



District Plan of Innovation

Introduction

The 84th legislature passed House Bill 1842 allowing public school districts the opportunity to become Districts of Innovation. By adopting a District of Innovation plan, local school districts will have greater control in decision-making and added flexibility to make educational decisions to better meet the needs of their students. The adopted plan must still meet all the requirements outlined in statute by the Texas Education Code. On November 8, 2018, the Central ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution to initiate the process of designation as a District of Innovation. A committee was appointed and the process of Central ISD gaining the District of Innovation designation was started. Central ISD feels the increased autonomy and flexibility created by this designation will allow the school district to better meet the needs of our students.

The Process

November 8, 2018- The Central ISD Board of Trustees adopted resolution to pursue a District of Innovation designation.

November 8, 2018- The Board held a public hearing and appointed a committee to develop a plan for the District of Innovation designation.

November 12, 2018- Committee met to develop the plan, keeping open and continuous communication throughout the process.

February 1, 2019- The proposed plan was posted to the district website for public comment and remained for the required 30 days.

Committee Members

Amber Ford, Tiffany Hodges, Ty Cauthen, Amy Jones, Arik Kelsey, Ronnie Musgrove, Allen Garner, Anita Byrd, Sheryl Thompson, Tiffani Hatcher, Miguel Garza, Robbie Thompson, Robbie Hines, Jason Soule, Marci Musgrove, Kyle Ivey, Casey Gragg, Donna Graham, Rochette Metts, Joe Collmorgan, Karen Shumaker, Cliff Trevathan

Approved Actions of the Plan of Innovation

1.) Determine a Flexible School Start Date

(TEC § 25.0811a) (EB Legal)

TEC § 25.0811a states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August.

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan:

The current process allows no flexibility in the design and balancing of instructional grading periods to meet the needs of students or the wishes of the board of trustees, who represent community interests in this matter.

Innovation Strategies:

- A. An earlier start date will allow the District to balance the amount of instructional time in each grading period.
- B. Enable the District to balance the amount of instructional time in the semesters better utilizing instructional time before holiday breaks.
- C. Increase the instructional preparation time before the state assessments.
- D. Allow the District to begin summer intervention and instruction prior to the state assessments and SSI.

2.) Teacher Contract Days (*for emergency purposes only*)
(TEC § 21.401) (DC Legal)

Texas Education Code states that contracts between the district and an educator must be for a minimum of ten months of service. An educator employed under a ten-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan:

District calendars are developed to ensure students are receiving a minimum of 75,600 minutes of instruction per year. However, there is no flexibility within this statute to align the teachers work schedule with the required student minutes of instruction.

Innovation Strategies:

- A. Central ISD will continue to make every effort to adhere to the board approved district calendar. However, in the event of inclement weather or emergencies requiring the closure of a campus or entire district, the Board of Trustees shall have the option to reduce the number of contract days equal to the number of student instructional days.
- B. If the Board of Trustees makes any changes to reduce the number of contracted days, such a reduction may not reduce an educator's salary.
- C. The calendar will be developed with the required 75,600 student instructional minutes and 187 contracted day of educator service. This calendar will be approved annually by the Board of Trustees.

3.) Adjust Instructional Minutes and School Day Length
(TEC § 25.081(e)) (TEC § 25.082(a)) (EB Legal)

Texas Education Code defines the length of the instructional day as 420 minutes of instruction or 7 hours each day including intermissions and recesses.

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan:

The current statute does not allow for the flexibility to adjust the calendar to allow for teacher training, planning, and/or special occasions that may be needed throughout the year. Although Central ISD will make every effort to maintain the required 75,600 instructional minutes in addition to extra instructional minutes, this exemption would allow for flexibility in reaching that goal.

Innovation Strategies:

- A. Allow flexibility in the required minutes of instruction and length of school day to provide added time for teacher professional development, data analyzation, conference and planning.
- B. Eliminate the need for annual waivers for students participating in Dual or Alternative CTE certification programs.
- C. This exemption will allow for local control regarding the early dismissal of students for various purposes. Early release days may be used for special occasions, school related activities, or days prior to holidays or break.

4.) Inter-District Transfers (TEC §25.036)

Texas Education Code §25.036 requires accepted district transfers to remain in the district for a period of one school year.

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan:

Central ISD requires all nonresident students wishing to enroll within the district to complete a transfer application under FDA (Local). The campus administration will approve the request based on available space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, student discipline records, attendance records, academic performance, and state assessment records. The current statute requires the district to accept the transfer with a one-year commitment of enrollment. Central ISD is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. In rare circumstances, student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in DAEP or expulsion. Student attendance falling below the TEA truancy standards. Central ISD believes that having the flexibility to exempt students from the one-year commitment would benefit the district as a whole.

Innovation Strategies:

- A. All nonresident students seeking enrollment at Central ISD will be required to complete a district transfer packet and gain approval from the campus administration.
- B. Once accepted, approved transfer students may have their status revoked by the superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension (in or out of school), placement in DAEP, expulsion, or fail to meet the State's 90% attendance standard.