



Godley ISD

District of Innovation Plan 2016-17

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842 that allows school districts greater local control and flexibility regarding certain state-level regulations in an effort to utilize the designation to better serve students.

The proposed plan, once adopted, will remain in effect for the next five years (2016-20). The plan may be amended at any time by the District of Innovation Committee with the approval of the school board.

District Innovation Committee

Jeanne Cobb	Administration	Kim Gissell	Intermediate
Bryan Myres	Administration	David Williams	Middle School
Karen Spottswood	Administration	Tom Frazier	Middle School
Cheryl Villanueva	Administration	Leigh Brown	High School
Mindi Reynolds	Elementary	Shonda Christenson	High School
Michelle Bell	Elementary	Nicole Lowe	High School
Ben Causey	Elementary	Loretta Marable	Parent
Jason Karnes	Intermediate	Dora Narvaiz	Parent
Kasie Welborn	Intermediate	Jennifer Miller	Parent
Nicole Reuter	Intermediate	Sonda McLellan	Community

Keri Grimsley	Intermediate	Cheri Littlejohn	Community
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Statutes under considerations at this time include:

School Start Date

(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION. (a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Proposed

Godley ISD would like to have the freedom to develop a calendar that better fits the needs of the community should the committee choose to. Having greater flexibility in this area would allow the District Committee to better balance the first and second semesters and provide more instructional days prior to state testing.

School Day Interruptions

(EC Local) (Ed. Code 25.083)

SCHOOL DAY INTERRUPTIONS. (a) The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting interruptions of classes during the school day for nonacademic activities such as announcements to once during the school day except in the case of an emergency.

Proposed

Godley ISD would like to have the freedom to make announcements as needed during picture days and other days that are not routine for greater efficiency.

Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

(FEC Legal & Local) (Ed. Code 25.092)

MINIMUM ATTENDANCE. (a) Except as provided by this section, a student in any grade from k-12 may not be given credit unless the student is in attendance for at least 90% of the days the class is offered.

Proposed

Godley ISD would like to have the freedom to make course credit decisions on a case-by-case basis, for example, in such an instance where a student is involved in numerous UIL academic, athletics

and Ag competitions, the Campus Attendance Committee would consider students' grades, absences, and all pertinent information and make a decision.

Appraisals and Incentives

(DNA Legal & Local) (Ed. Code 21.352)

LOCAL ROLE. (c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, appraisal must be done at least once during each school year.

Proposed

Considering the comprehensive nature of the newly adopted Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS), Godley ISD would like to have the freedom to develop a local plan and schedule regarding teacher evaluations.

Teacher Employment Contracts

(DCB Legal)

Education Code Chapter 21 Teacher Contracts defines a teacher contract as a ten month contract equivalent to 187 days.

Proposed

Godley ISD would like to have the freedom to consider the reduction in contract days to better align with the 75,600 minutes required of students.

Certification Required

(DK Legal) (Ed. Code 21.003)

CERTIFICATION REQUIRED. (a) A person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.

Proposed

Godley ISD would like to make decisions regarding certifications locally and based on the needs of the campus and students. In the event that the district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, GISD would like to be afforded the flexibility to consider entering into at-will employment agreements with noncertified individuals that have field experience in a CTE field or a vocational skill that would provide more options for students and flexibility in scheduling.

District of Innovation Timeline

- January 18, 2016 School Board Meeting
GISD Board of Trustees voted to adopt a Resolution to explore the designation of a District of Innovation
- January 20, 2016 District Improvement Committee Meeting
Districts of Innovation was an agenda item and discussed with the committee. The Committee agreed that this is definitely an idea worth exploring.
- January - March 2016 Window for Districts of Innovation to be discussed during all campuses at staff meetings
- February 29, 2016 Innovation Night at Godley High School
Districts of Innovation was an agenda item discussed with public.
- May 16, 2016 ESC Region 11 Instructional Leaders' Meeting
Mark Baxter with TEA presented a PowerPoint presentation to explain the process and guidelines regarding Districts of Innovation.
- May 23, 2016 GISD Districts of Innovation Steering Committee Meeting
Steering committee met and discussed probable statutes and process involved in writing a plan.
- June 27, 2016 School Board Meeting
Board of Trustees appointed a Districts of Innovation Committee to develop a plan.
- July 14, 2016 Districts of Innovation Committee Meeting
The appointed Committee met and drafted a plan to present to the Board of Trustees.
- July 21, 2016 School Board Meeting
GISD proposed Districts of Innovation plan was presented to the Board and date was set for the public meeting prior to a special board meeting on August 9, 2016.
- August 9, 2016 Public Hearing 6:15 pm
GISD Districts of Innovation plan discussed and available for public comment
- August 10, 2016 GISD District of Innovation Plan posted on GISD Website for 30 day period
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