

**Burton Independent School District
District of Innovation Plan
2022**

Local Innovation Committee Members

Dr. Edna Kennedy	Superintendent
Melinda Fuchs	Elementary Principal
Micah Goebel	Secondary Principal
Jamie Odom	Elementary School Teacher
Rachel Unger	Junior High School Teacher
Jonathan Purvis	High School Teacher
Sanya Baumbach	Parent
Kim Broesche	Parent
Kathy Liles	Parent/Community Business Owner
Joy Fuchs	Community

District of Innovation Timeline

July 18, 2022	Adopt Board Resolution to pursue update to District of Innovation Plan. Public Hearing concerning District of Innovation. Appoint District of Innovation Committee.
August 4, 2022	Provide District of Innovation Plan for review. Post on district website for 30 days. Notify the Texas Education Commissioner of the updated District of Innovation Plan.
September 12, 2022	Approve District of Innovation Plan.

I. Introduction

The 84th Legislative Session passed House Bill 1842, allowing Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and thus permitting exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. In an effort to transform systematic improvement to allow for more local control, Burton ISD seeks to become a District of Innovation. Applied exemptions fall under the Texas Education Code statutes and associated TASB Local and Legal Board Policies EB (School Year) and EC (School Day).

A district committee met in August of 2022. This committee was comprised of various district and campus leaders, teachers, parents, and community members. Based on the input from these individuals and direction provided by the Board of Trustees, the committee proposes the following District of Innovation Plan.

II. Term

This plan will be in effect from September 12, 2022 through September 12, 2027. This plan may be amended or terminated at any time by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Texas Education Code.

III. Exemptions Requested in Texas Education Code

A. Operation of Schools and School Attendance (TEC Section 25.081)

As authorized in the education code, 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, for students. Flexibility in the number of required minutes of instruction will allow the district to:

- Accommodate inclement weather and/or natural causes of disruptions to the school day.
- Address decreased attendance because of severe illness and/or contagions.
- Compensate for any other widespread community disastrous conditions that might interfere with our students getting to school.

Other Considerations:

- While the District seeks exemption from TEC Section 25.081, the District is not seeking an exemption from the 75,600 minutes of instruction for the school-year. The District seeks to provide flexibility for uncertainties and occasionally shorten school days which will allow the District to provide teachers with more time to plan and prepare for instruction.
- The District will ensure that instructional time is maintained at 75,600 minutes for the school year.

B. First Day of Instruction (TEC Section 25.0811)

Under current education code, districts may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. Flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable the district to:

- Balance the amount of instructional time in the fall and spring semesters.
- Allow students to enroll in college courses that begin in early June.
- Provide additional opportunities to schedule timely and meaningful staff development throughout the calendar year.
- Better pace and deliver instruction.

C. Last Day of School (TEC Section 25.0812)

As provided in the education code, a school district may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15. The last day of school may be altered to:

- Allow students more time for remediation and test-taking skill development.
- Give the district options for how to structure the Final Exam Schedule.

D. School Day Interruptions (TEC 25.083)

The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting interruptions of classes during the school day for nonacademic activities such as announcements and sales promotions. Changes to this requirement would allow for:

- Emergency notifications during the school day.
- Remedial tutoring or test preparation.

E. Teacher Contracts (TEC Section 21.401)

Texas Education Code requires educators employed on a 10-month contract to provide a minimum of 187 days of service. Flexibility to the 187 required days of service will allow staff to:

- Attend summer professional development, work days, and additional local training to address specific student outcomes related to district objectives.
- Focus on district improvement initiatives.
- Encourage collaborative team-building and networking opportunities.
- Increase teacher morale.

Professional employees will not receive a reduction in pay for any reduction in their workload due to this change.