

MEADOW ISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN 2017-2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

D. Dover	Superintendent	S. Reynolds	Sec Principal
K. Young	Elem Principal	S. Barclay	Counselor
V Gonzalez	PEIMS	D. Berger	Sec Teacher
P. Pierce	Elem Teacher	S. Cruz	Support Staff
J. Woodard	Board Member	K. Kittley	Athletic Staff
K. Welch	Community	S. Dover	Special Programs

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. To qualify, an eligible school district must adopt a five-year innovation plan according to the Texas Education Code.

Meadow ISD is utilizing HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session, in order to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows traditional public schools to have some of the same local flexibility that public charter schools have always been allowed. We feel this is an opportunity for our district to modify certain areas based upon the needs of our students and community.

Once approved by the Commissioner of Education, the Local School Board and the District of Innovation Committee, this plan will be in effect for the 2017-2018 school year through the 2021-2022 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with approval of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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JODY WOODARD, Secretary

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DARRIAN DOVER SUPERINTENDENT

STEVE REYNOLDS SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

K'RIN YOUNG ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



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Meadow ISD District of Innovation Timeline:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| May 8, 2017 | Public Hearing on District of Innovation held by the Board of Trustees |
| May 8, 2017 | Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to initiate the District of Innovation Plan |
| May 8, 2017 | Board of Trustees approved a District of Innovation Committee |
| May 9, 2017 | Commissioner notified by email of Resolution approve by the Meadow ISD Board of Trustees to pursue a District of Innovation Plan and designation |
| May 11, 2017 | District of Innovation Committee meeting to discuss plan |
| May 16, 2017 | District of Innovation Committee meeting to hold public hearing on finalized version of the plan |
| May 18, 2017 | Post District of Innovation Plan on Website for 30 Days |
| June 19, 2017 | Recommend the final District of Innovation plan to Board of Trustees |
| June 20, 2017 | Formally notify Texas Commissioner of Education of approved plan |
| July 20, 2017 | Update all policy changes with TASB |

Resolution

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER DESIGNATION AS DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

WHEREAS Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation As a district of innovation if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the district; and

WHEREAS the Meadow School District's most recent performance rating under Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of trustees of Meadow Independent School District by adoption of this resolution initiates the process under Education Code Chapter 12A to become a District of Innovation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after this resolution is signed by the Board, a public hearing shall be held within 30 days to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation and that within 30 days of public hearing the Board of Trustees of Meadow School District shall appoint an innovation plan committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designation as a district of innovation.

Adopted this 8th day of May, 2017, by the Board of Trustees.

Keith Harrison _____
President

Jody Woodard _____
Secretary

Meadow ISD District of Innovation Plan

First Day of Instruction

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC §25.0811, EB(LEGAL), EB(LOCAL) A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August. A district may not receive a waiver of this requirement.

Proposal:

This flexibility of a start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. This flexibility of the start date also offers the following opportunities:

- a) This will allow the first and second semesters to be somewhat equal in the number of days of instruction.
- b) Students participating in dual enrollment opportunities will work with balanced semesters, which align with our local colleges.
- c) An early start date permits students an additional week of instruction prior to state assessments in December
- d) This will allow the district time to provide proper remediation to students in summer school.
- e) Students will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts and staff will be able to attend summer school classes as well.
- f) This would allow an option to start school with a shorter week, easing the transition back to school for all students.

Length of School Day

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC §25.081 State law currently requires that all school days must be 420 minutes long each day in order to count for ADA calculations and funding purposes, and to accumulate instructional minutes towards the 75,600 minutes required annually.

Proposal:

Exemption from the 420-minute day requirement would allow Meadow ISD the flexibility needed to:

- a) alter the school day schedule on selected days whenever it was locally determined as necessary or beneficial to the district and its stakeholders. While there is a waiver process available to request exemption from this requirement, the waiver is limited to a 6-day maximum number for the school year.

- b) obtain an amount of local control over scheduling (above and beyond the 6-day maximum as needed) without the fear of diminishing state funding or losing credit for instructional time that might cause the district to fall out of compliance with annual minute requirements. Meadow ISD does not have any intentions to shorten the school day on a regular basis, or without specific purpose. To the greatest extent possible, "early release" days would be planned ahead of time and noted in the district calendar, which is approved by the Board of Trustees and published and distributed to stakeholders in advance of the school year and continuously published using school media. Meadow ISD will meet the minimum requirements of 75,600 total instructional minutes.

Teacher Probationary Contracts

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

Instructional Needs Exemption From: TEC §21.102(b), DCA(LLEGAL) TEC § 21.102(b) states that a probationary contract may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment with the district.

Proposal:

This period of time may not be sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to the availability of end-of-year classroom and student data. Probationary contracts for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment with the district may be extended for a second year including those employees with dual contracts. Procedure: The Superintendent will make contract recommendations to the Board of Trustees as per policy.

Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC 25.092 regulates the seat time for class credit.

Proposal:

With innovative ways for learners to learn with virtual classroom learning opportunities, we will need an exemption from the 90% "seat time" attendance rule as set forth in this code. This will lift barriers for learners who wish to engage in service learning opportunities and for learners to have time to pursue potential career passions.

Teacher Contract Days

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC 21.401 Minimum Service Required (teachers on 10 month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service) (DCB Legal and Local)

Proposal:

- a) Provide teachers more flexibility during summer months to seek out beneficial staff development that relates to their field
- b) Daily Rate will be consistent with a 187 Day calendar
- c) Improve teacher morale
- d) Enhance teacher recruitment

It will be part of the calendar planning process to reduce the number of teacher contract days, contract days will not exceed the 187 days but may be lessened based upon the needs of the district

Inter-District Transfers

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC 25.036 Districts transfers are for an entire school year. (FDA Local)

Proposal:

MISD would follow FDA Local policy requiring nonresident students to file a transfer application each school year.

- a. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history records, work habits, and attendance records will be evaluated.
- b. Transfer students are required to follow the attendance requirements, rules and regulations of the district.

- c. Transfer status may be revoked by the superintendent at any time during the school year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences such as suspension (in school or out of school), placement at the DAEP, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the student's transfer status.

Benefit:

- a. Allows MISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students, who on rare occasions, violate the transfer policy.
- b. Allows MISD to better utilize school resources for the benefit of the district.

CLASS SIZE WAIVER (KINDERGARTEN-4TH GRADE)

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC §25.112 Kindergarten-4th Grade classes are to be kept at a 22:1 student; teacher ratio according to state law.

Proposal:

While we certainly believe that small class size plays a positive role in the classroom, we do not believe it has a negative effect when you only add one or two more students. Many times it is not the number of the students but the makeup and chemistry of the classroom which influence the learning environment.

- a) Meadow ISD will attempt to keep all K-4th core classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. However, in the event the class size exceeds this ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.
- b) In the event a K-4th core classroom reaches 24:1, the campus will notify the parents of the students in the classroom and inform them of the situation.
- c) A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K-4th classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.
- d) This gives Meadow ISD the flexibility without having to file the waivers with the Texas Education Agency.

TEACHER APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Teacher's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

The state issued a new teacher appraisal system in the 2016-2017 school year, called the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) and the Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS) (TEC 21.203, 21.352, 21.3541, 150.1001)

Proposal:

Meadow ISD will continue to use a modified version of the T-TESS/T-PESS appraisal system with the exception of the provisions of the Texas Education Code 21.351 and 21.352, as they relate to student growth within teacher appraisal as clarified in the Texas Administrative Code 150.1001. The T-TESS instrument is robust enough without the addition of student achievement to the teacher evaluation. Administrators already take into account student achievement whether it is through retention rates, passing rates, STAAR, or other test measures.

Teacher Certification

ISD exemption from Texas Education Code 21.055, sections 21.003, 21.053, 21.044, 21.051, and 21.057

Proposal:

Teacher Certification Due to learners having the opportunity to personalize their graduation plans and earn endorsements in areas of study such as STEM, business and industry, public services, health sciences, there is a need for educators to have multiple certifications. It particularly becomes difficult to find educators who meet the certification specifications in order to teach classes in the health services area. The inability to find an appropriately certified and licensed educator occurred in our district in August 2016, and a course for the health sciences track had to be canceled as a result of not finding a qualified candidate. Flexibility in this area will assist the district in finding quality candidates to teach certain courses in order to avoid cancelling classes in the future. Additionally, the District is seeking flexibility in hiring professionals in certain vocations such as career and technical courses. The exemption from Texas Education Code 21.055(d.I) will enable the district to establish local criteria for such courses when hiring quality personnel. With the exemption, the district will not have to cancel classes learners are dependent upon in order to fulfill their certification and graduation requirements.