

Dew Independent School District



Proposed District of Innovation Plan

November 2022-November 2027

Board Approved

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842 that allows school districts greater local control and flexibility regarding certain state-level regulations in an effort to utilize the designation to better serve students. The ultimate goals of the plan are to advance innovative curriculum, instructional methods, community participation, governance of campuses, and parental involvement by eliminating onerous compliance requirements and focusing district resources on what matters most.

The proposed plan, once adopted, will remain in effect for the next five years (November 2022-November 2027.) The plan may be amended at any time by the district of Innovation committee with the approval of the district Board of Trustees.

District of Innovation Committee

Mr. Darrell Evans	Superintendent/Principal
Mrs. Kris Staggs	Assistant principal/Counselor
Mrs. Nicole Sifford	Administrative assistant/Nurse
Mrs. Ginny Blackwell	Junior High Teacher
Mrs. Jessica Drennan	Elementary Teacher
Mrs. Nadine Evans	District Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Lauren Saldana	Parent
Mrs. Stacey Morris	Parent

Timeline	Task
October 2022	Board of Trustees to pass a resolution to begin District of Innovation Plan
October 2022	Board of Trustees to hold a public hearing on the District of Innovation
October 2022	Board of Trustees approve DOI committee
November 2022	DOI Committee meeting
November 2022	Dew ISD post plan on website
November 2022	Dew ISD sends plan to commissioner with intent to vote
November 2022	DOI committee holds a public meeting and votes on the DOI plan.
December 2022	Dew ISD Board votes on DOI plan
December 2022	Dew ISD notifies commissioner
December 2022	Update all policy changes with TASB

The proposed exemptions from the following legal requirements are contained within this plan:

- Teacher Certification-TEC 21.003
- School Start Date-TEC 25.0811
- Inter-District Transfers-TEC 25.036
- District Site-Based Committee and SHAC meetings-TEC 11.251, TEC 11.252 and 28.004(d)
- School District Depository Contracts-TEC Subchapter G.45.206

Innovations:

1. Teacher Certification

{DK(Legal), DK(Local), DK(Exhibit)}

Current Law

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request. In certain circumstances a district can use a local one-year permit.

Proposed

In order to best serve Dew ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally.

- a. The superintendent after following all application and interviewing procedures, will notify the Board of Trustees that no qualified, certified teacher was available. The superintendent will specify the reason for the need to use a certified teacher out of their field and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses in that would qualify this individual to teach this subject.
- b. This proposal will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students to have a certified teacher in their classroom.

2. School Start Date

{EB(Legal), EB(Local) TEC 25.0811}

Current Law

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August.

Proposed

To meet local and community needs, this plan will allow a more balanced number of instructional days per semester and more instructional days prior

to the state assessments given in early May. The plan would give Dew ISD the flexibility to determine its start date on an annual basis.

- a. Students will start school no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.

3. Inter-district transfers

{FDA(Local), TEC 25.036}

Current Law

Dew 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, and attendance records are also evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, Student Code of Conduct, 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.

Proposed

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

4. Site-Based Decision Making and SHAC

{TEC 11.251, TEC 11.252 and 28.004(d)}

Current Law

State law currently requires that the Site-Based Decision Making Committee and the SHAC meet 4 times a year. Additionally statutory requirements dictate the composition of the Site-Based Decision Making committee.

Proposed

In place of a Site-Based Decision Making committee and the School Health Advisory Council, a District Advisory Council (DAC) will be established to meet, review, analyze, and respond to both qualitative and quantitative data regarding Dew ISD and its students. The DAC will convene at least two times per year to guide the general direction of district resources and efforts. The consolidation of committees will be composed of various stakeholders and yield an opportunity for one council to address multiple needs of the students served by the district as opposed to having multiple committees addressing a narrower focus of needs. Dew ISD views the DAC as a more efficient and effective way to serve our students, parents, and community.

5. School District Depositories Contract

{BDAE(Legal and Local), (TEC Subchapter G. 45.206)}

Current Law

Term of Contract: (A) except as provided by Subsection (b), the depository bank when selected shall serve for a term of two years and until its successor is selected and has Qualified. (B) A school district and the district's depository bank may agree to extend a depository contract for two additional two-year terms. An extension under this subsection is not subject to the requirements of Section 45.206. (C) The contract term and any extension must coincide with the school district's fiscal year.

Proposed

By gaining exemption to these statutes, Dew ISD would be able to allow the district's existing bank contract to be extended beyond the total 6-year allowable term if the district determines contract pricing remains competitive and there is no operational or financial reason to send the district's banking services out to bid. This exemption would lessen the administrative burden related to preparing and reviewing a Request for Proposal (RFP) when there are no banking institutions within district boundaries available to bid on the district's business and a very limited few in the area that are interested in providing a RFP. In addition this would further mitigate any impact to employees that would have to alter their direct deposit instructions and afford district flexibility with respect to local banking relationships.