

Turkey-Quitaque ISD
District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)
April 11, 2022 - April 11, 2027
“Achieving Excellence Together”

District of Innovation Planning Committee

Jackie Jenkins - Superintendent

Brandon Smith – Principal

Rosa Villarreal – Paraprofessional, Migrant, ESL

Aaron Green – JH Teacher/Coach/Parent

Jeremy Taylor – HS Teacher/Parent

Paula Phillips – Community Member

Shadi Buchanan – HS Teacher/Technology

Laura Davidson – Community Member

Stuart Smith – Teacher/SPED

Sylvia Castillo – ELEM Paraprofessional

Turkey-Quitaque ISD Board of Trustees

Chris Tucker – President

Neal Edwards – Vice President

Jodi Cruse – Secretary

JC Pigg

Kirk Saul

Shad Schlueter

Fidel Valdes

House Bill (HB) 1842 was passed during the 84th Legislative Session to provide districts with the opportunity for increased local control by allowing a legal path for exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Codes. By declaring exemptions from TEC provisions, a district will become a designated District of Innovation. In accordance with 19 TAC 102.1303, the adoption of this District of Innovation plan seeks to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community. The plan will remain in effect for the next 5 years (2022-2027).

School Start Date/Last Day of School

(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)(Ed. Code 25.0812)

Current Law

Students are prohibited from starting school before the 4th Monday of August. For years, school start date was a local decision. Once legislation moved to set a uniform start date, district could file a waiver through TEA for a few years to start earlier.

The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this local control stopped because they believed it was hurting their tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and mandated that districts may not begin school prior to the 4th Monday of August.

In Section 25.0812, the last day of school may not occur before May 15.

Plan

To meet local and community needs, this plan would allow a more balanced number of instructional days per semester and use more instructional prior to the state assessments given in early May. With minute requirement at 75,600 and the state assessment given in early May, it might be possible to finish the school year prior to May 15.

- a. Students will start school no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.
- b. Teachers will report for duty no earlier than the 1st Monday of August.

Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT)(Ed. Code 21.003)(Ed. Code 21.055)(Ed. Code 21.056)

Current Law

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. TEA then approves or denies this request. In certain circumstances, a district can use a local one-year permit.

Plan

In order to best serve TQISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally.

- a. The principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach subject(s) out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses in which would qualify this individual to teach this subject.
- b. An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all the individual's credentials. The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual could be an asset to students. The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will be at-will.
- c. This plan will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

School Health Advisory Council

(BFDLEGAL, (Ed. Code 28.004)

Current Law

A board shall establish a local school health advisory council (SHAC) to assist a district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction. The SHAC shall meet at least four times each year.

Plan

The SHAC shall meet at least one time each year and jointly with SBDM as needed.

As a small school district, council members are intimately aware of the needs of District and District students. We believe that one meeting and joint meetings with SBDM as needed should be sufficient to review and revise the District's Wellness Plan and develop annual report. The SHAC will meet more often than the one required meeting throughout the year if needed.

Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs

(Ed. Code 37.008)

Current Law

TEC 37.008 states that each school district shall provide a disciplinary alternative education program that: (7) employs only teachers who meet all certification requirements established under Subchapter B, Chapter 21

Plan

Turkey-Quitauque ISD seldom needs the existence of a DAEP and it is a usually short term requirement since a very limited number of students are assigned to DAEP. Since most of the classes will be provided using computer/Chromebook based instruction, it is not necessary to have certified teachers monitoring DAEP. The Campus administrator will ensure that the staff of the DAEP has the support necessary to properly supervise the students assigned to the program and will lend assistance of teachers with specific certifications as needed.

Inter-District Transfers

(FDA(LOCAL), TEC 25.036)

Current Law

TEC 25.036 states that inter-district transfers are for an entire school year.

Plan

Turkey-Quitauque ISD would follow FDA(LOCAL) policy requiring nonresident students to file a transfer application each school year:

- a. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary record, academic record, attendance record, work habits and character will be evaluated.
- b. Transfer students are required to follow the attendance requirements, as well as rules and regulations of the district.
- c. Transfer status may be revoked by the superintendent at any time during the school year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to, suspension in or out of school, placement in DAEP or expulsion for serious and/or pervasive and persistent misbehavior in violation of the student code of conduct. In addition, students not meeting the state's attendance standards may also be subject to immediate revocation of the student's transfer status.

This will allow Turkey-Quitauque ISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students, who on rare occasions, violate the transfer policy. It will also allow Valley ISD to better utilize school resources and personnel for the benefit of the district.

Class Size Ratios

(EEB(LEGAL); TEC 25.111; TEC 25.112; TEC 25.113)

Current Law

TEX 25.111 states that each school district must employ a sufficient number of teachers certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to maintain an average ratio of not less than one teacher for each 22 students in average daily attendance. TEC 25.112 states a school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a Kindergarten through 4th grade classroom. TEC 25.113 states that a

campus or district that that is granted a waiver exception under Section 25.112 from class size limits shall provide written notice of the exception to the parent or person standing in parental relation to each student affected by the exception.

Plan

Turkey-Quitaque ISD is a small school with one classroom per grade level at the elementary level. We firmly believe that small class size is a vital part of maximizing student success, and the district seeks to establish its own local ratio requirements. Turkey-Quitaque ISD will continue to strive to maintain class ratios below the 22-1 threshold. Turkey-Quitaque ISD will only use this exemption when all other options have been exhausted.

- a. If a K-4 classroom exceeds the 22-1 ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.
- b. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K-4 classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.

Renewal Term

On November 8, 2021, Turkey-Quitaque ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution to begin the renewal process of the current District of Innovation Plan (2017-2022). The term of this Renewal Plan will start April 11, 2022 and will end in five years on April 11, 2027, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board in accordance with TEC 12A.006 and 12A.008. The Committee will annually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modification to the Plan on or before July 15 of each year implementation.

Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307(d)

Innovation District

Please submit, on district letterhead, a letter to the commissioner of education stating the date that the board of trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District.

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- 1) Innovative Curriculum
- 2) Instructional Methods
- 3) Community Participation
- 4) Governance of Campuses
- 5) Parental Involvement
- 6) Modifications to the school day or year
- 7) Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding
- 8) Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law;
and
- 9) Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.

A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan. Please use the form below to check the statutes specifically identified in your district's local innovation plan as inhibiting a goal of the plan. Checking a specific statute does not necessarily indicate eligibility for an exemption from all subsections of the statute. The local innovation plan controls with regard to the specific exemptions adopted by a district. The form below provides a reporting mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirements of the statute. Entire sections of code may not be eligible for exemption and each district should consult its legal counsel in developing its innovation plan.

Exemptions claimed for an Innovation District apply only to the specific provision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) cited, which may or may not be governed by a separate legal requirement. The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement. Each district should consult its legal counsel to ensure adoption of necessary local policies to ensure compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Turkey-Quitauque ISD
District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)
April 11, 2022 – April 11, 2027

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 was passed in order to provide more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to utilize the exemptions of Education Law that charter schools currently are entitled to. We feel this is a great opportunity for our local district to create a plan based on the needs of our students, staff and community that will remain in effect for the next five years (2022-2027)

Timeline of Actions to Meet Requirements
April 11, 2022 – April 11, 2027

Monday – Nov. 8, 2021 – Public meeting to discuss Renewal of TQISD District of Innovation Plan

Friday – Nov. 19, 2021 – Notified TEA of intent to renew current DOI Plan

Monday – December 6, 2021 – District of Innovation Advisory Committee met to review current DOI Plan and discuss potential revisions to the current plan

Monday – December 13, 2021 – (12:30 PM in Davidson Auditorium) – Opportunity for Public Comments for the proposed District of Innovation Renewal

Thursday – January 13, 2022 –

- Public meeting to discuss proposed District of Innovation Plan.
- DOI advisory council unanimously votes to approve the proposed DOI plan
- DOI advisory council votes to present proposed plan to the TQISD Board of Trustees

Friday – January 19, 2022 – Proposed TQISD DOI plan placed on district website
<https://www.valleypatriots.com>

Monday – February 14, 2022 – Board of Trustees First Reading of TQISD DOI Plan

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of exemptions.

Term of Plan: April 11, 2022--April 11, 2027

Plan applies to:

- Entire District: Turkey-Quitauque ISD
- Campus (list) _____
- Other (please describe) _____

Chapter 11 – School Districts

Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts

- §11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board
- §11.162 School Uniforms

Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making

- §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process
- §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making
- §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making
- §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

Chapter 21 – Educators

Subchapter A – General Provisions

- §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts
- §21.003 Certification Required
- §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

Subchapter B – Certification of Educators

- §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.
- §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- §21.055 (School District Teacher Permit)
- §21.056 (Additional Certification)
- §21.057 Parental Notification

Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts

Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts

Subchapter E – Term Contracts

Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives

- §21.352 Local Role
- §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance
- §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators
- §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

- §21.401 Minimum Service Required
- §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- §21.4021 Furloughs
- §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
- §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule
- §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
- §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
- §21.415 Employment Contracts
- Subchapter J – Staff Development**
- §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
- §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
- §21.458 Mentors

Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers

Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits

- §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

- §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- §25.0812 Last Day of School
- §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size

- §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- §25.112 Class Size

- §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size

Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order

Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management

- §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- §37.002 Removal by Teacher Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts
- §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- §44.043 Right To Work
- §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions

- §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- §44.903 Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs in Instructional Facilities
- §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

Chapter 45 – School District Funds

Subchapter G – School District Depositories

- §45.205 Term of Contract
- §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- §45.207 Award of Contract
- §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- §45.209 Investment of District Funds

Other

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan

- 28.004 Local School Health Advisory Council
- 37.008 Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs
- 25.036 Inter-District Transfers