



District of Innovation Renewal

Marty Crawford, Ed.D.

March 3, 2022

2021-2022 DOI Committee Members

Member Name	Title
Chele Ashley	Teacher
Jarrold Bitter	Asst. Supt. of Administration/Innovation
Sheri Barberee-Taylor	Exec. Dir. of Human Resources
Cassandra Chapa	Chief Innovation Officer
James Cureton, Ph.D.	Dir. of Assessment and Accountability
Meika Fallon	Tyler ISD Human Resources
Suzette Farr	Exec. Dir. of Tyler ISD Foundation
Elizabeth Gomez	Assistant Principal – Birdwell
Christy Hanson, Ed.D.	Asst. Supt. of Academic Support
Tamara Johnson	Principal – Bell Elementary School
Ronald Jones	Deputy Superintendent

Member Name	Title
Kate Newberry	Parent
Marc Loredó	Community Member
Sheldon McGowan	Teacher
Jade Perry	Teacher
Nancy Rangel	Business Partner
Geoff Sherman	Principal – Hubbard Middle School
Victor Valle	Business Partner
Johnita Ward, Ed.D.	Chief of School Leadership
Latoya Young	Business Partner
Marty Crawford, Ed.D. (Ad Hoc)	Superintendent of Schools
Tosha Bjork (Ad Hoc)	Deputy Superintendent - CFO

District of Innovation (DOI) Requirements

- Must be Board approved
 - Initial Approval - June 2017
 - Amended - September 2020
- Plan is valid for 5 years
- May be amended or renewed at any time during the term of the plan
- Term of DOI plan may be extended for up to an additional 5 years during renewal.

Areas of Focus for Tyler ISD

Instructional Calendar

- Start date
- Instructional days/minutes
- Attendance for Credit

Teacher Certifications

- Flexibility based on education, skills, experience

Probationary Contracts

- Allows for extension of probationary period

Class size waivers

Instructional Calendar: First Day of Instruction

TEC §25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction prior to the 4th Monday in August

- Insufficient professional learning and preparation time.
- Unbalanced semesters and misalignment with college/dual credit calendars

Innovation Plan

- Provides trustees the flexibility to consider beginning instruction earlier and develop a school calendar that meets the needs of the district.
- Involves stakeholders in recommending a calendar with a start date no earlier than the second Monday in August, that addresses student instruction with a focused PD plan, meets the requirement of 75,600 minutes, and aligns with the traditions and expectations of the community.

Instructional Calendar: Instructional Minutes

TEC §25.081 (HB 2610) states that “for each school year, each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses.”

Innovation Plan

Pre-Kindergarten – 71,400 minutes

- Instructional planning and school day design tailored to our early education setting

Dropout Prevention Program – RISE or other innovative structures

- 240 minutes per day or hybrid model
- Meets the needs of each individual student

Instructional Calendar: Attendance for Credit

TEC §25.092 states that a student in any grade level K-12 may not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance 90% of the days the class is offered. (Board Policy FEC)

- Limits access to internships and non-traditional experiences, blended and distance learning opportunities, online coursework away from campus, etc.

Innovation Plan

- Credit or grade may be awarded based on “in kind” seat time, where appropriate.
- Individual Graduation Committees will be the final determining factor in granting credit or final grade. Student must demonstrate mastery.

Teacher Certification

TEC §21.003(a) states that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds appropriate certificate or permit, or the person is granted emergency certification from TEA and/or State Board of Educator Certification.

- Has led to lack of certified or qualified staff, especially in hard to staff areas or specialized contents. Limited flexibility in staffing or scheduling.

Innovation Plan

- DOI certifications may be approved based on need, skills, experiences, appropriate educational qualifications, etc.
- DOI certification valid only in Tyler ISD and are probationary contracts only.

Probationary Contracts

TEC §21.102(b) states that probationary contracts 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 with the district.

Innovation Plan

- Extension of probationary period provides sufficient time to determine teacher effectiveness.
- For Experienced teachers, counselors, librarians, or nurses new to Tyler ISD; that have been employed in a capacity that qualifies for a Ch. 21 contract in public education for at least five of the eight years, the probationary period when becoming employed by Tyler ISD shall be for a period of two (2) years with probationary contracts issued for each of the two (2) years.

Class Size Waivers

TEC §25.112 requires districts to maintain a class size of 22 students or less for K-4 classes and requires districts to notify parents of waivers or exceptions to class size limits.

Innovation Plan

- Tyler ISD makes staffing and hiring decisions based on a 22:1 ratio and provides support through paraprofessional positions when that number is exceeded.
- If the average across a grade level reaches 24:1, a new teacher may be hired.
- Class size ratios are reported to the Board of Trustees at least once per semester.



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