

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

2022-2027



Designed in accordance with Texas HB 1842

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, effective

immediately, that gives traditional school districts the following:

- Greater Local Control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students
- Increased Freedom and Flexibility with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming, and
- It will empower districts to be Innovative and Think Differently.

Meadow ISD District of Innovation Plan

2022-2027

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:

The 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.

CHAPTER 21 PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

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

Proposal:

Meadow ISD is seeking a two-year probationary period for all experienced teacher new to the district to:

- a. better evaluate the teacher/administrator's effectiveness in their role
- b. provide opportunities for professional growth as needed.

TEACHER CONTRACT DAYS

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

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

Proposal:

- a. Provide teacher 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 187 days but may be reduced based upon the needs of the district.

INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Student's Instructional Needs Exemption From:

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

Proposal:

Meadow ISD would allow FDA Local policy requiring non-resident 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 or out of school), placement in 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 Meadow ISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students who on rare occasions violate the transfer policy
- b. Allows Meadow ISD 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 sizes play a positive role in the classroom, we do not believe it has a negative effect when only a few students are added. It is not the number of students, but the makeup and chemistry of the classroom which influence the learning environment.

- a. Meadow ISD will attempt to keep all K-4 core classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. Should class size exceed this ratio the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.
- b. If a K-4 classroom reaches a 24:1 ratio, 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-4 classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.
- d. Meadow ISD will have flexibility without filing the waiver with the Texas Education Agency.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

ISD Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC 21.055, 21.003, 21.053, 21.051, and 21.057 Teacher Certification

Proposal:

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, and health sciences there is a need for educators to have multiple certifications. It is particularly difficult to find educators who meet the certification specification to teacher classes in the health sciences area. Flexibility in this area will assist the district in finding quality candidates to teacher certain courses. Additionally, Meadow ISD is seeking flexibility in hiring professionals in certain vocations to teach career and technical courses. The exemption will enable Meadow ISD to establish local criteria for such courses when hiring quality personnel. With the exemption, the district will not have to cancel lasses that learners are dependent upon to fulfill their certification and graduation requirements.

SCHOOL DISTRICT DEPOSITORY CONTRACTS

ISD Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC 45.205, 45.206 The depository for the district shall serve for a term of two years and until its successor is selected and has qualified. A district and its deposit bank may agree to extend the contract for two additional two-year terms. The district may extend a depository contract for three additional two-year terms. The contract term and any extension must coincide with the district's fiscal year.

Proposal:

- a. In a small district and a small town, the district's choices for its deposit bank are limited. Meadow ISD will continue to use the chosen depository for the district without re-bidding. At the end of each two-year term the district and its deposit bank may agree to extend the contract for multiple additional two-year periods. The district must review the contract to ensure the best value and support for the district and obtain Board approval for each of the two-year periods.
- b. Nothing in this process would hinder the district's ability to undertake bidding at the district depository bank at the end of any of the two-year periods. The district believes it can operate most optimally if it is not limited to two or even three additional two-year extensions of its depository contract and allow the Superintendent and Board of Trustees more time for planning for student progress, instructional strategies, and innovative options for the district's educational goals.

HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL & SITE BASED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE

ISD Instructional Needs Exemption From:

TEC 28.004, TEC 11.251 School districts are required to establish a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction and **must** meet 4 times a year. Districts are also required to establish a district/campus level committee to advise the Board of Trustees in establishing and reviewing the district's educational goals, programs, and staff professional development. This committee **must** meet 2 times per year.

Proposal:

- a. Meadow ISD seeks exemption from the site-based decision-making process and the convening of the SHAC and the many accompanying requirements falling under the governance of those two bodies. The statutory requirements set forth in the TEC in Chapter 11 are burdensome, time consuming, and ultimately causes a misdirection of resources from the primary focus of our school: the education of students.

Stakeholders will continue to be involved in the process, but one that meets the needs of the district, school, and community as opposed to the broad brush of statutory requirements leveled down from a one size fits all approach as detailed in the code.

- b. In place of the SBDM and SHAC, a **Superintendent's Advisory Committee (SAC)** will be established, meet, review, analyze, and respond to both qualitative and quantitative data regarding the district's success and most importantly, student's success. This council will convene two times per year and generate the general direction of the district's resources and efforts. Also, as a small 1A school district there are not many available stakeholders to be on the many committees and combining these two will be an effective and efficient use of staff and community member's time.

Local Innovation Strategy:

This will consolidate the number of meetings and the number of committees required by law and will better serve this school and community. This consolidation will yield greater opportunity for one council to address a multitude of needs and create solution/plans as opposed to having six separate meetings with a different focus.

District of Innovation Committee Members

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| Bric Turner, Superintendent | Mason Kyle, Sec. Principal |
| Veronica Gonzalez, PEIMS | Tabitha Coffman, Elem. Principal |
| Whitney Lamming, Elem. | Jonathan Alaniz, Sec. |
| Jody Woodard, School Board | Sandy Cruz, Support Staff |
| Maria Fraire, Community | Brandon Flores, Athletics |
| Gina Slover, Special Programs | Sherryll Barclay, Counselor |

Board of Trustees

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rusty Day, President | Ruben Villalpando, Member |
| Jody Woodard, Vice-President | Jim Ticer, Member |
| Daniel Harrington, Secretary | Christopher Castilleja, Member |
| Scott Caswell, Member | |