



**Pleasanton Independent
School District**

**Local Innovation Plan
2020-2025**

Motto

Learn Today. Lead Tomorrow

Mission Statement

Pleasanton Independent School District is committed to provide the environment which inspires every student to think, to learn and to succeed.

Vision Statement

Pleasanton Independent School District will be the exceptional education foundation for all students to succeed in an ever-changing society as life-long learners.

District Goals

- Provide a quality education that is evident by student growth.
- Establish a collaborative culture to create a student centered learning environment.
- Develop community connections that focus on effective communication and partnerships.
- Commit to District fiscal responsibility which supports District goals and aligns with the Long Range Planning Committee's vision.

Introduction

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices that support local needs, including exemptions from certain mandates such as the uniform school start date.
- **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- **Autonomy:** Districts must submit a District of Innovation Plan to the Commissioner of Education, but approval is not required.

On December 10, 2019, the Pleasanton Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a Resolution to explore the development of a District of Innovation Plan to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives. The adoption of this plan seeks to increase the District's flexibility in order to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community. On January 14, 2020, the Board appointed a 15-member District of Innovation Committee comprised of diverse leaders

representing a cross-section of the District's stakeholders including teachers, principals, and administrators. The Committee met on January 15, 2020 to discuss and draft the local innovation plan.

Term

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2025, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If, within the term of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of HB 1842, the Board will appoint a new committee to consider and propose additional exemptions in the form of an amendment to the Plan. Any amendment adopted by the Board will not extend the term of this Plan. The District may not implement two separate plans at any one time.

District of Innovation Committee Members

Alison Alvarado	Primary Teacher
Cheryl Barron	Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Student Services
Nadine Barrow	Elementary Teacher
Rhonda Bourland	Junior High Teacher
Nacona David	Atascosa McMullen COOP
Tab Dumont	Athletic Director
Shanna Greer	District Literacy Specialist
Twila Guajardo	High School Principal
Mary Hamble	Transportation
Amber Kostek	Elementary Teacher
Alyssa Luna	Primary Teacher
Joey Moczygemba	Food Service Director
Stefanie Sims	High School Teacher
Venus Valenta	Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Sarah Yarnell	Junior High Teacher

Timeline of Events:

- December 10*** Board of Trustees adopts a resolution to pursue District of Innovation Designation
- January 14*** District hosts a public hearing to consider developing an Innovation plan
- January 14*** Board of Trustees appoints the District of Innovation Committee to develop a local innovation plan
- January (last two weeks)*** District of Innovation Committee meets and develops plan
- January (end)*** District Plan posted for public view on District website for 30 days
Board of Trustees notifies Commissioner of Education of intent to vote on the plan
- February 17*** DEIC meets to review final plan and votes on the plan
- March 3*** Board approves the final District of Innovation plan

Area of Innovation

The District of Innovation Committee and the internal team will work to align strategies with innovations that will address and support the needs of the district with the allowed exemptions. The innovation category is:

- First Day of Instruction

1. First Day of Instruction

TEC §25.0811

Related Board Policies: EB (Legal)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan:

TEC §25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of annual calendars to fit the needs of all Pleasanton ISD stakeholders and the wishes of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

Historically, districts had the option of applying to TEA for a waiver to start earlier, even as early as the 2nd Monday of August. Several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that districts may not begin until the 4th Monday of August, with no exceptions.

Potential Benefit:

The ability to establish an earlier start date will enable the district to better balance the amount of instructional time available in each semester and grading period. This change would allow the teachers to deliver more equitable learning experiences for students in the fall and spring semesters.

The flexibility of the start date of instruction would also address the District Goal of Professional Development by allowing professional development days to be distributed throughout the school year, rather than grouped together in August. This change allows teachers more opportunity to process their learning and respond to the needs throughout the school year.