

North Hopkins ISD
District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)
2016-1017

North Hopkins ISD is using HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session, to establish more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to have some of the same local flexibility that public charter schools have been allowed. North Hopkins believes this is a great opportunity for our local district to establish plans based on the unique needs of our students and community.

This Plan will be in effect beginning July 2017 and will remain in effect for a term of 5 years through July 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with law.. The committee with approval of the Board of Trustees may amend this plan at any time.

District of Innovation Team

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Darin Jolly | Superintendent |
| 2. LeAnn Tadlock | Elementary Principal |
| 3. Rob Stanley | Secondary Principal |
| 4. Danna Lewis | School Counselor |
| 5. Cara Jolly | Curriculum Director |
| 6. Kodi Wright | Instructional Technology |
| 7. Tonya Griner | Elementary Teacher |
| 8. Debra Wood | Elementary Teacher |
| 9. Sherri Hocutt | Secondary Teacher |
| 10. Jennifer Lucas | Secondary Teacher |
| 11. Aime Davidson | Secondary Teacher |
| 12. Tracey Wharton | Secondary Teacher |
| 13. Alma Aguilar | Parent Representative |
| 14. J.W. Crane | Community Member |

1. **Teacher Certification** (*TEC 21.003 DK Legal, DK Local, DK Exhibit*)

Currently

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 the request.

Proposed

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

- a. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which 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

Assurances: “The District does not wish to be exempted from any existing laws relating to teacher contracts or teacher benefits.”

2. **School start date** (*TEC 25.0811, EB Legal*)

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 (**TEC 25.0811**) *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.* This will allow the first and second semesters to be closer in the number of days of instruction. The goal is to improve the district attendance rate and student success through flexibility in the calendar.

Proposed

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of NHISD students and community, we will move the mandatory start date back one week.

- a. Students will begin no earlier than the 3rd Monday of August.