

GRANDFALLS-ROYALTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Responsible learners make responsible citizens.”

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Grandfalls-Royalty Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan

August 1, 2022 – May 31, 2027

Introduction

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 passed that allows Texas public schools to become Districts of Innovation which would allow them to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. The opportunity for a District of Innovation designation will allow our district to think outside the box and provide opportunities for our students, staff, and community outside the traditional restraints. The fluctuation of the Permian Basin oil field makes finding certified instructors impossible during the boom times. Oil companies pay much more than educators make and it is difficult to compete. CTE teachers become an even bigger challenge. Grandfalls-Royalty ISD is exercising this opportunity to gain more local control and will request the following exemptions from the Texas Education Code.

Term

Grandfalls-Royalty ISD's Innovation Plan will begin with the 2022-2023 school year and conclude at the end of the 2026-2027 school year unless the plan is terminated or amended by the Grandfalls-Royalty ISD Board in accordance with HB 1842. If at any time within this 5-year plan, other areas of exemptions are to be considered, the Board will nominate a new committee to consider new exemptions. Any future amendments will adhere to the same term of the original plan.

Local Innovation Committee

Janet Hunt – Interim Superintendent

Tammie White – Dean of Students

Kandace Floyd – Secondary Teacher

Leah Smith – Elementary Teacher

The committee met on March 29, 2022. The prior Innovation Plan was discussed, and the committee decided the continuation of the established guidelines has proven to be effective and efficient for Grandfalls-Royalty ISD.

1. School Start Date/Last Day of School (EB Legal) (EC Legal) (TEC 25.0811; TEC25.0812)

Current Law

Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. For many years this has been the rule, although districts had the option of applying for a waiver to start earlier. Several years ago, the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that school districts may not begin until the 4th Monday without exception.

In Section 25.0812, the statute requires that the last day of school may not occur before May 15.

Rationale for Exemption

To allow for a calendar that is reflective of the needs of our community and school district, Grandfalls-Royalty ISD will create a calendar that provides a more balanced number of instruction days per semester and provides more instruction prior to state assessments.

Exemptions from the mandatory starting and ending date would provide the flexibility to create an innovative instructional schedule to better meet the needs of students in today's educational environment, better strategize innovative instructional strategies that fit a more flexible schedule, condense employee work schedules for holidays, personal days and professional development days impacting employee work/life balance, and improve student academic outcomes by using the calendar flexibility for retesting opportunities, etc.

2. Certification (TEC 21.003a) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA LOCAL)

Current Law

TEC 21.003a states 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

Rationale for Exemption

- A. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach one subject in a related field for which he/she is not certified. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teachers possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment should also be noted.
- B. The current certification requirement severely limits the districts options to hire professionals with work related experience or degrees to teach a variety of courses from CATE and STEM related courses along with other required courses needed throughout the district. To maximum the opportunities for students to take such courses, the district will consider the qualifications necessary to create a local requirement for these courses instead of the requirements set forth in TEC 21.003a. This exemption will allow the district to:
 - 1. Consider part time professionals to teach courses
 - 2. Opportunity for professionals to transition from other work-related jobs to the teaching profession
 - 3. Increase the number of CATE and STEM type courses available
 - 4. Trade related professionals the ability to teach related courses
- C. The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignment(s).
- D. A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.

Term of Plan: August 1, 2022 - May 31, 2027

Plan applies to: ☒ Entire District
☐ Campus (list) _____
☐ Other (please describe) _____

Chapter 11 – School Districts

Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts

- ☐ §11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board
- ☐ §11.162 School Uniforms

Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making

- ☐ §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process
- ☐ §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making
- ☐ §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making
- ☐ §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

Chapter 21 – Educators

Subchapter A – General Provisions

- ☐ §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts
- ☒ §21.003 Certification Required
- ☐ §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

Subchapter B – Certification of Educators

- ☐ §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.
- ☐ §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- ☐ §21.057 Parental Notification

☐ **Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts**

☐ **Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts**

☐ **Subchapter E – Term Contracts**

Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives

- ☐ §21.352 Local Role
- ☐ §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance
- ☐ §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators
- ☐ §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

- ☐ §21.401 Minimum Service Required
- ☐ §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- ☐ §21.4021 Furloughs

- ☐ §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
- ☐ §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule
- ☐ §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- ☐ §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- ☐ §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- ☐ §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- ☐ §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- ☐ §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- ☐ §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
- ☐ §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
- ☐ §21.415 Employment Contracts
- Subchapter J – Staff Development**
- ☐ §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
- ☐ §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
- ☐ §21.458 Mentors

Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers

Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits

- ☐ §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- ☐ §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- ☐ §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- ☐ §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- ☐ §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- ☐ §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

- ☒ §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- x §25.0812 Last Day of School
- ☐ §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- ☐ §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size

- ☐ §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- ☐ §25.112 Class Size
- ☐ §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- ☐ §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size

Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order

Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management

- ☐ §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- ☐ §37.002 Removal by Teacher

Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management

Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts

- ☐ §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- ☐ §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- ☐ §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- ☐ §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- ☐ §44.043 Right To Work
- ☐ §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions

- ☐ §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- ☐ §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- ☐ §44.903 Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs in Instructional Facilities
- ☐ §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

Chapter 45 – School District Funds

Subchapter G – School District Depositories

- ☐ §45.205 Term of Contract
- ☐ §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- ☐ §45.207 Award of Contract
- ☐ §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- ☐ §45.209 Investment of District Funds

Other

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan:

AGENDA

Meeting of the Board of Education

Grandfalls-Royalty Independent School District

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.

Board Room - 115 Avenue C Grandfalls, Texas

The Board may deliberate or act on any of the subjects listed on the following agenda. The President may change the order of items for the convenience of the Board.

Call to Order

Pledges of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Open Forum

CONSIDERATION/POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. Consideration/Discussion of and possible action to approve the monthly bills

B. Consideration/Discussion of and possible action to approve the District of Innovation Plan for the timeframe of August 2022 – May 2027.

C. Consideration/Discussion of and possible action to approve the minutes of:

Regular Meeting – April 13, 2022

Special Meeting – April 20, 2022

Special Meeting – April 27, 2022

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

D. City Council requesting a discussion regarding Bad Weather Plan

E. Investment/Bank Balance Report/Budget Report

F. Budget

G. Transportation Report

H. Campus Report

I. Interim Superintendent's Report

J. Other

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and 551.704

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (Subchapters D and E of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code), the board will now enter into a closed meeting to deliberate subjects listed on the agenda authorized by Subchapter D. Any final action, decision, or vote on a subject deliberated in the closed meeting will be taken in an open meeting held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

K. Personnel Matters (551.074) - Discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignments, duties, discipline, contracts, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.

OPEN SESSION: Reconvene to take any necessary action as a result of Executive Session

L. Consideration/Discussion of and possible action to approve the item(s) from Executive Session.

M. Consideration/Discussion to name a Lone Finalist for Grandfalls-Royalty Superintendent

N. Adjournment

I do hereby certify that this Notice was posted in accordance with the law on May 12, 2022, in the Grandfalls-Royalty Administration Office, 115 Avenue C, Grandfalls, Texas at or before 6:00 p.m.



For the Board of Trustees, Janet Hunt