Perryton ISD
District of Innovation Plan

PISD Mission Statement
Our resolve is to integrate students, teachers, parents and community in a highly motivated, positive learning process. It is our intent to involve all cultures, to increase opportunities for parental involvement through constant communication of student progress, reward strong character and positive attitude, and celebrate academic achievement. Consequently, students will be motivated to make informed, responsible choices and become life-long learners and productive members of society.

PISD Vision Statement
So that: With the support system composed of parents/community/teachers, students will be motivated to make informed, responsible choices, become life-long learners and become productive members of society.

I. Introduction
House Bill 1842 was passed during the 84th Legislative Session. This bill provides the opportunity for Texas public school districts to seek designation as a District of Innovation, which allows districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code to allow more flexibility and local control for innovative programming. Districts are eligible for designation if certain academic performance requirements are met and the district follows certain procedures for adoption as outlined in the statute. The designation provides the district will be exempt from certain sections of the TEC that inhibit the goals of the district as outlined in the locally adopted Innovation Plan. The term of the designation as a district of innovation may not exceed 5 years. On February 15, 2017, the majority of the DEIC signed a petition to begin preliminary actions to become a District of Innovation.

II. Timeline
1. 2/15/17 – DEIC passes petition to begin DOI process.
2. 2/21/17 – Board of Trustees conducts a public hearing to consider developing an innovation plan.
3. 2/21/17 – Board of Trustees approves/denies Resolution for District of Innovation to mirror DEIC
4. 2/21/17 – Board of Trustees approves/denies DEIC Committee & Perryton ISD Administrators as DOI Committee.
5. 3/7/17 – DOI Committee meets and Develops a plan
6. 3/7/17 – DOI Committee holds Public Hearing to finalize plan.
7. 3/9/17 – Plan is posted on the District Webpage for 30 days
7. 4/18/17 – Board of Trustee approves/denies the DOI plan submitted by the committee.

III. Committee
Pat Wilson (Community), Debbie Cook (Community), Brenna Vela (Business), Kristen Lewis (Parent), Valarie Merkel (HS), Wanda West (JH), Susan Francis (JH), Jenni Kerl (Wi), Rajenna Manross (Wi), Lacey Roberson (Wr), Tena Clark (Wr), Jamie Thompson (Ki), Zully Herrera (Ki), Ashley Wilson (TTEC), Shannon Jackson (TTEC), Melissa Thomas (Parent), Robin Farney (Business), Jeff Schollenbarger (HS), Donna Mann (District Wide), Keith Langfitt (Dist Admin), James Mireles (H.S. Admin), Janet Slaughter (J.H. Admin), Ronnie Watson (Wi Admin), Tiffany Bietz (Wr Admin), Dent Felix (Ki Admin), and Ludi Martin (TTEC Admin).
IV. Term

The term of the PISD Innovation Plan will begin with the 2017 – 2018 school year and expire at the end of the 2021 – 2022 school years unless amended or terminated by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The DOI local committee will revisit the plan annually in the spring semester to ensure that the recommendations still meet the needs of the district. Annual review of the plan will allow the district staff to evaluate its mission, vision and goals to make changes or deletions that enhance innovation and learning. Any recommended changes will be presented to the DEIC, then posted for public view on the website for 30 days to solicit feedback and will require approval of the Board of Trustees.

V. Development/Improvement

- Perryton ISD seeks to inspire learning through an array of personalized opportunities and experiences.
- We pledge to ensure a nurturing and safe learning environment while providing support to meet each student’s needs.
- We will ensure each student understands and is prepared to assume his or her role as a productive citizen.
- We will broaden and strengthen connections within our communities.

VI. Purpose/Benefits

- **Local control:** PISD decides which flexibilities best suit its local needs.
- **Customization:** PISD can create an innovation plan for the district, a level of school (e.g., only high schools), grade level, or a single campus and that plan is adaptable to the district’s changing needs throughout the term of the plan.
- **Autonomy:** PISD must submit a district of innovation plan to the commissioner of education, but approval by the commissioner is not required.
- **Flexibility:** PISD will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates such as:
  - School start date
  - Minimum number of minutes
  - Length of the school day

VII. Requested Exemptions from TEC

A. **§25.0811: First Day of Instruction** – A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

*PISD Proposed Flexible Calendar* – Perryton ISD will begin instruction no earlier than the third Wednesday of August in an effort to create greater flexibility in the school calendar. This will enable the district to be more responsive to students by balancing the amount of instructional time in the semesters and in the six grading periods, allowing teachers to better pace and deliver instruction, and allow for a greater number of instructional days to teach the necessary TEKS before the administration of the STAAR test.
B. §25.081; §25.082(a): Minimum Minutes of Instruction; School Day -

House Bill (HB) 2610, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, amended the Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.081 by eliminating the required 180 days of instruction and replacing this language with the requirement that schools provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction annually and 420 minutes of instruction daily.

Operation of schools. §25.081 (a) Except as authorized under Subsection (b) of this section, Section 25.084, or Section 29.0821, for each school year each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses, for students. (b) The commissioner may approve the instruction of students for fewer than the number of minutes required under Subsection (a) if disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity causes the closing of schools. (c) If the commissioner does not approve reduced instruction time under Subsection (b), a school district may add additional minutes to the end of the district's normal school hours as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity. (d) The commissioner may adopt rules for the application, on the basis of the minimum minutes of instruction required by Subsection (a), of any provision of this title that refers to a minimum number of days of instruction under this section. (e) For purposes of this code, a reference to a day of instruction means 420 minutes of instruction.

School day. §25.082(a); (a) A school day shall be at least seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses.

PISD proposed Flexible Minutes/School Day – Perryton ISD will have flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction within a designated school day which will assist with personalizing learning to better meet student needs. This flexibility has the added benefit of allowing the possibility of an altered length of a school day, which may include, for example, a later start/early release time which will accommodate professional learning/collaboration opportunities for professional staff. Additionally, the exemption from this requirement would enable the district to continue to offer pre-kindergarten to the maximum number of eligible students through half-day sessions. As a component of the annual school district calendar development process, PISD will carefully analyze the needs of students and employees to determine which dates should be modified. This flexibility will also allow the district to alter the length of the school day when necessary to facilitate needs during the school year after the calendar has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Modification to the length of certain dates will be recommended when there is a clearly identified purpose focused on meeting the needs of students and employees.