



District of Innovation Plan

Review

HB 1842 provides the opportunity for Texas public school districts to pursue designation as a District of Innovation. It allows for greater local control.

Areas that may be included in a plan are:

- Innovative curriculum, instructional methods;
- Provisions regarding community participation, campus governance and parental involvement;
- Modifications to the school day or year;
- Provisions regarding district budget and sustainable program funding;
- Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of the state and federal law; and
- Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees

Timeline

- Board approved resolution Feb. 8, 2017 and held a public hearing and designated DEIC as the oversight committee
- DEIC met Feb. 9 and voted to pursue a plan
- DEIC identified areas of need for plan
- DEIC met March 2 to review initial plan
- Posted plan on website March 2 for 30-day review
- DEIC met April 6 to consider approval of plan

First Day of Instruction

TEC § 25.0811 – **First Day of Instruction:** A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August. Willis ISD would like to start prior to fourth Monday because:

- Ensures equal semesters;
- Ensures semester exams can be given before winter break;
- Ensures school will conclude before Memorial Day;
- Aligns with college semesters which allows for more opportunities for summer school, internships and industrial certification opportunities.

Certification Required

TEC § 21.003 (Subchapter A) – Certification Required

– 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.

- Willis ISD needs flexibility to hire bilingual teachers who are internal candidates and working toward certification; and
- Career & Technical Education course teachers with industry certification or extensive industry experience

Probationary Contract

TEC § 21.102 (Subchapter C) – Probationary Contract: Requires that 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. (Includes principal, supervisor, counselor and other full-time teachers, or nurses)

- Willis ISD will, when deemed necessary, extend probationary contracts to two years instead of one.

Effective Date

- If approved by the Board of Trustees the plan will go into effect with the 2017-2018 school year

Questions?