



FORT WORTH ISD MISSION:
PREPARING ^{all} STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN
COLLEGE, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP.

District of Innovation Fort Worth ISD Local Innovation Plan

Introduction

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed in 2015 in the 84th Legislative 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 flexibilities and control locally meeting the needs of students and the communities served.

On October 11, 2016, the Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees (Board) adopted a resolution to initiate the process of becoming a District of Innovation (DOI). On October 25, 2016, the Board held a public hearing on considering designation of the District as a DOI. On November 15, 2016, the Board approved the formation of a DOI Committee and on February 14, 2017, the Board approved a local Innovation Plan Committee (Committee). The Committee is comprised of staff, business, and community members. The fifty-four (54) member committee met on February 16, 2017 to discuss the process and developed a Local Innovation Plan (Plan) to address our calendar needs.

Terms

By law, the term of the designation as a DOI may not exceed five years. The term of the Fort Worth ISD Local Innovation Plan begins on March 21, 2017, and ends on March 21, 2022, unless rescinded or renewed by the Board in accordance with law, or terminated by the Commissioner of Education. The plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed by a majority vote of the district-level committee established under TEC 11.251 (District Advisory Committee) along with a two-thirds majority vote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 Association (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 annually review the Plan, 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 in line with the Fort Worth ISD (FWISD) Plan efforts.

As part of the annual review process, the membership of the Committee will be modified by a majority vote of the Board, if needed. 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. Recommendations for staff appointments will be made by



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the Superintendent's Leadership Team. The Board has ultimate authority in determining the membership of the Committee; the intent of the Board is to maintain balanced representation on the Committee of community members, business members, and staff.

Innovation Plan

It has been determined that the following requirements of the TEC inhibit the pursuit of the goals of the FWISD in meeting the needs of students at this time.

Innovation Plan Exemption required to prepare all students for success in college, career, and community leadership.

Texas Education Code 25.0811 (a), Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

(EB LEGAL Policy)

Plan Rationale - When the state moved from mandating the number of days of instruction to a number of minutes, FWISD took the opportunity to revisit the school calendar and to look at what would be best for students and staff in achieving the goals of the District. This resulted in a calendar that allowed for a more targeted approach to professional learning and provided for strategic breaks for staff and students that is believed to help with the overall well-being of both, while also providing for extended family time throughout the year.

In addition, this calendar allowed FWISD to balance the days in each semester which is best for students and teachers, particularly at the secondary level when participating in a one-semester course, and in all courses relative to the pacing of lessons and learning.

This all worked because the school year started on August 22, which was the fourth Monday in 2016. In 2017, the fourth Monday is August 28. A school year beginning on August 28 results in the school year ending on June 8. This late ending negatively impacts additional opportunities for students in relation to summer school at the high school and college levels and for other camps and enrichment programs. It also impacts job opportunities for students. This is beyond the concerns related to the District's inability to provide the other benefits of the calendar as outlined above.

Local Innovation Plan Guideline - The first day of instruction in FWISD will not begin prior to the 15th of August, but will be scheduled to best meet the needs of FWISD, and its students, staff, and community in furthering the educational program. The development of the calendar will be developed through the District Calendar Committee and reviewed by the District Advisory Committee (DAC), the District Employee Relations Council (DERC), and other stakeholder groups.



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It is noted that through the annual review process, further innovations and exemptions may be needed to advance 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 flexibilities and more local control, new ideas for innovation may emerge that have great applicability in FWISD. We hope that through the natural course of having more autonomy and freedom to think innovatively that all students across the state will be able to take advantage of these key learnings.

Local Innovation Plan Committee Members

Name	Title
Charles Carroll	Chief Academic Officer
Art Cavazos	Chief of District Operations
Karen Molinar	Chief of Elementary Schools
Sammy Monge	Chief of Policy and Planning
Cynthia Rincón	Chief of HCM
Elsie Schiro	Chief Financial Officer
Cherie Washington	Chief of Secondary Schools
Lori Boswell	Senior Officer, Budget and Finance
Kyle Davie	Chief Technology Officer
Ramona Soto	Attorney
Khechara Bradford	Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Arcelia Leon	Executive Director, Literacy
Lezley Lewis	Executive Director, Professional Learning and Innovation
Jerry Moore	Executive Director, Strategic Planning & Continuous Imp.
David Saenz	Executive Director, CTE
Priscila Dilley	Leadership Director, Elementary Schools
Yassmin Lee	Executive Director, HCM
Clint Bond	Director, External and Emergency Communications
Lisa Durbin	Director, Customer Experience, Division of Technology
Orlando Torres	Supervisor, HCM
Lisa Vargas	Staffing Assistant, HCM
Dianna Perry	Coordinator, HCM
Susan Tune	Coordinator, HCM
Pamela Smith	(DAC) Member, elementary school teacher
Sharon Pate	(DAC) Member, elementary school teacher
José Méndez Monge	(DAC) Member, elementary school teacher
Brandi Pace	(DAC) Member, elementary school teacher
Patrick Wentworth	(DAC) Member, middle school teacher



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Name	Title
Andrea Robins	(DAC) Member, middle school teacher
Angela Groves	(DAC) Member, middle school teacher
Larry Glenn Boston	(DAC) Member, high school teacher
Jayme M. Rodriguez	(DAC) Member, high school teacher
Berty Magaña	(DAC) Member, at-large, non-teaching position
Ellen Starr	(DAC) Member, elementary school administrator
Ehrica Martin	(DAC) Member, middle school administrator
Precious Poullard	(DAC) Member, high school administrator
Carin "CJ" Evans	(DAC) Member, elementary school parent
Rosalinda Martinez	(DAC) Member, middle school parent
Brent Beasley	(DAC) Member, high school parent
Lisa Saucedo	(DAC) Member, high school parent
Cristina Ayala	(DAC) Member, special education parent
Cade Lovelace	(DAC) Member, POC/SOC parent
Ricky Riddle	(DAC) Member, POC/SOC parent
Sara Murphy	(DAC) Member, community representative
Steven Poole	(DAC) Member, community representative
Joe Greenslade	(DAC) Member, community representative
Daphne Brookins	(DAC) Member, community representative
Shajine Blake	(DAC) Member, community representative
Patrick Winfield	(DAC) Member, business representative
Casey Tounget	(DAC) Member, business representative
Sue Buratto	(DAC) Member, business representative
Brandi Irons	Board appointed member - elementary school teacher
Molly Hyry	Board appointed member - community representative
Norman Quigley	Board appointed member - Division of Technology