



# **Clifton Independent School District**

## **Local District of Innovation Plan**

Effective

2018-2019 to 2022-2023

## I. Introduction

The 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1842, allowing public school districts to obtain the designation of District of Innovation and gain exemption from certain Texas Education Code provisions. This designation allow independent school districts to have flexibilities currently available to charter school. During the spring semester of 2018, Clifton ISD began consideration of developing an innovation plan that reflects the unique needs of our district and allows the district to assume more local control within the decision-making processes.

## II. Mission

Clifton ISD intends to utilize this plan to support the district's mission: to foster learning and to promote success by encouraging community values and meeting the diverse needs of all students.

## III. Process

The CISD Site-Based Committee approved the creation of a local district of innovation plan. The committee members are:

District Site-Based Committee Member	Role
Rhoda White	Superintendent
Melissa Bosley	Curriculum Director
Denean Sturgeon	CES Teacher
Jennifer Nickel	CES Parent
Krista Ritzmann	CES Parent
Kara Ripley	CES Teacher
Brenda Smith	CES Teacher
Andy Ball	CMS Principal
Brittany Boykin	CHS Assistant Principal
Ronda Kroll	CES Principal

With board approval, the committee chose to create a plan with two specific exemptions.

#### IV. **Innovation Plan Exemptions**

Under the flexibility provided by the District of Innovation Plan, CISD seeks exemption from two laws currently under the Texas Education Code and will instead implement unique, local guidelines that better meet the needs of our students, staff, and community.

##### A. **First Day of Instruction**

Exemption from TEC §25.0811 (a)- “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.”

To allow for a calendar that fits the needs of our students, staff, and community, we would prefer an earlier start date. An earlier start date will allow the fall semester to end before Winter Break and allow the fall and spring semesters to have relatively equal instructional days. An earlier start date will also allow more instructional days to occur prior to state testing dates and will result in an earlier end date, closer to the Memorial Day holiday. Preference will be given to starting instruction around the third week in August.

##### B. **Teacher Certification**

Exemption from TEC §21.003 (a)- “A person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.”

Relief from this statute will allow our district more flexibility to make local decisions in determining hires in areas that are often difficult to fill, such as career and technical education and STEAM courses. The district fully intends to maintain its commitment to hire certified professionals and will continue to seek employees with appropriate and valid certifications. However, with this exemption the district could assign certified teachers to CATE areas outside the teacher’s current area of certification.

##### C. **Inter-district Transfers**

Exemption from TEC §25.036-Clifton ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (Local) requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and

instructional staff, the student's disciplinary records, work habits, and attendance records are also evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the District. TEC 25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one-year commitment by the District. The District is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. On rare occasions, student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall below the TEA truancy standard. In these rare cases, Clifton ISD seeks exemption from the one-year transfer commitment.

Nonresident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfers may have such transfer statute revoked by the Superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences of suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the state's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the transfer status.

#### V. **Term**

The Clifton ISD Local District of Innovation plan has a term of five years, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year and concluding at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. The Board of Trustees has the right to amend or terminate the plan at any time and will review the plan annually. If additions or revisions are recommended, the review process will resume with the District Site-Based committee and adhere to the requirements of approval, including the required web posting and notification to the Commissioner of Education.