

# **Muleshoe Independent School District**

## **Local Innovation Plan**

### **Local Innovation Committee Members:**

Dani Heathington, Assistant Superintendent  
Darla Myatt, Special Ed. Director  
Steve Myatt, High School Principal  
Melvin Nusser, Jr. High School Principal  
Debbie Gallman, DeShazo Elementary Principal  
Letti Tovar, Dillman Elementary Principal  
Luis Pacheco, High School  
John Gulley, High School  
Carey Sudduth, High School  
Peggye Petersen, Jr. High  
Sally Messenger, Jr. High  
Grady Alberts, Jr. High  
Dora Diaz, Dillman Elementary  
Rose Arzola, Dillman Elementary  
Jennifer Burrus, Dillman Elementary  
Jeff Watts, DeShazo Elementary Sp. Ed Rep.  
Rebecca Sanchez, DeShazo Elementary  
Melissa York, DeShazo Elementary  
Eva Mendoza, Federal Programs Bilingual/FP Rep.  
Tisha Boehning, Parent  
Brittany Stearmer, Parent  
Rebecca Beall, Business  
Delton Wilhite, Business  
Eddie Alvarado, Citizen  
Jodi Vidana, Citizen  
R.L. Richards, Superintendent

### **Introduction**

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. On December 16, 2016, the Muleshoe Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a

Resolution to initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation in order to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

On December 16, 2016, the Board appointed the above listed Local Innovation Committee ("Committee") comprised of district patrons and staff. The Committee met on January 13, 2017 to discuss this Local Plan ("Plan").

## **Term**

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning March 1, 2017 and ending March 1, 2021, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board in accordance with the law. The Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the Plan.

## **Innovations**

The District proposes flexibility in the following areas:

### **School Calendar**

(TEC 25.0811) (TEC 25.0812) (EB LEGAL) (EB LOCAL)

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 states that a school district 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.

Muleshoe ISD has prioritized student instructional time in the calendar process. The district wishes flexibility on calendar development.

### **Teacher Certification**

(TEC 21.003) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA LOCAL)

Texas Education Code Section 21.003 states that "a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, education diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B." The current certification requirements inhibit the District's Ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM), Foreign Language, History, and English Language Arts courses. In order to provide more

students the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such courses in lieu of the requirements set forth in law. The District does not wish to be exempted from any existing laws relating to teacher contracts or teacher benefits. The District wishes flexibility to establish its own teacher certification requirements. Certifications from other states will be accepted and Texas Certification will be a condition of employment by the end of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) school year.

## **Implementation**

In order to offer students additional opportunities, this Innovation Plan has been created with guidelines in which the District will operate. Campuses and departments in the District may develop specific implementation plans. Adjustments to Board Policy will be adopted when appropriate.

**Local Innovation Committee and District Forum voted to approve the Innovation Plan on January 18, 2017.**

**The Muleshoe ISD Board of Trustees approved the Local District of Innovation Plan on March 27, 2017**