

Frequently Asked Questions

Optional Flexible Year Program (OFYP)

Application Process

Question – Is there a deadline for submitting the application?

Answer – No. The application may be submitted at any time, though your district must receive approval from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) before initiating the program. The TEA will notify each applicant of its approval status to operate an OFYP. Each district must submit an application annually.

Question – Does a district or charter school have to reapply each year to participate in the program?

Answer – Yes. An application must be completed and submitted annually to participate in the OFYP. The board of trustees of a school district or charter school must approve the calendar.

Question – What is required to be approved to participate in the OFYP?

Answer – The district or charter school must submit a letter to the State Funding Division describing the proposed modifications to the instructional calendar, including a description of the OFYP that will be provided under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §29.0821; the signed application; and a copy of the board-approved calendar.

Question – Where do I send the completed application?

Answer – Please send the cover letter, application, and board-approved calendar to:

Kimberley Rife
State Funding Division
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Eligibility

Question – Can all grade levels participate?

Answer – Yes. Your district may choose which grade levels participate in the program. A student is eligible to participate in an OFYP if the student did not or is not likely to achieve a passing score on an assessment instrument or the student is not eligible for promotion to the next grade level.

Question – If a district has more than five staff development day waivers, can it participate in the OFYP?

Answer – No. A school district must provide at least 180 days of instruction to those students who meet the eligibility criteria. A school calendar with 177 days of instruction plus three staff development day waivers does not meet the 180-day requirement.

Question – If a district participates in the OFYP, is the district required to retain all educational support personnel for the purpose of the OFYP?

Answer – Yes. Each educator employed under a ten-month contract must provide the minimum days of service required under the TEC, §21.401, notwithstanding the reduction in the number of instructional days or in the number of staff development days.

Funding

Question – Does a school district lose funding for those students who do not attend the full 180 days instruction?

Answer – No. For a school district that operates an OFYP, the calculation of average daily attendance (ADA) is modified to reflect the approved instructional calendar. For students placed on a reduced instructional calendar, the reported number of days of instruction used as the divisor in calculating ADA will reflect the reduced number of days (no fewer than 170). For eligible students served through the OFYP, the reported number of days of instruction used as the divisor in calculating ADA will reflect the scheduled number of days (180 or more) on which instruction took place.