

Yantis ISD

District of Innovation Plan (HB1842)

2017- 2018

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1842 passed in the 84th Texas Legislative Session, provides an opportunity for Texas public school districts to be designated as Districts of Innovation. This designation allows districts flexibility to exempt certain state requirements at the local level to better meet the needs of their unique student population. As a District of Innovation, Yantis ISD intends to utilize the opportunity to enact a high degree of local control over policies and procedures to best meet the needs of our students, employees, and community.

PROCESS

On March 19, 2018, the Yantis ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution to explore/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.

On March 19, 2018 the Yantis ISD Board of Trustees held a public hearing for public discussions on whether the district should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as a District of Innovation. There were no objections coming from the hearing, the Board of Trustees appointed the Site Based Decision Making Team to discuss and draft a local innovation plan. Yantis ISD Board of Trustees will consider the plan at its meeting in June 2018.

The plan will be posted on the district website for 30 days before being presented to the SBDM team on June, 2018. Yantis ISD will notify the Commissioner of Education of the District's final District of Innovation Plan. The finalized plan will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval on June, 2018.

TERM

The District of Innovation Plan will become effective in June 2018 for the 2017-2018 school year and will remain in effect for five years, through May 2023

, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The SBDM Team will monitor the effectiveness of the plan and recommend to the Board of Trustees any suggested modifications.

TIMELINE

February, 2018	Introduced the idea of becoming District of Innovation
March 19, 2018	Board of Trustees passed a resolution to initiate District of Innovation
April 11, 2018	Initial meeting of SBDM Team to discuss District of Innovation Plan
April 17, 2018	Meeting of SBDM Team to finalize District of Innovation Plan
April 18, 2018	Post District of Innovation Plan on Yantis ISD website
April 18, 2018	Plan submitted to the Commissioner of Education
May 21, 2018	SBDM Team will hold meeting to finalize plan
June 11, 2018	Board of Trustees vote on District of Innovation Plan
June 12, 2018	Update all policy changes with TASB (if plan is approved by board).

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Donna Yarbrough	Teacher
Christy Simmerman	Teacher
Christie Quinn	Teacher
Sheila Aaron	Teacher
Cyndi Hassell	Teacher
Kendra Fisher	Teacher
Kendra Fisher	Teacher
Angela Gamblin	Teacher
Lindsey Chamness	Teacher
Jennifer Rodriguez	Non- Teaching
Felicia Williams	Parent
Fran Stapleton	Parent
Buddy Winstead	Secondary Principal
Tracey Helfferich	Superintendent

School Start Date – Flexible Calendar

Exempt from: TEC 25.0811

Relevant Board Policy: EB LEGAL

CURRENT

A school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August, unless the school operates year-round.

PROPOSED

Flexibility of start date would allow the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. An early start date permits students an additional week of instruction prior to the state assessment and creates a more balanced instructional calendar within the two semesters. It would also allow us to end school prior to June.

Inter- District Transfers

Exemptions from TEC 25.036

Related Board Policy: FDA Local

CURRENT

According to Texas Education Code, 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.

PROPOSED

Yantis ISD maintains a transfer policy requiring non-resident students wishing to attend YISD to file an application each school year. In approving transfer requests the district takes into account the availability of space, instructional staff, the students' disciplinary history and attendance records. Yantis ISD seeks the ability to revoke transfer status at any time during the year for non-resident students who have been assigned discipline consequences of suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting

the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of transfer status.

Teacher Certification Requirements

Exemption from: TEC 21.003, 21.057

Related Board Policy: DBA Legal

Currently

The Texas Education Code states a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person hold an appropriate certificate or permit. The Education Code also requires districts to provide written notice to parents when an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year.

Proposed

In order to best serve Yantis ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. An exemption from teacher certification requirements will enable greater flexibility in staffing and utilizing current teachers in an area outside their initial certification and will enrich applicant pools in specific areas of need. The district will have flexibility in hiring hard to fill positions, the ability to hire experts in their field and the capability to hire those with industry expertise as they are pursuing areas of certification. The Board of Trustees will be notified of any teachers with classroom assignments that are in an uncertified status.