



District of Innovation Lewisville ISD Local Innovation Plan

Introduction

House Bill 1842, passed in 2015 by the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature, in part amended Chapter 12A of the Texas Education Code (TEC) to create Districts of Innovation. The designation allows school districts to be exempt from certain sections of the TEC, providing more flexibility and local control in meeting the needs of students and the communities served.

On March 14, 2016, the Lewisville ISD Board of Trustees (Board) adopted a resolution to initiate the process of becoming a District of Innovation. On April 18, 2016, the Board held a public hearing on the subject. On May 16, 2016, the Board appointed a Local Innovation Plan Committee (Committee) comprised of parents, teachers, campus and district administrators, and community representatives. The 30-member Committee met May 25, June 8, Sept. 1, Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 25 and Feb. 16, to discuss the process and draft a Local Innovation Plan (Plan).

Terms

By law, the term of the designation as a District of Innovation may not exceed five years. The term of the Lewisville ISD Local Innovation Plan begins on May 16, 2017, and ends on May 15, 2022, unless rescinded or renewed by the Board in accordance with law, or terminated by the Commissioner of Education. The plan may be amended, rescinded or renewed by recommendation of the Committee, a majority vote of the district-level committee established under TEC 11.251 (District Community Leadership Team) along with a two-thirds majority vote of the Board. An amendment to the Plan does not change/extend the date of the term of designation as an innovation district; exemptions that were already formally approved are not required to be reviewed. The District must notify the Texas Education Agency (TEA) within five business days of rescission of the plan and provide a date (not to be later than the start of the following school year) at which time it will be in compliance with all sections of the TEC. During renewal, all sections of the plan and exemptions shall be reviewed and the original statutory adoption process must be followed. The District shall notify the Commissioner of any actions taken to amend, rescind or renew the Plan along with the associated TEC exemptions and local approval dates. The Committee will review the plan annually in the fall, unless the Board determines a review must be done prior to the annual review, to ensure that the recommendations are continuing to meet the needs of the District as intended and are aligned with Lewisville ISD (LISD) Strategic Design efforts. An annual report will be provided to the Board based on the outcome of this review.

As part of the annual review process, the membership of the Committee will be renewed and/or modified by a majority vote of the Board. Outside of the annual review/renewal process, if a member of the Committee is unable to fulfill his/her duties, the Board may appoint a replacement by majority vote. The intent of the Board is to maintain balanced representation on the Committee of parents/community members and staff.

The Plan is aligned with the beliefs, vision, mission and goals of LISD as approved in the Strategic

Design Initiative. Additionally, the Plan is not intended to compromise District funding.

Beliefs

1. Every student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged each day.
2. Uninhibited learning depends on a safe, nurturing, inclusive and flexible environment.
3. An educated citizenry is essential for equal opportunity and a prosperous society.
4. Meaningful and relevant work engages students in profound learning.
5. Critical thinking and problem solving today are necessary for students to be equipped for future challenges.
6. Genuine transformation requires disruptive innovation.
7. Education is the shared responsibility of the community.

Vision

All of our students enjoy thriving, productive lives in a future *they* create.

Mission

Students, staff and community design and implement a learning organization that provides engaging, innovative experiences every day.

Goals

1. Provide all learners with safe, nurturing, inclusive and flexible learning environments.
2. Engage learners through the use of technological tools to access, create and share content as well as collaborate with other learners throughout the world.
3. Reframe state readiness standards in a way that leads to profound learning and has meaning and value for students.
4. Create flexible systems that result in a learning organization supported by innovative and engaged staff.
5. Continuously involve our diverse community, staff and students to use their strengths, resources and talents to provide engaging, innovative experiences for all learners.
6. Develop and implement meaningful, varied assessments that inform and inspire students and educators for continuous improvement and growth in a way that transforms learning and teaching.
7. Design an accountability system that transcends state/national mandates and reflects local values and expectations.

It is determined that the following requirements of the Texas Education Code inhibit the pursuit of the goals of LISD in meeting the needs of students at this time.

Innovation Plan Exemption 1: Uniform Start Date for Academic Calendar

Texas Education Code 25.0811(a) does not allow school districts to begin school before the fourth Monday of August. This requirement restricts the local community from designing a calendar that best meets the needs of students and families. This requirement also limits the amount of instructional time available before state and Advanced Placement testing as well as inhibits true alignment with local community colleges providing dual credit courses. Exemption from this requirement allows LISD to collaboratively design an academic calendar based on the needs of and input from the community.

Innovation Plan Exemption 2: Minutes of Instruction

Texas Education Code 25.081 replaces the requirement of 180 days of instruction with the requirement of at least 75,600 minutes of instruction (including intermissions and recesses). The flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction, within the required 75,600 minutes, allows LISD to adjust the length of school day, early release days, and professional learning days. Additionally, half-day PreKindergarten programs

require this flexibility in order to accommodate the needs of the district.

Innovation Plan Exemption 3: Campus Behavior Coordinator

Texas Education Code Section 37.0012 constrains campus governance by requiring one person at each campus to be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. LISD utilizes a collaborative approach to discipline to foster the social and emotional learning of the student. This collaborative approach includes the parent, student, school administrator and counselor. Exemption from Texas Education Code Section 37.0012 allows LISD campus principals to divide and/or delegate campus behavior coordinator duties to assistant principals as needed and appropriate.

Innovation Plan Exemption 4: Probationary Contracts for Experienced Teachers

Texas Education Code Section 21.102(b) states that a probationary contract may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment with the district. This period of time may not be sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to the availability of end-of-year classroom and student data. For experienced teachers, counselors, librarians or nurses new to LISD who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a second probationary contract may be offered when needed to benefit the teacher and students served. This action requires principal recommendation, in collaboration with the appropriate human resources administrator, and consideration and approval by the superintendent.

Innovation Plan Exemption 5: Educator Certification for Career and Technology Education and Language Teachers in non-compliance programs

Texas Education Code 21.003 and 21.057 outlines state certification standards for career and technology and language teachers. An exemption from these requirements allows LISD to issue a school district teaching permit to individuals who do not hold a teaching certificate, but whom the district deems best to teach in a particular area. LISD prides itself in hiring the highest quality teaching staff for the benefit of all learners. Occasionally, teachers are needed for positions that are difficult to fill. This exemption relates only to those positions in Career and Technology education and Languages Other than English (in non-compliance positions). Staff hired under a school district teaching permit will benefit from the same rights and responsibilities as certified teachers within the district. After the required posting period and candidate interviews, the principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what specific credentials (i.e. experiences and expertise) the prospective teacher possesses that would qualify the individual to teach that subject(s). The superintendent must approve the selection and report the action to the Board at the first board meeting following the assignment. The District and local campus will assess appropriate training needs for any teacher hired under this exemption. Finally, this is a local certification only and does not transfer to another school district.

Summary and Conclusion

It is noted that through the annual review process, further innovation and exemptions may be needed to continue the work of the district in meeting the needs of students, and amendments may be necessary. As other districts across the state pursue this process and implement plans through this provision for additional flexibility and increased local control, new ideas for innovation may emerge that have applicability in LISD.

Local Innovation Plan Committee Members

Name	Role
Deb Bailey	Teacher
Michael Ball	District Administrator
Carol Baugh	Parent
Angie Bishop	Parent
Buddy Bonner	District Administrator
Matt Brost	Community Member
Mike Brown	District Administrator
Mike Carrell	Parent
Erin Charles	Parent
Monya Crow	District Administrator
Larry Dominguez	Teacher
Marianne Eckley	Teacher
Ginny Evans	Teacher
Tim Fails	Teacher
Sarah Fitzhugh	District Administrator
Joyce Fuel	Teacher
Adam Gray	Campus Principal
Julie Kluthe	Parent
Bill Kula	Parent
Kristen Lentz	Teacher
Brian McCoo	Campus Principal
Ronnie Munoz	Parent
Lynette Narrell	Parent
Andy Plunkett	District Administrator
Naseem Razvi	Parent
Annie Rivera	District Administrator
Damion Robertson	Community Member
Eyad Salloum	Community Member
Gary Shafferman	Campus Principal
Stephanie Smith	Parent
David Stone	Teacher
Jeremy Turner	Campus Principal
Kim West	Parent
Betsy Winkler	Parent
Michelle Wooten	Campus Principal

District of Innovation

Approval Process - Exhibit A

