



**Corsicana ISD
Innovation Plan
2017-2022**

Corsicana ISD as a District of Innovation

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation (DOI) and through this designation to become exempt from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC). Corsicana ISD's plan is aligned with the District's Strategic Plan, **Vision2020**, and supports the Mission, Beliefs, Learner Outcomes, Goals, and Actions included in that plan.

In December of 2016, the Board of Trustees received a presentation on the concept, goals, requirements, and parameters for Districts of Innovation. In January of 2017, the Board of Trustees passed the resolution to initiate the process of planning for CISD to become a District of Innovation. The committee, comprised of a diverse group of key district stakeholders, met during the month of February to develop and review the draft document.

As a District of Innovation, Corsicana Independent School District (CISD) seeks to maximize local control over educational and governance decisions for students and staff. In order to move forward, CISD seeks exemption from the provisions detailed below of the Texas Education Code (TEC). The District will continue to follow the TEC in all other areas. Should amendments to this plan be considered in the future, the District will reconvene the innovation plan committee to initiate the appropriate process, as outlined in the TEC.

Timeline

Action	Responsibility	Date
Board Resolution	Board of Trustees	Jan. 23, 2017
Public Hearing	Board of Trustees	Jan. 23, 2017
Appoint innovation committee	Board of Trustees	Jan 23, 2017
Innovation committee meeting	Superintendent	Feb. 8, 2017
Innovation committee meeting	Superintendent	Feb. 16, 2017
Post proposed Innovation Plan on CISD website	District	March 9, 2017
Send notification to Commissioner of Education on the District's intention to vote on the local plan	Board of Trustees	March 9, 2017
First reading for the local innovation plan	Board of Trustees	Feb. 20, 2017
Second reading and Board vote on approval of final plan	Board of Trustees	April 3, 2017
Notification to Commissioner of Education of plan approval	Superintendent	April 4, 2017

District of Innovation Advisory Committee

Kim Holcomb	Asst. Supt. C&I	Joeyer Yerem	Parent
Billy Harlan	Asst. Supt. HR	Octavia Pequignot	Parent
Danzell Lee	Ex. Dir. Admin. Services	Jennifer Hodge	Teacher
Shade Boulware	Corsicana High School Principal	Rachelle Crouch	Parent
Stephanie Howell	Carroll Elementary School Principal	Laretha Gooden	Parent
Lucy Jones	Teacher-CHS	James Gooden	Parent
Kelly Hale	Teacher-CMS	Misty Chandler	Parent
Wendy Steel	Teacher-DIS	Jeanetta Groce	Parent
Diane Hitt	Teacher-BES	Cathy Branch	Parent
Crystal Hicks	Teacher-CES	Elmer Avellaneda	Exec. Dir. Special Programs
Jennifer Hodge	Teacher-FES	Marti Shaner	Asst. Supt. for Business
Julleen Bottoms	Teacher-NES	Susan Johnson	Exec. Dir. PR & Communications
Ariana Hernandez	Teacher-SHES	Darla Nolen	Collins Middle School Principal
Jarod Gordon	Parent/Business	Diane Frost	Superintendent

Innovation Plan

Uniform School Start Date: First Day of Instruction (TEC §25.0811)

Current Statute:

The TEC requires that students may not begin school before the fourth Monday of August; however, several years ago, districts were permitted apply for a waiver to begin school earlier. The waiver process was eliminated, and schools were required to begin their school year no earlier than the fourth Monday of August. Further, the mandatory start date also inhibits the District from creating a calendar that balances the number of instructional days in each semester.

Proposed Flexibility:

The flexible start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, the timeframe to best meet the needs of students and the community. By beginning the school year earlier in August, the district can plan for balanced instructional time in each semester. This modification provides additional time for staff learning and planning as well as additional instructional time for students. In addition, flexibility in the start date would allow students to enroll in summer college courses that begin in early June.

90 Percent Attendance Rule

(TEC §25.092; FEC Local)

Current Statute:

State law currently requires students to attend class 90 percent of the school days on a district calendar to earn credit. The law requires districts to award credit to a student based on the time he/she is present in a classroom, rather than for mastery of the content and subject proficiency.

Proposed Flexibility:

The 90 percent rule is an arbitrary percentage, which means that school districts award credit based on seat time, rather than mastery of content. Flexibility in the requirement means that districts will no longer penalize students who miss class due to activities which, in many cases, are enriching, or other extenuating circumstances that supports CISD's Learner Outcome: All learners will have an individual and attainable educational plan. The Department of Student Services will work with campus administrators, guidance counselors, and the student's teachers to determine if individual students exhibit proficiency in the grade level/course or courses. These criteria may include, but are not limited to, report card grades, district formative assessments, district benchmarks, state tests, college-readiness scores, and certifications.

Teacher Certification

(TEC §21.003)

Current Statute:

The teacher certification requirements enacted in these statutes inhibit the district's ability to hire highly-skilled individuals to teach dual credit and career and technical education courses, as well as courses in languages other than English. The availability of teachers who are certified to teach these courses is limited, which causes the district to limit course offerings in these areas.

Proposed Flexibility:

Campus administrators will work with the Human Resources Department to consider out-of-state credentials as well as the certifications and professional qualifications or credentials of candidates. The Superintendent will approve all local certifications and report to the Board of Trustees.

Teacher Appraisal System

(TEC §21.352)

Current Statute:

The district is required to use T-TESS for teacher evaluations. CISD will continue to use this instrument, but would like the option to exercise local control of decisions regarding teacher appraisals. This will allow administrators to focus on newly hired and/or struggling teachers and will enhance administrators' time to have professional interactions across the campus.

Proposed Flexibility:

Teachers who have demonstrated high-quality performance in CISD will be evaluated once every three years, rather than annually. Teachers will be identified using local criteria, including a minimum three-year history of

high-quality performance in the district as exhibited by evaluations, walk-throughs, and student success. All teachers will continue to receive feedback from their supervisors on a frequent, regular basis and participate in all data, PLC and grade level meetings.