

**Groveton ISD
DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN
(Adopted) June 19, 2017**



Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th 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

District Innovation Team

Don Hamilton – Superintendent
Todd Moore- Assistant Superintendent
Bryan Finch- HS / JH Principal
Phil Gersbach- Elementary Principal
Jim Dillard – HS / JH Assistant Principal
Dorothy Kennedy- Counselor

Exemptions:

Teacher Employment Contracts (TEC §21.102)

Currently:

For experienced teachers hired new into 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 eight years.

Plan:

A one-year probationary period is not always sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom because teacher contract renewal timelines demand that employment decisions be made prior to the end of the current school year. For experienced teachers, counselors, or nurses new to the district that have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years.

Certification Required (TEC§ 21.003)

Currently:

TEC 21.003 says that 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.

Plan:

To allow the District the ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education 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. **Special education and bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified and are not exempt from certification requirements.**

First Day of Instruction (TEC §25.0811)

Currently:

TEC25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August.

Plan:

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

- Students may begin earlier than the fourth Monday of August. This earlier start date will allow a better balance between the two semesters, more instructional days prior to mandatory testing, and a school end date that will allow for adequate time to make preparations for summer remediation programs.

Timeline

Resolution to the Board of Trustees	April 17,2017
Committee Meeting Review and Revise Plan	April 18, 2017
Resolution to notify Commissioner	April 18, 2017
Proposed Plan Posted	April 18, 2017
District of Innovation Board Update	May 15, 2017
Board Approval of Plan	June 19, 2017 (Passed)