



**Introduction:**

The overall goal and mission of La Gloria ISD is to establish a tradition of excellence by providing engaging curriculum and instruction that encourages collaboration, communication, and critical thinking, by leading educational innovation in technology and facilities, and by fostering community partnerships that create a community of learners dedicated to promoting high expectations and achievement for all students.

House Bill 1842, Section 4, passed in the 84th Texas Legislature Session, provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. The plan allows school districts to modify state requirements at the local level to better meet the needs of the students served. As a District of Innovation, La Gloria ISD will be able to implement the Innovation Plan with the increased flexibility governing education programming, empowerment to innovate and think differently, and the freedom necessary to personalize learning while ensuring each student is prepared to assume the role of a productive citizen. Districts are not exempt from statutes related to curriculum, graduation requirements, nor academic and financial accountability.

<p><b><u>District of Innovation Committee Members:</u></b></p> <p>David Braswell, Superintendent Amy Sain, Teacher Luanna Perez, Teacher Chris Moralez, Secretary Claudia Medina, Community Member Mary Galindo, Parent</p>	<p><b><u>Innovation Plan Term:</u></b></p> <p>The term of the plan is for five years, beginning in August 2023 through the 2027-2028 school year, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the plan and recommend to the Board of Trustees any suggested modifications to the plan.</p>
---	--

**District of Innovation Timeline/Process:**

August 2023	Board Resolution, Public Hearing, Appoint Committee
July 21, 2023	Plan Posted on district website
August 29, 2023	School Board Votes to Approve Plan
August 31, 2023	Notify Commissioner
August 2023 until 2027-2028	Plan is implemented



---

**Start of School Year (TEC §25.0811)**

Under current Texas state law, “a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August”. TEC §25.0811

***Benefit of Exemption***

Beginning school earlier than the fourth Monday in August will create greater flexibility in the district calendar. By doing so LGISD seeks to improve the overall district attendance rate, improve student success on state and local assessments by balancing the amount of instructional time per semester, and to allow for greater opportunity for meaningful staff development throughout the school year. School start date is an item that the District should be able to determine locally and on an annual basis to determine what is best for our community.

***Innovation Strategy***

La Gloria ISD will determine on an annual basis the local starting date of the first semester. The superintendent will submit the annual calendar to the Board of Trustees for approval. The calendar must be approved by the school board and distributed to the staff and put on the district’s website. The District will continue to seek innovative instructional arrangements once provided this flexibility.

**Transfer of Student (TEC §25.036)**

Inter-District Transfers Currently, under Texas Education Code §25.036, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the District, but TEC §25.036, has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of one school year. TEC §25.036.

***Benefit of Exemption***

La Gloria ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (LOCAL) requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. 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 are also evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the district. TEC §25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one-year commitment by the district. The district is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. In rare circumstances, students' behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school) or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall



---

below the TEA truancy standard. In these rare cases, La Gloria ISD would benefit from an exemption from the one-year transfer commitment.

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Non-resident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfer students at La Gloria ISD may have such transfer status revoked by the superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension (in or out of school) or expulsion. In addition, if the availability of space, instructional staff, and availability of programs and services become an issue, a student's transfer status may be revoked. Also, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the transfer status. The district is seeking exemption from the one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants and to allow the district to rescind a transfer at any time during the school year.

### **Teacher Certification (TEC §21.003, §21.053, and §21.057)**

**\*\*\*This exemption was approved by La Gloria School Board Members August 29, 2023 and took effect on August 29, 2023.\*\*\***

State law states that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or teacher teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must request emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and/or State Board of Educator Certification.

### ***Benefit of Exemption***

The exemption will allow flexibility to add coherent sequences using local practitioners and business people as instructors. In addition, in emergency situations, this gives the District an opportunity to hire someone with knowledge, expertise in those specific areas, which can be beneficial to La Gloria students.

### ***Innovation Strategy***

La Gloria ISD will maintain its current expectation for employee certification and will make every attempt to hire individuals with appropriate certification for the position in question; however, where that is not possible, the District will have the flexibility to hire individuals who have the knowledge or life experiences in the area and is able to perform the duties assigned to that position. Additionally, the district will have the flexibility to waive certification requirements and substitute either work related experiences such as Industry Certifications or 2-Year Degrees for CTE staff.

**LA GLORIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN**



---

The campus principal must specify the reason for the request and list any life experiences or credentials that applicant possesses that would qualify that individual to teach the proposed subject. Any non-certified applicant in core content areas must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree.