

Ector Independent School District



District of Innovation Plan 2017-2022

Meeting with administrative staff about District of Innovation, March 9, 2017
Resolution by the Ector ISD Board of Trustees, March 23, 2017
Public Meeting on District of Innovation, March 23, 2017
Board Votes to approve pursuing District of Innovation Plan, March 23, 2017
District of Innovation Committee Meeting, March 28, 2017
Approved by the District Site Base Committee, March 30, 2017
Copy sent to Commissioner of Education, March 31, 2017
Post on District Web Page, March 31, 2017
Adopted by Board of Trustees, May 11, 2017

Introduction

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 passed allowing Texas public schools to become Districts of Innovation which would allow them to be exempt from certain education code provisions. Ector ISD is pursuing to become a District of Innovation in order to gain more flexibility in the operation of the district, to better meet the needs of our students, and to operate in a more efficient manner.

Term

Ector ISD's Innovation Plan will begin with the 2017-2018 school year and conclude at the end of 2021-2022 school years unless the plan is terminated or amended by the Ector ISD Board of Trustees in accordance with HB 1842.

Committee Members

Gary Bohannon – Superintendent
Brad Evans – Principal
Roger Morris – Asst. Principal
Tammie Essary – Counselor
Betty Morris – Teacher
LeAnn Sellers – Teacher
Rhonda Caylor – Teacher
Stephanie Shaw – Teacher
Judy Taylor – Community Member
Greg Garrison – Parent

Timeline

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Initial meeting with administrative staff to discuss the pros and cons of becoming a District of Innovation

Thursday, March 23, 2017

7:00pm Called Board Meeting

Ector ISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution to hold a public meeting to discuss the possibility of Ector ISD using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation School.

7:11pm Public Meeting

Ector ISD held a public meeting to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation.

7:40pm Called Board Meeting

Ector ISD Board of Trustees approved a motion to pursue developing a District of Innovation Plan, proposed areas of focus, and formed a District Innovation Committee.

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

District of Innovation Committee met and developed plan.

Thursday, March 30, 2017

District Site Base Committee public meeting.

District Site Base Committee votes to approve plan.

Friday, March 31, 2017

Post District of Innovation Plan on school web page for 30 days

District of Innovation Plan sent to the Commissioner of Education by the Superintendent

Areas of focus for district innovations

First date of instruction for students

TEC 25.0811: A school district may not begin instruction for students before the fourth Monday in August.

Strategies:

- A Calendar committee will have the flexibility to set school year start date for student instruction to begin before the fourth Monday in August and end during the last full week of May.
- B Allows sufficient number of instructional days to educate students.
- C Allows the students in dual-credit college courses to start classes on the date college courses begin in August.
- D Allows graduates to be eligible to start College at the beginning of the first summer semester.
- E Allows students a better opportunity to participate in educational summer camps in June .
- F Calendar developed by the calendar committee must include a minimum of 75,600 minutes of instructional time for students and must be approved by the school board.

Teacher Certification

TEC 21.003: Requires that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency and that a teacher may not teach a class out of his or her certification field.

Strategies:

- A. Allows certified teacher to teach one class out of his or her field of certification.
- B. Allows district to hire an individual part time who has no teaching certification to teach elective courses in his or her professional field of background within the trades or vocational industry, allowing the students to benefit from the individual's real world experiences and knowledge of his or her fields.

Probationary Contracts

TEC 21.102: For experienced teachers new to the district, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years.

Strategies:

A: Allows the district to place an experienced teacher new to the district, who has been employed as a teacher of public education for at least five of the previous eight years, on a probationary contract for up to two years. This allows the district to have ample opportunity to evaluate the performance of that individual before he or she is given a term contract.

Kindergarten – Grade 4 Class Size of 22 to 1

TEC 25.112 (a-g) & 25.113 (a-b): Districts are required to maintain a class size ratio of 22 students to 1 teacher Kindergarten through 4th grades. When any class exceeds this limit, the district must complete and file a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. The district is also required to notify parents of waivers or exceptions to class size limits.

Strategies:

A: Allows the school district to locally determine if another teacher needs to be added to a class in which the student population is higher than the 22 to 1 ratio. The Superintendent, Principal, and teacher of the class will make this determination, to ensure that the quality of the students' education will not be affected, and the school board will be informed of their decision.

Teachers Contract Days

TEC 21.401: Current education law in Chapter 21 defines a teacher contract as a 10 month contract equivalent to 187 days.

Strategies:

A: Number of days to be worked by 10 month contract employees will be determined by adding 7 days to the number of instructional days of the school year.

B: Allows better alignment of the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required of students.

C: Would increase the daily rate the district pays teachers, which would enhance teacher recruitment and teacher morale.

D: Allows district administration 7 days for professional development of teachers and teacher work days at the end of each semester.