

District of Innovation

January 18, 2017

3:45- 5:45 pm

Board Room



AGENDA

- I. District of Innovation Overview & Timeline Presentation
 - II. Explore Districts of Innovation Plans
 - A. [Canton ISD](#)
 - B. [Slidell ISD](#)
 - III. EBISD Options for the Plan
 - A. Adjust School Start and End Date
 - B. Teacher Certification Options
 - C. Student to Teacher Ratio grades, K-4
 - IV. Discussion, 1st Draft of Plan
 - V. Adjourn
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Data & Information

- A. Calendar- Adjust School Start and End Date, Need for local control
(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

Currently Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. For many years this was the rule, however, districts had the option of applying for a waiver to start earlier. The vast majority of districts applied for the waiver and would begin the 3rd Monday, some

even going as early as the 2nd Monday. The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped because they believed it was hurting their tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that districts may not begin until the 4th Monday, with no exceptions.

As the dates fall for 17-18, 1st day of school will be August 28th.

So what?

Later start equals no semester break in December--not enough time to get 3 six weeks grading periods in

Later start equals June 1st graduation date

Later start allows for staff development and holidays similar to 16-17 school calendar

School year must be 75,600 minutes (In EB we have 440 minutes per day, and 5 early release days are counted as 440 minutes)

Teachers must still work 187 days

Students cannot be released before May 15th

Proposal: To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, we would like to consider moving the mandatory start date back one week which would better benefit our students.

- a. Students will begin no earlier than the 3rd Monday of August.
- b. Teachers will begin no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.
- c. This will allow the first and second semesters to be closer in the number of days of instruction.
- d. The goal is to improve the district attendance rate and student success through the flexibility in the calendar.
- E. Allow students to complete semester requirements prior to Christmas break for better student performance

B. Certification - General (TEC §21.003a) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA Local)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

TEC 21.003(a) states a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school

counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.

Innovation Strategies

1. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach one subject in a related field for which he/she is not certified. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment should also be noted.

2. The current certification requirement severely limits the district's options to hire professionals with work related experience or degrees to teach a variety of courses from CTE and STEM related courses along with other required courses needed throughout the district. In order to maximum the opportunities for students to take such courses, the district will consider the qualifications necessary to create a local requirement for these courses instead of the requirements set forth in TEC 21.003(a). This exemption will allow the district to:
 - a. Consider part time professionals to teach courses
 - b. Opportunity for professionals to transition from other work related jobs to the teaching profession.
 - c. Increase the number of CTE and STEM type courses available.
 - d. Grant trade related professionals the ability to teach related courses.

3. The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignment.

4. A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.

C. Student to Teacher Ratio, Kinder- 4th

Submitting waivers for Kindergarten – Grade 4 class size (EEB LEGAL)
(Ed. Code 25.111) (Ed. Code 25.112) (Ed. Code 25.113)

Currently Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes are to be kept at a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. These waivers are never rejected by TEA. This is a bureaucratic step that serves no purpose. Along with the waiver, it is required that a letter is sent home to each parent in the section that exceeds the 22:1 ratio, informing them the

waiver has been submitted. Many times soon after the waiver is submitted, students move out of the district and we are below the 22:1 ratio.

Proposal: While we certainly believe that small class size plays a positive role in the classroom, there are times when adding another teacher is not feasible such as mid-year due to increased enrollment, classroom availability, etc.

a. EBISD will attempt to keep all K-4th core classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. However, in the event the class size exceeds this ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.

b. In the event a K-4th core classroom reaches 25:1, the campus will notify the parents of the students in the classroom and work to reduce the ratio as soon as fiscally possible.

c. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K-4 th classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.

d. This gives EBISD the flexibility without having the bureaucracy of waivers within the Texas Education Agency.