

**District of Innovation**  
**Dimmitt ISD Local Innovation Plan**  
**April 1, 2017 through April 1, 2022**  
**School Board Approval**  
**March 27th, 2017**

**Introduction**

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 passed which allows Texas public schools to become Districts of Innovation. As such, districts are able to gain local control of certain operations currently under the control of the Texas Education Agency and become exempt from certain sections of the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the district as outlined in the locally adopted Innovation Plan. Dimmitt ISD is seeking the District of Innovation status to increase the District's flexibility in order to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

**Term**

The term of the plan is for five years, beginning April 1, 2017 and ending April 1, 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with HB 1842. The Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the Plan. Any future amendments will adhere to the same term of the original plan.

**District of Innovation Committee Members**

Jill Millican, Assistant Superintendent  
Patrice Hill, Director of Special Education  
Christine Arnold, DHS Assistant Principal  
Jason Hamlin, DMS Assistant Principal  
Johnny Dopp, RES Assistant Principal  
Jackie Odom, DHS Teacher  
Laci Vogel, DHS Teacher  
Angela Larkin, RES Teacher  
Tanya Moroney, DMS Teacher  
Mandi Chavira, RES Teacher  
Shamarie Schumacher, DMS Teacher

**District of Innovation Timeline**

Board approval of Resolution	November 14, 2016
Public Hearing	December 12, 2016
BOE approval of Committee Members	December 12, 2016
DEIC passes plan by 2/3 majority vote	February 9, 2017
Public meeting	February 9, 2017
School board notifies Commissioner of intent to vote	February 13, 2017
Plan posted online	February 14, 2017
School Board Votes to approve plan	Approved March 27, 2017

**Innovations**

School start / end date *(TEC §25.0811a) (TEC §25.0812) (EB Legal)*

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 states that a school may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August. Texas Education Code Section 25.0812 states that a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15. Local control of the instructional calendar offers the District the following advantages:

Alignment of calendar with dual credit and AP courses  
Creates balanced days of instruction for each semester  
Moves more instructional days prior to state mandated assessment dates

**Certifications Required (TEC §21.003) (DK Legal)**

Texas Education Code Section 21.003a states that 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. Flexibility to establish local certification requirements has the following advantages:

Allows for flexibility in hiring professionals transitioning from industry to teaching  
Increases possibility of course offerings, particularly in CTE and STEM  
Allows for increased scheduling flexibility

**Teacher Contract Days (TEC §21.401) (DCB Legal)**

Texas Education Code Section 21.401 states that a contract between a school district and an educator must be for a minimum of 10 months' service. An educator employed under a 10-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service. Local control to reduce teacher contract days provides the following advantages:

Increase daily rate paid to teachers  
Improve recruitment potential of teachers from surrounding areas