

March 2018-
March 2023

Quitman Independent School District

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN



Approved Quitman ISD

Board of Trustees

March 19, 2018



QUITMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN March 2018 THROUGH March 2023

Educating Every Child . . . Every Chance . . . Every Day

INTRODUCTION

The District of Innovation concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842 provides traditional independent school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- **Customization:** Districts can create an innovation plan for a level of school (e.g., only high schools), grade level, or a single campus.
- **Autonomy:** Districts must submit a district of innovation plan to the commissioner of education, but approval is not required.
- **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices that are tailored to the needs of their students and community.

Quitman ISD is driven by five Board Goals. These goals drive all decisions regarding instruction and operations in the district.

I. Quitman ISD will budget available resources to meet student, personnel, and facility needs of the district.

II. Quitman ISD will provide safe and secure facilities, transportation, and technology conducive to student success.

III. Quitman ISD will foster a positive work environment that encourages professional growth, teamwork and high morale.

IV. Quitman ISD will promote and maintain strong business, community and family relationships.

V. Quitman ISD will advocate for the well-rounded education of every child in the district.

Quitman ISD has developed this five year District of Innovation Plan, beginning in March 2018 and concluding in March 2023, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law.

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE & TIMELINE

Tamara Turner	Teacher
Whitney Crutcher	Teacher
Adah Ketner	Teacher
Deborah Woodruff	Teacher
Rebecca Brown	Teacher
David Cross	Teacher
David Dobbs	Parent
Tommy Chaney	Parent
Rodney Kieke	Community Member
Michael Findley	Community Member
Sherry Dupre	Business Member
Joanne Wisdom	Business Member
Michael Pettiette	Campus Level Non-Teaching
Lance Morrow	Campus Level Non-Teaching
Amy Park	Campus Level Non-Teaching
Scott Turner	District Level Professional
Angela Brown	Designated Chair
Time	Task
November 8, 2017	District Excellence Committee signed a petition requesting the Board of Trustees initiate the process to become a District of Innovation
December 18, 2017	Board of Trustees held public meeting on District of Innovation
January 15, 2018	Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation committee
February 7, 2018	Planning meeting of the District of Innovation committee
February 8, 2018	Plan posted to Quitman ISD website for 30 days
February 8, 2018	District of Innovation plan submitted to Commissioner of Education
March 8, 2018	District of Innovation Committee holds public meeting to consider the final version of the plan
March 19, 2018	Board of Trustees vote on District of Innovation Plan
March 20, 2018	Update all policy changes with TASB (if approved by board)

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

STATUTE RECOMMENDED FOR EXEMPTION

TEC §25.0811 FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

(EB LEGAL)

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.

Proposed

Quitman ISD, who does not qualify for any of the exceptions noted in the statute, would like to have the freedom to develop a calendar that better fits the needs of the community should the committee choose. Having greater flexibility in this area would allow the District Calendar Committee to better balance the first and second semesters and provide more instructional days prior to state testing.

STATUTE RECOMMENDED FOR EXEMPTION

TEC 21.102(b) TEACHER PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS

(DCA Legal)

A probationary contract may not be for a term exceeding one school year. The probationary contract may be renewed for two additional one-year periods, for a maximum permissible probationary contract period of three school years, except that the probationary period may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the district.

Proposed

Current legal policy allows experienced teachers new to the district to have a probationary period that 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. This time period is not sufficient to evaluate a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom. Relief from this law would allow time to sufficiently determine a staff member's effectiveness.

Exemption from this requirement will allow ample time for campus administrators to determine the effectiveness of employees who have been a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years thus providing a more stable and effective learning environment for students.

Quitman ISD would like to have the ability to renew the probationary contract one additional year period, for a maximum of two school years, for all teachers who are new to the district who have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of eight years preceding employment by the District.

STATUTE RECOMMENDED FOR EXEMPTION

TEC §37.0012 DESIGNATION OF CAMPUS BEHAVIOR COORDINATOR (FO Legal)

A person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. The person designated may be the principal of the campus or any other campus administrator selected by the principal. The campus behavior coordinator is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline.

In addition, the campus behavior coordinator is responsible for promptly notifying a student's parent or guardian when the student is placed into in-school or out-of-school suspension, placed in a disciplinary alternative education program, expelled, or placed in a juvenile justice alternative education program or is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer.

Proposed

Quitman ISD will partner with and involve our diverse community to support QISD students and staff. Flexibility with regard to the designation of campus behavior coordinators allows for greater collaboration when addressing the social and emotional learning of students. Time and resources can be spent on fostering positive school culture and implementing multi-systemic prevention and intervention programs.

The district will decide which employees and systems to involve in maintaining student discipline instead of a single person designated as a campus behavior coordinator. Disciplinary responsibilities will be included in an employee's job description when applicable. The maintenance of student discipline will be appropriately addressed in the Student Code of Conduct.

Quitman ISD is not requesting exemption from the statutory notifications procedures. This will be handled by the administrator who is in charge of discipline.

STATUTE RECOMMENDED FOR EXEMPTION

TEC §25.0036 INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFER STUDENTS (FDA LOCAL)

Currently, under Texas Education Code 25.036, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district, but TEC 25.036, has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of one school year.

Proposed

The district is seeking exemption from the one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants and allows the district to rescind a transfer for students not meeting local transfer criteria at any time during the school year.

STATUTE RECOMMENDED FOR EXEMPTION

TEC §21.451 TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(DMA LEGAL)

TEC 21.451 prescribes staff development requirements for educators. These requirements impede the District's ability to provide timely professional development to employees based on newly emerging issues, data, and student needs.

Proposed

The District will exercise local discretion in determining the areas of need, content, duration, and frequency for professional development for its instructional and non-instructional staff.