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# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION
# 2022-2027

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. To qualify, an eligible school district must adopt a five-year innovation plan according to the Texas Education Code.

Ropes ISD is utilizing HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session, in order to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows traditional public schools to have some of the same local flexibility that public charter schools have always been allowed. We feel this is an opportunity for our district to modify certain areas based upon the needs of our students and community.

Once approved by the Commissioner of Education, the Local School Board and the District of Innovation Committee, this plan will be in effect for the 2022-2023 school year through the 2026-2027 school year. This plan may be amended at any time be the committee with approval of the Board of Trustees.

Ropes ISD District of Innovation Renewal Timeline:

February 16, 2022 District of Innovation Committee meeting to discuss DOI Plan

February 28, 2022 District of Innovation Committee meeting to hold public hearing on Finalized Version of the DOI Plan

March 1, 2022 Post District of Innovation Plan on Website for 30 Days

March 8, 2022 Board notifies the Texas Commissioner of Education of intention to vote on plan

April 11, 2022 Recommend final DOI plan to Board of Trustees

April 12, 2022 Board of Trustees formally notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of approved plan

June 20, 2022 Update all policy changes with TASB

INNOVATION PLAN

## Uniform Start Date

***Exemption:***

- TEC 25.0811 and 25.0812 First Day of Instruction (Starting before the 4th Monday of August) and Last Day of Instruction (Ending before May 15th) (EB Legal)

***Plan:***

- Review annually the calendar to determine what is best for students and the community and set school start and end dates accordingly

***Benefit:***

- Allowing more balanced 6 weeks and semester schedules
- Increased instructional time prior to Fall administration of End of Course exams and also Spring STAAR exams
- Allows district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and the local community

## Teacher Certification

***Exemption:***

- TEC 21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts and TEC 21.003 Certification Required (DK Legal and Local)

***Plan:***

- In order to best serve the students of RISD, decisions on certification will be determined locally
  - The principal may submit in writing to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach subjects out of their field(s) of certification.
    - The principal must specify the reason for the request and
    - The principal must show what credentials the teacher possesses that would qualify the individual to teach the subject
  - An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate.
    - The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all the individual's credentials

        - The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual could be an asset to the students and program
        - The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment
        - The employee will be at-will
    - The superintendent may approve teaching certificates from states other than Texas
        - The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment
        - The teacher will be given a probationary contract until they have received a Texas teacher certification

***Benefit:***

- Provide more flexibility in scheduling
- Provide more options for students in class offerings
- Provide industry certified and/or trade professionals to teach specialized certification courses
- Provide opportunity to employ part-time professionals to teach specialty courses
- More realistic requirements for professionals to transition from industry to teaching
- Streamline hiring process for out-of-state teachers

## Teacher Contract Days

***Exemption:***

- TEC 21.401 Minimum Service Required (teachers on 10 month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service) (DCB Legal and Local)

***Plan:***

- Reduce teacher contract days to match the adopted school calendar

***Benefit:***

- Provide teachers more flexibility during summer months to seek out beneficial staff development that relates to their field

- Daily Rate will be consistent with a 187 Day calendar
- Improve teacher morale
- Enhance teacher recruitment
- It will be part of the calendar planning process to reduce the number of teacher contract days, contract days will not exceed the 187 days but may be lessened based upon the needs of the district.

## Teacher and Principal Evaluations

***Exemption:***

- TEC 21.352 Local Role (Teacher Appraisals) and TEC 21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals (DNA Legal and Local)

***Plan:***

- RISD may utilize a locally developed teacher and principal evaluation tool
- Evaluation instrument will be developed with input from central administration and campus administration
- It will use staff input, PDAS, T-TESS, T-PESS, and any other relevant best practices
- All teachers will be formally evaluated at a minimum of once every three years
- Probationary teachers will be evaluated every year
- All teachers will have an annual summative conference to discuss the year and set classroom goals
- Principals will be evaluated annually
- Locally developed plans should reflect the strengths, areas of concern, and goals

***Benefit:***

- Allows the district the option to develop evaluations that could be a combination of PDAS, T-TESS, T-PESS and other best practices
- Allows the district option to utilize local control of decisions regarding teacher and administer evaluations

## Inter-District Transfers

***Exemption***

- TEC 25.036 Districts transfers are for an entire school year. (FDA Local)

***Plan***

- RISD would follow FDA Local policy requiring nonresident students to file a transfer application each school year.
- In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history records, work habits, and attendance records will be evaluated.
- Transfer students are required to follow the attendance requirements, rules and regulations of the district.
- Transfer status may be revoked by the superintendent at any time during the school year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences such as suspension (in school or out of school), placement at the DAEP, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the student's transfer status.

***Benefit:***

- Allows RISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students, who on rare occasions, violate the transfer policy.
- Allows RISD to better utilize school resources for the benefit of the district.