



Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Mark Porterie, Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

VISION

PAISD will become a leader in Texas in continuous school improvement by offering to its students a quality education necessary for them to achieve academic excellence.

MISSION

Our mission, as the primary source of public education in the community, is to meet the unique educational needs of our diverse population by providing a comprehensive quality education for the students of the Port Arthur Independent School District.

SHARED BELIEFS:

- All children can learn and deserve a challenging quality education.
- Family, community, and staff must work together to support and encourage students' academic performance.
- The district must provide a safe and supportive learning environment.
- We must honor our diversity and prepare all children for a changing world.
- Compassionate teachers are essential to motivate, inspire, and support the well-being of all students.
- The district must provide the tools necessary for students to be college and career ready.

GOALS

1. To Demonstrate Continued Improvement in Academic Performance
2. To Continue to Provide Positive, Safe, and Respectful Learning Environments and Facilities
3. To Ensure Fiscal Stability and Accountability Through Strategic Alignment to Provide Sound Stewardship of District Financial Resources
4. To Increase and Improve Community and Parental Involvement and Build Positive Perceptions and Relationships Among Staff, Board, and Community in Support of Students and Their Learning



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OVERVIEW

The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to open-enrollment charter schools in Texas. **Chapter 12 A of the Texas Education Code and TEA Rules specify allowable and prohibited exemptions for district consideration.** Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

Local Control: Districts can select the “allowable” flexibilities that best suit their local needs.

Customization: Districts can create a district-wide innovation plan, a “single campus” innovation plan, or an innovation plan for a particular level (e.g., only secondary, only elementary)

Autonomy: Districts must submit a District of Innovation Plan to the Commissioner of Education for review; but approval is not required.

Flexibility: Districts have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from certain Texas Education Code mandates.

In the Spring of 2017, the Port Arthur ISD Board of Trustees adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan, reflecting the engagement and efforts of stakeholders to chart the district’s and community’s path to continued progress. The Six Strands of the Five-Year Strategic Plan- Climate/Culture, Curriculum/Instruction, District Operations, Family/Community Engagement, Literacy, and Teacher Quality support the attainment of the aforementioned Board Goals. Port Arthur ISD’s Innovation Plan, developed according to the process and timeline that follow, affords us flexibilities from certain legal requirements, otherwise, potentially restrictive. The Innovation Plan, effective for up to five years, can **only** be amended, rescinded, or renewed by majority vote of the District Planning and Innovation Committee (DPIC), 2/3 majority vote by the Board, and notice to TEA of the exemptions and approval dates.



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TIMELINE

Board Consideration	October 26, 2017	<p>Board Information</p> <p>The Superintendent of Schools provided an overview of TEC Chapter 12A- District of Innovation Provisions to the Port Arthur ISD Board of Trustees.</p>
	December 14, 2017	<p>Resolution Adoption</p> <p>Port Arthur ISD Trustees approved a Resolution to initiate the District of Innovation Process.</p>
	December 14, 2017	<p>Public Hearing</p> <p>Port Arthur ISD Trustees held a public hearing to provide information and solicit input, regarding the District of Innovation opportunity.</p>
	December 14, 2017	<p>Committee Appointment</p> <p>Port Arthur ISD Trustees, following the Resolution/Public Hearing, instructed the Superintendent to create a Local Innovation Plan Committee.</p>
Plan Development	February 19-28, 2018	<p>Plan Development</p> <p>The District’s Planning and Innovation Committee (DPIC) drafted the PAISD Innovation Plan.</p>
Public Input/ Feedback	March 6- April 6	<p>District Innovation Plan Posted</p> <p>The proposed PAISD Innovation Plan was posted online for 30 days.</p>
	April 9, 2018	<p>The DPIC reconvened and voted on the PAISD Innovation Plan. The plan was unanimously approved.</p>
	April 10, 2018	<p>Texas Education Agency Notification</p> <p>The Port Arthur Independent School District notified the Texas Education Agency of its intent to vote on a District of Innovation Plan.</p>
Approval	April 26, 2018	<p>Board of Trustees Approval</p> <p>The Proposed PAISD Innovation Plan was submitted to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. The Innovation Plan was unanimously approved and submitted to the Texas Education Agency not later than 15 days of Board approval.</p>



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District Planning and Innovation Committee (DPIC) Membership

2017-2018

Dr. Mark Porterie, Superintendent of Schools	Elizabeth Cardenas, Instructor, Tyrrell
Dr. Melvin Getwood, Assistant Superintendent	Jennifer Cardenas, Instructor, Wheatley
Dr. Kim Vine, Chief Academic Officer/DPC Chair	Yolanda Avery, Instructor, Lincoln
Jael Spencer-Moody, Instructor, Adams	LaDonna Green, Instructor, Thomas Jefferson
Fred Owens, Assistant Principal, Washington	Kaylin Carter, Instructor, Port Arthur Alternative
Reggie Prudhome, Instructor, DeQueen	Ana Barrientos, Instructor, Memorial 9 th Academy
Julie Guidry, Instructor, Dowling	Carla Bassett, Memorial High School
LeKisha Phillips-Brown, Instructional Coach, Houston	Azineth Buan, Memorial High School/CATE
Edreauanna Fowler, Instructor, Lee	Lucrecia Harris, Assistant Principal, Elementary At-Large
Tammie Joseph, Instructor, Travis	Denita Jones, Instructor, High School At-Large
Judy Gonzales, Parent Representative	Lawrence Getwood, Port Arthur City Council (PAAC) PTA, Parent Representative
Sandra K. Ellington, Consultant, Business Representative	Leonard Gabriel, Business Owner
Dr. Nina Stelly, Community Representative	Richard Coon, Community Representative
Karla Obregon, Multilingual Supervisor	Germain Eddie, Special Education Supervisor
DeShauntia Benn, Texas State Teachers' Association	Antoinette Motley-Carpenter, Port Arthur Teachers' Association
Marlaina Shields, Port Arthur City Council (PAAC) PTA President	Dr. Annie Barkers, Social Worker, District-wide



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Exemption Statement for Texas Education Code (TEC) Statutes 25.0811 and 25.0812

Board Policies: EB (Legal), EB (Local)

Board Goals: 1, 4

Strategic Plan Strands: Curriculum/Instruction, Literacy, Teacher Quality, Climate/Culture, and Family/Community Engagement

Each year, the Port Arthur ISD District Planning Committee (DPC) convenes to develop an instructional calendar that is recommended to the Superintendent for Board consideration and approval. Locally-developed parameters guide committee members in their creation of a calendar that is responsive to the needs of students, teachers, families, and the community.

TEC 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction for students before the fourth Monday in August. TEC 25.0812 states that a school district may not end instruction for students before May 15th. Beginning a school year on the 4th Monday in August, however, makes the calendar creation process highly restrictive and does not allow for meaningful discretion. This is compounded even further in years in which the 4th Monday in August falls late in the month.

To allow for greater flexibility and responsiveness to student, teacher, family, and community needs in the calendar development process, Port Arthur ISD will be exempt from TEC 25.0811 and TEC 25.0812. Instead, Port Arthur ISD will have the flexibility to begin the school year earlier than the 4th Monday in August and end the school year earlier, as feasible.

Adjustments to the first and/or last day of school will provide more days of uninterrupted instructional time through an earlier start and in preparation for end of year assessments, allow the district to better balance instructional days during the first and second semester; allow the district to strategically embed professional learning days and preparation days; allow greater flexibility in scheduling holidays; better align the start date for district courses with university start dates, in support of co-enrollment students; and perhaps allow us to better attract families who seek a non-traditional school calendar. Summarily, such adjustments will allow the district to develop a district calendar that meets the diverse needs of its stakeholders.