- f. How Student Detail Audit reports for the OFSDP track will be reviewed and certified each six-week attendance reporting period.

8. If eligible OFSDP students participate in a credit recovery program offered in the summer, funding is limited to the attendance necessary for the student to recover class credit. Please describe how attendance will be monitored to ensure additional minutes are not reported for funding.
9. If students are attending a community-based dropout recovery education program as defined by TEC, §29.081 (e-1) or (e-2):
 - a. Will the district operate the dropout recovery education program or utilize an education management organization? If services will be contracted, please provide the organization name, accreditation status and the name of the accrediting agency.
 - b. Indicate how students will be offered or provided referrals for mental health services.
10. If students are attending a dropout recovery program offered in a remote or hybrid setting, as defined by TEC, §29.081 (e-2):
 - a. Describe the curriculum credentials, certifications, or other course offerings that relate directly to employment opportunities in the state.
 - b. Describe the individual learning plan or process used to monitor each student's progress.
 - c. Indicate how students will be served by an academic coach and local advocate.
 - d. Indicate the date of the month that monthly student progress reports will be provided to the student's school district.
 - e. Provide the location and a brief description of the in-person student engagement center.

Appendix Four
District Contacts

The definition of terms of the application applies to this Appendix Four, Contact(s) Sheet. The school district or open-enrollment charter school hereinafter called “district” does hereby certify and agree to the following conditions of the agreement.

Page limit: Submit no additional pages for Appendix Four. All information requested must be included with this form.

District Contacts for the Application

District/Charter School Superintendent:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	

District PEIMS Coordinator:	
Email Address:	

OFSDP Contact Name:	
Email Address:	

OFSDP Contact Name:	
Email Address:	

NOTE: Most of the contact for the approved OFSDP is done via email. A valid email address(es) must be submitted on this form. Provide the full name(s) of the person(s) who is (are) the email contact(s) to ensure that the TEA has accurate information.

Appendix Five Participating Campuses, Student Eligibility, and Period of Agreement

The definition of terms of the application applies to this Appendix Five, Participating Campuses, Student Eligibility, and Period of Agreement. The school district or open-enrollment charter school hereinafter called “district” does hereby certify and agree to the following conditions of the agreement.

Page limit: Submit no additional pages for Appendix Five. All information requested must be included with this template and submitted in a separate Excel file.

Download and complete Appendix 5, which can be found on the [OFSDP webpage](#) under the *Applications and Templates* section.

Once completed, email the following to OPFLEX@tea.texas.gov:

1. The application (in PDF file format)
2. Appendix Three (in PDF file format)
3. Appendix Five (in MS Excel file format)

***All file names should include the district/charter school’s name**