



Collinsville Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan

The District of Innovation concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open-enrollment charter schools.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- Local Control
- Customization
- Autonomy
- Flexibility

Committee Members

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|---|
| 1 | Mark | Dykes | Superintendent |
| 2 | Misty | Ward | Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs |
| 3 | Danny | David | Athletic Director |
| 4 | David | Johnson | Collinsville High School Principal |
| 5 | Ken | Kemp | Collinsville Elementary Principal |
| 6 | Drew | Fornier | Band Director |
| 7 | Melissa | Baggs | District Counselor |
| 8 | Carrie | Crane | School Board President |
| 9 | Lori | Durden | PEIMS Director |
| 10 | Christina | Ragsdale | Elementary Teacher |
| 11 | Joe | Woody | Elementary Teacher |
| 12 | Erin | Patterson | Secondary Teacher |
| 13 | Kacy | Patterson | Secondary Teacher |
| 14 | Amber | Hammer | Elementary Parent |
| 16 | Jessica | Claytor | Secondary Parent |
| 17 | Rebecca | Fields | Secondary Parent |
| 18 | Dawn | Weaver | Community Representative |
| 20 | Shannon | Flanery | Secondary Teacher |

Areas of Focus

Calendar - TEC 25.0811

Currently, students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. The school year will begin on August 28 for the 2017-2018 school year. The proposal would look at options for allowing an earlier start date and a calendar that best fits the needs of Collinsville ISD.

Teacher Certification - TEC 21.003

As a small school district, it is sometimes difficult to find qualified applicants for certified fields. 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 TEA. TEA then approves or denies this request. The proposal would look at options to allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of their certified field as well as options for individuals with industry experience in a CTE field to be eligible to teach vocational courses.

Probationary Contracts – TEC 21.102

For experienced teachers new to the district, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous years. A one-year probationary period is not a sufficient amount of time to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom. Currently, contracts for Collinsville ISD employees occur in March, which demands that employment decisions must be made with very little time for evaluating teacher effectiveness and prior to state assessment results.

Teacher Contract Days (Minimum Service Required) – TEC 21.401

Current education law in Chapter 21 defines a teacher contract as a 10-month contract equivalent to 187 days. The proposal would reduce teacher contract days from 187 to a decreased length with no effect on teacher salaries. The proposal would be an attempt to better align the teacher days, to the minutes per day required of students.

Class Size - TEC 25.112 & 25.113

K-4th grade classes are required to have a 22:1 ratio. When class sizes exceed this number, TEA requires a waiver. The proposal would look to keep class sizes below 22:1 but would streamline processes for when a specific class went over 22 by one or two students.

Time Line for District of Innovation

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

- Initial Meeting with administrative staff to discuss preliminary thoughts and discuss possible members of the District of Innovation Committee

Monday, December 12, 2016

- Initial discussion with Board of Trustees to discuss what being a District of Innovation would entail and how it could give our district some local control in regards to the areas outlined by the Texas Education Agency

Monday, January 16, 2017

- Special Board Meeting
 - Board of Trustees approve resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation
- Public Hearing
 - Public hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation
- Regular Meeting
 - Approve a motion to pursue local “District of Innovation” plan
 - Board of Trustees approve the members of the District of Innovation Committee

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – Elementary School Library 4:00 pm

- Initial Meeting with District of Innovation Committee

Thursday, January 19, 2017 – Secondary Library at 12:06 pm and 12:36 pm

- Meeting with Secondary staff to discuss District of Innovation

Thursday, January 19, 2017 – Elementary Library at 3:40 pm

- Meeting with Elementary staff to discuss District of Innovation

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – Elementary School Library 4:00 pm

- Second meeting with District of Innovation Committee

Thursday, January 26, 2017

- Post the District of Innovation plan online for 30 days

Friday, February 24, 2017

- Notify Commissioner of Education of the Board’s intent to vote on adoption of proposed plan

Monday, March 20, 2017

- Regular Board Meeting
 - Approve the District of Innovation plan

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

- Update all policy changes with TASB