

Ezzell ISD

District of Innovation Plan

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in Spring 2015. This bill affords districts the opportunity to be designated as a District of Innovation. This designation grants access to flexibilities for greater local control, which means our district can tailor a plan best suited for our Ezzell staff, students and community. This renewal plan will take effect starting with the 2022-23 school year and continue through the 2026-27 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Innovation Committee Members

Lisa Berckenhoff	Superintendent	Aaron Pohl	Principal
Janetta Siecko	JH Teacher	Ted Goranson	Board Member
Melanie Hartt	Elementary Teacher	Angela Hartmann	Board Member
Emily Siegel	Elementary Teacher	Janet Danysh	Parent
Miranda Henke	Paraprofessional	Tracy Elizondo	Parent
Jackie Goranson	Business Manager	Jodi Williams	Parent

District of Innovation Timeline

July 8, 2022	Post proposed plan on district's website for 30 days
July 22, 2022	Notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board's intention to vote on adoption of proposed plan
August 9, 2022	Innovation Committee presents plan in a public hearing
August 9, 2022	Board of Trustees formally approve the District of Innovation Plan
August 10, 2022	Formal notification to Texas Commissioner of Education that plan has been adopted

1. School Start Date (TEC 25.0811)

Currently

Districts may not begin instruction for students before the 4th Monday of August.

Proposed

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our district, we would annually determine the start date. This would allow us to balance the number of days in each semester and provide more instructional days before the state assessment.

2. Teacher Certification (TEC 21.003)

Currently

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency and provide notification to parents of each student assigned to a classroom taught by a non-certified teacher. This system is complicated and does not take into account the unique financial and/or instructional needs of the district, especially for innovative classes where certification may not exist or educators with those credentials may not be readily available.

Proposed

In order to best serve Ezell students, decisions on certification requirements will be handled locally. This exemption will allow the district flexibility to hire non-certified yet highly qualified professionals to teach OR a certified educator to teach a subject in a related field for which she/he is not credentialed by the state.

3. Teacher Contract Days (TEC 21.401)

Currently

Texas Education Code 21.401 currently requires a contract between the District and an educator to be for a minimum of 10 months. An educator under a 10 month contract must provide 187 days of service.

Proposed

This proposal would allow the district to reduce the required days of service by two to five days. Depending on the adopted calendar and number of instructional days, teachers may be on contract from 182 to 185 days. This is an attempt to provide flexibility to better align teacher service days to instructional days.

This proposal would also:

- Increase the teacher daily rate
- Enhance teacher recruitment
- Improve teacher morale