

Trenton ISD
District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)
2017-18

Trenton ISD is utilizing HB 1842, of the 84th Legislation Session, in order to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to have some of the same local flexibility that public charter schools have always been allowed. We feel this is a great opportunity for our local district to tailor plans based on the needs of our students and community. This plan will be in effect for the 2017-18 school year through 2021- 2022 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with approval of the Trenton ISD Board of Trustees.

District of Innovation Committee

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|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rick Foreman | Superintendent |
| 2. Jeremy Strickland | High School Principal |
| 3. Trent Hamilton | Middle School Principal |
| 4. Mandi Alexander | Asst. Elementary Principal |
| 5. Kevin Cannon | Director of Special Programs |
| 6. Jan Snow | High School Counselor |
| 7. Jamie Doan | EL & MS Counselor |
| 8. Kim Price | Elementary School Campus |
| 9. Amy Chambers | Middle School Campus |
| 10. Aaron Weger | High School Campus |
| 11. Tiffany Medina | Elementary School Parent |
| 12. Dustin Whitmire | Middle School Parent |
| 13. Theresa Finley | High School Parent |

Trenton ISD

Proposed District of Innovation Timeline

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Initial meeting with administrative staff to discuss preliminary thoughts and discuss possible members of the District of Innovation Team.

Monday, December 5, 2016

6:45pm, Special Board Meeting

*Board of Trustees approve resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation.

7:00pm Regular Board Meeting

*Public Hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation.

*Approve a motion to pursue developing a District of Innovation plan, parameters, and members for the District of Innovation committee.

Monday, December 12, 2016

District of Innovation committee meeting to develop plan.

Thursday, December 15, 2016

Post District of Innovation Plan on website for 30 days

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Notify Commissioner of Education of the Board's intention to vote on adoption of proposed plan.

Monday, January 23, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

*Approve District of Innovation Plan

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Notify Commissioner of Education of District of Innovation Plan approval.

1. School Start Date

(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

Currently

Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. For many years this was the rule, however, districts had the option of applying for a waiver to start earlier. The vast majority of districts applied for the waiver and would begin the 3rd Monday, some even going as early as the 2nd Monday.

The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped because they believed it was hurting their tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that districts may not begin until the 4th Monday, with no exceptions.

Proposed

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, we would like to consider moving the mandatory start date back one week which would better benefit our students.

- a. Students will begin no later earlier than the 3rd Monday of August.
- b. Teachers will begin no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.
- c. This will allow the first and second semester to be closer in the number of days of instruction.

2. Submitting Waivers for Kindergarten – Grade 4 Class Size

(EEB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.111) (Ed. Code 25.112) (Ed. Code 25.113)

Currently

Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes are to be 22 students to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. These waivers are never rejected by TEA. This is a bureaucratic step that serves no purpose.

Along with the waiver, it is required that a letter is sent home to each parent in the section that exceeds the 22:1 ratio, informing them the waiver has been submitted. Many times soon after the waiver is submitted, students move out of the district and we are below the 22:1 ratio.

Proposed

While we certainly believe that small class size plays a positive role in the classroom, we do not believe it has negative effect when you only add one or two more students. Many times it is not the number of the students but the makeup and chemistry of the classroom which influence the learning environment.

- a. Trenton ISD will attempt to keep all K-4th core classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. However, in the event the class size exceeds this ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.
- b. In the event the K-4th core classroom reaches 25:1, the campus will notify the parents of the students in the classroom and inform them of the situation and an additional teacher will be hired.
- c. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K-4th classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.
- d. This gives TISD the flexibility without having the bureaucracy of waivers with the Texas Education Agency.

3. Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (TEC 21.003)

Currently

In the event a district cannot 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. TEA then approves or denies this request. There is a lot of bureaucracy and unnecessary paperwork involved in the process.

Proposed

In order to best serve TISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally.

- a. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which qualify this individual to teach this subject.
- b. This will allow more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

4. Teacher Contracts

(DCA LEGAL) (TEC 21.102)

Currently

A probationary contract may not exceed one year for new teachers to our district who have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five to the eight years preceding employment by the district. Under this circumstance, the district must either give the teacher a term contract or terminate their contract after their first year in the district.

Proposed

Trenton ISD would like to have the ability to renew the probationary contract on additional one-year period, for a maximum of two school years, for all teachers that 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.