

# Ezzell ISD

## District of Innovation Plan

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### Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session in Spring 2015. This bill affords districts the opportunity to be designated as a District of Innovation. This designation grants access to flexibilities for greater local control, which means our district can tailor a plan best suited for our Ezzell staff, students and community. This plan will take effect starting with the 2017-18 school year and continue through the 2021-2022 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

### Innovation Committee Members

Lisa Berckenhoff	Superintendent	Matt Bible	Board Member
Jennifer Lackey	JH Teacher	Ted Goranson	Board Member
Melanie Hartt	Elementary Teacher	Angela Hartmann	Board Member
Stephanie Muehr	Elementary Teacher	Paul Songster	Parent
Miranda Henke	Paraprofessional	Dara Loudon	Parent
Jackie Goranson	Business Manager	Mallory Bennett	Parent
		Katrina Svetlik	Parent

### District of Innovation Timeline

February 13, 2017	Adoption of resolution by Board of Trustees
April 11, 2017	Public Hearing for public input on the District of Innovation opportunity
April 11, 2017	Board of Trustees appoints the District Advisory Committee to develop a District of Innovation Plan
April 18, 2017	Innovation Committee meets to develop and approve a plan
April 19, 2017	Post proposed plan on district's website for 30 days
April 25, 2017	Notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board's intention to vote on adoption of proposed plan
June 13, 2017	Innovation Committee presents plan in a public hearing
June 13, 2017	Board of Trustees formally approve the District of Innovation Plan
June 14, 2017	Formal notification to Texas Commissioner of Education that plan has been adopted

## **1. School Start Date (TEC 25.0811)**

### **Currently**

Districts may not begin instruction for students before the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of August.

### **Proposed**

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our district, we would annually determine the start date. This would allow us to balance the number of days in each semester and provide more instructional days before the state assessment.

## **2. Teacher Certification (TEC 21.003)**

### **Currently**

In the event a district can not locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency and provide notification to parents of each student assigned to a classroom taught by a non-certified teacher. This system is complicated and does not take into account the unique financial and/or instructional needs of the district, especially for innovative classes where certification may not exist or educators with those credentials may not be readily available.

### **Proposed**

In order to best serve Ezell students, decisions on certification requirements will be handled locally. This exemption will allow the district flexibility to hire non-certified yet highly qualified professionals to teach OR a certified educator to teach a subject in a related field for which she/he is not credentialed by the state.

## **3. Teacher Contract Days (TEC 21.401)**

### **Currently**

Texas Education Code 21.401 currently requires a contract between the District and an educator to be for a minimum of 10 months. An educator under a 10 month contract must provide 187 days of service.

### **Proposed**

This proposal would allow the district to reduce the required days of service by two to five days. Depending on the adopted calendar and number of instructional days, teachers may be on contract from 182 to 185 days. This is an attempt to provide flexibility to better align teacher service days to instructional days.

This proposal would also:

- Increase the teacher daily rate
- Enhance teacher recruitment
- Improve teacher morale