

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

2018-2019 - 2022-2023

Glasscock County ISD



Achieving Excellence Together

GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

2018-2023

INTRODUCTION

The 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1842 in the spring of 2015 providing public schools districts the opportunity to become Districts of Innovation. To qualify, an eligible school district must adopt a five-year innovation plan according to the Texas Education Code.

Glasscock County ISD is utilizing HB 1842 of the 84th legislature Session, in order to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to have some of the same local flexibility that public charter schools have always been allowed. We feel this is a great opportunity for our local district to tailor a plan based on the needs of our students and community.

Districts of Innovation may be exempt from state statutes to:

- Take greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students;
- Increase freedom and flexibility, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and
- Increase empowerment and encourage innovative thinking

This plan will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year through the 2022 – 2023 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with approval of the Board of Trustees.

Glasscock County ISD District of Innovation Timeline:

October 27th, 2017 – Initial Meeting with Administrative staff to discuss preliminary thoughts of District of Innovation process

October 31st, 2017 - Meeting with Administrative staff to further discuss thoughts and discuss possible members of the District of Innovation Committee

November 13th, 2017 - Board Meeting for Public hearing in order to review and discuss the possibility of the becoming District of Innovation. Board of Trustees considered approving a resolution to become a District of Innovation. Board of Trustees Approved members of District of Innovation

November 27th, 2017 – Informed the faculty/staff of the district intent to apply for District of Innovation status

November 29th, 2017 – Initial meeting of the District of Innovation Committee

December 4th, 2017 – sent District of Innovation plan via email and mail to T.E.A.

December 4th – 8th, 2017 – Campus faculty/staff meetings to preview District of Innovation plan

December 5th – January 5th - Post the District of Innovation Plan on the district website for 30 days

January 8th - Site Based Committee Meeting to vote on District of Innovation Plan

January 18th – Recommend final plan to Board of Trustees for approval

January 29th - Board of Trustees formally notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of approved plan

District of Innovation Planning Committee

<u>Members Name</u>	<u>District/Community</u>
Tom Weeaks	Superintendent
Wayland Pierce	High School Principal
Scott Bicknell	Elementary Principal
Stephanie Braden	Elementary Teacher
Perla Garcia	High School Teacher
Shelly Koenning	Jr. High Teacher
Laura Dieringer	District Teacher
Pricilla Nunez	Educational Aide
Amber Dutton	GCISD Parent
Carol Gully	GCISD Parent

Glasscock County ISD Board of Trustees

<u><i>Member Names</i></u>	<u><i>Board Position</i></u>
Doug Jost	President
Keith Braden	Vice-President
Jamie Walker	Secretary
Kristin Schwartz	Member
Tana Halfmann	Member
Alonzo Garcia	Member
Andy Wheeler	Member

Innovations

Glasscock County ISD, in conjunction with the District of Innovation Committee, prepossess the following flexibilities with the Texas Education Code to provide the best educational opportunities for the students at GCISD

First Day of Instruction

TEC 25.0811

Currently:

Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August

Innovation Strategy:

The flexibility to determine the school start date annually, will allow GCISD to meet the needs of our local community and district. This will allow GCISD to plan for balanced instructional time in each academic semester while supporting course curriculum

CLASS SIZE, NOTICE OF CLASS SIZE

TEC 25.112, TEC 25.113

Currently:

Requires districts to maintain a class size of 22:1 ratio for Elementary classrooms. Also requires districts notify parents of waiver filed for class size.

Innovation Strategy:

GCISD proposes to occasionally exceed the class size as the population in our rural district is unpredictable and often fluctuates slightly above and below this ratio. During occasions of exceeding the ratio, the district will forgo official parent notification.

Teacher Certification

TEC 21.003

Currently:

Requires districts to submit a request to the Texas Education Agency for permission to fill a position with personnel that does not hold corresponding certifications.

Innovation Strategy:

GCISD proposes to occasionally hire personnel exempted from certification requirements to fill positions within the district. This will provide the district the opportunity to expand course offerings in response to student interest and proficiency.

Early Release

TEC 25.082

Currently:

Requires that a school day shall be at least seven hours each day, including intermission and recesses.

Innovation Strategy:

GCISD proposes to have the flexibility to allow for early release days creating time for teacher professional development, collaborative planning, individualized student tutorial time, and additional time for student educational activities. Flexibility with early release schedules allows the district to accommodate these professional learning and student educational activities.

Minimum Service Required – Teacher Contract Days

TEC 21.401

Currently:

Requires districts to have: (a) a contract between a school district and an educator must be for a minimum of 10 month`s service, and (b) An educator employed under a 10-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Innovation Plan:

GCISD proposes to have the flexibility to decrease contract days from 187 to 184, and will maintain the flexibility to further decrease or increase the teacher contract days prior to each school year dependent upon each academic school calendar and district needs. Any decrease is not intended to have any effect on teacher annual compensation, though may result in an increase to a teacher`s daily rate of pay. This added flexibility allows the district to better align teacher contract days to the minute`s calendar.

Teacher contract days for the next year will be determined upon approval of the academic calendar by the school board.

Transfer Students

TEC 25.036(a)

Currently:

The statute has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of an entire school year. Flexibility with regard to transfer of students will allow the district to create an educational environment that is more conducive to learning. Flexibility allows revocation of a transfer agreement when the student exhibits conduct that disrupts the educational environment or warrants disciplinary action such as suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program, or expulsion. It allows revocation of a transfer agreement when the student exhibits attendance problems that impact the performance of the student or school district. Additionally, it allows an efficient way to remove barriers to the high-quality learning environment that other students deserve. Flexibility with regard to transfer of students allows the district to create a safer educational environment for the reasons noted above.

Innovation Strategy:

GCISD will be able to revoke transfers at any time during the school year.

Innovations (Board approved amendment on 4-13-2020)

Glasscock County ISD, in conjunction with the District of Innovation Committee, proposes the following additional flexibility with the Texas Education Code (“TEC”). With regard to the following additional area of an innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provision, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.

Group Health Benefits for School Employees

TEC 22.004(i)

GCISD CRD(LEGAL) and CRD(LOCAL)

Innovation Strategy:

Increased local control of the group health benefits plan to allow Glasscock County ISD to be responsive to employee and community needs.

