

Vysehrad ISD

District of Innovation Plan – Proposed Renewal Plan

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in spring 2015. This bill affords districts the opportunity to be designated as a District of Innovation. This designation grants access to flexibilities for greater local control, which means our district can tailor a plan best suited for our Vysehrad students, staff, and community. The term of the proposed plan is for five years, March 2022 and ending in March 2027 unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law.

District of Innovation Timeline

- 1/17/2023 Notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board's intention to vote on the adoption of proposed plan
- 1/19/2023 Posted proposed plan on district's website for 30 days
- 3/2023 Innovation Committee will present plan in a public hearing
- 3/2023 Proposed plan will be provided to the Board of Trustees for approval
- 3/2023 Formal notification will be provided to Texas Commissioner of Education once proposed plan has been adopted

1. School Start Date (TEC 25.0811)

Currently

Districts may not begin instruction for students before the 4th Monday of August.

Proposed

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our district, we would annually determine the start date. This would allow us to balance the number of days in each semester and provide more instructional days before the state assessment.

2. Teacher Certification (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 his or her certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency and provide notification to parents of each student assigned to a classroom taught by a noncertified teacher. This system is complicated and does not take into account the unique financial and/ or instructional needs of the district, especially for innovative classes where certification may not exist or educators with those credentials may not be readily available.

Proposed

In order to best serve Vysehrad students, decisions on certification requirements will be handled locally. This exemption will allow the district flexibility to hire non-certified yet highly qualified professionals to teach OR a certified educator to teach a subject in a related field for which she/he is not credentialed by the state.

3. Teacher Contract Days (TEC 21.401)

Currently

Texas Education Code 21.401 currently requires a contract between the district and an educator to be for a minimum of 10 months. An educator under a 10 month contract must provide 187 days of service.

Proposed

This proposal would allow the district to reduce the required days of service by two to five days. Depending on the adopted calendar and number of instructional days, teachers may be on contract from 182 to 185 days. This is an attempt to provide flexibility to better align teacher service days to instructional days.

This proposal would also:

- Increase the teacher daily rate
- Enhance teacher recruitment
- Improve teacher morale

4. School District Depositories (TEC 45.206)

Currently

Districts are required to bid depository banking services at a minimum of every six years. There is only one bank that responds to our request for bids. None of the other local banks have responded or shown any interest in serving the financial needs of the district. In addition, the required bidding process uses the time and efforts of the Superintendent who also serves as the Principal as we do not have an official business manager. This time could be better spend on other activities given our limited ability to change banks.

Proposed

Vysehrad ISD will continue to review banking services every 2 years, monitor the availability of services and pricing of local banks, and bid for services as needed to support the district's financial needs.