

**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. 3/8/17 – DOI Committee meets and Develops a plan
6. 3/8/17 – 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 (TTAEC), Shannon Jackson (TTAEC), Malissa 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 (TTAEC 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:
  - o School start date
  - o Minimum number of minutes
  - o Length of the school day

#### VII. Existing Exemptions from TEC 2017-2018

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.

**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.

**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.

#### VIII. Proposed Amendments and Requested Exemptions for 2018-2019

**A. §21.003: Certification Required** – 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 certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

**Flexible Scheduling and Course Offerings** – Perryton ISD may establish a local certification for a teacher to teach one subject outside of their state certified field and/or a grade level in which the teacher is not state certified. Perryton ISD may also establish a local certification process to certify individuals that are industry professionals with experience to teach Career and Technical Education and STEM courses. This strategy will allow more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings and industry certifications.

Local certification will be issued for teachers only. The district will establish local criteria such as years of experience, qualifications, and industry certification to qualify for a local teaching certificate.

Campus principals will submit candidates to the Superintendent with credentials and qualifications. The Superintendent will determine whether it is in the best interests of the students to locally certify the individual. The Superintendent will notify the Board and seek Board approval prior to beginning employment. An employee working under a District Teaching Permit (local certification) will not receive a contract, but will work on an at-will basis and have a separate pay scale from, but commensurate to, state certified teachers. Local teaching certificates will be valid for one school year.

**B. §21.401: Contract Days** – (a) A contract between a school district and an educator must be for a minimum of 10 months of service. (b) An educator employed under a 10-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

**Flexible Contract Days** - Perryton ISD may reduce the number of days of service from a minimum of 187 to a minimum of 182 for teachers employed under a 10-month contract with no effect on salaries in order to increase the daily rate of pay, enhance educator recruitment, and improve educator morale. This exemption will also provide opportunities for certified staff to seek out relevant professional development to enhance best practice and teaching skills.

**C. §2125.112: Class Size** - A school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a Kindergarten – 4th grade class.

**§2125.113: Notice of Class Size** - A campus or district that is granted an exception under Section 25.112(d) from class size limits shall provide written notice of the exception to the parent of each student affected by the exception.

**Flexible Class Sizes and Notice Exemption** – Perryton ISD will strive to begin each school year with enough teachers to establish a student to teacher ratio of 22:1 or fewer in each K-4 classroom. In the event that any class size exceeds this ratio during the school year, the campus principal will inform the superintendent in writing. The superintendent shall report the information to the Board of Trustees at the next scheduled board meeting. A request for waiver to exceed class size will not be filed with TEA when a K-4 class exceeds the 22:1 ratio. Parents of students in K-4 classrooms that exceed a ratio of 22:1 shall be notified as per TEC 25.113 within 30 days of the class exceeding the 22:1 ratio.

**AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE DEIC ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018.**