



District of Innovation Plan

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the Texas Legislative Session in spring 2015. This bill provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities a school district must adopt a District of Innovation Plan. Districts of Innovation provides opportunities for:

- Greater local control;
- Increased flexibility governing education programming; and
- Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes related to curriculum, graduation requirements, nor academic and financial accountability.

Timeline	
3/21/2017	Board Overview Adopted Resolution
4/17/2017	Public Hearing to gather input on the District of Innovation opportunity.
4/4/2017	District Committee held an information meeting
4/13/2017	District Committee met to discuss what items to consider.
5/1/2017	Etoile ISD Site-Based Decision-Making Committee met. The District of Innovation Plan was discussed and those in attendance were in favor of it.
5/10/2017	District Committee met to finalize the District of Innovation Plan.
5/15/2017	The District of Innovation Plan posted to the district website.
5/16/2017	Board of Trustees were updated on the District Plan of Innovation
6/22/2017	Etoile ISD intends to approve and adopt the plan.
7/18/2017	The Etoile ISD Board of Trustees will vote to approve and adopt the plan.

District Committee Members:

Christie Cupit
Larry Cupit
Sarah Hottman
Rose Pate
Carrie Tibbetts

Term:

The term of the Plan is for **five** years, beginning August 1, 2017 and ending August 1, 2022, unless terminated by the Board of Trustees or amended by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law.

Flexible Calendar (TEC 25.0811)

Currently: Student may not begin school before the 4th Monday in August.

Proposed: To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, we would like to consider a flexible calendar option which may include an early start date.

Teacher Certification (TEC 21.003)

Currently: A person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

Proposed: This statutory certification requirement limit's the District's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) and STEM courses. With this exemption, the District could recruit teachers from the field, including individuals from certain trades or vocations with industry knowledge and real world experience and/or community college instructors to offer dual credit and career preparation opportunities within the CTE courses.