During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 was passed in order to provide more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to utilize the exemptions in Education Law that charter schools currently are entitled to. We feel this is a great opportunity for Honey Grove ISD to create a plan based on the needs of our students and community that will remain in effect for the next five years (2017-2022).

**Timeline of Actions to Meet Requirements**

**Thursday, November 14th, 2016**
BOE Conduct Public Hearing, consider action to pursue designation as a District of Innovation and appoint a committee to develop the District of Innovation Plan.

**Thursday, December 1st, 2016**
DOIC meets to develop final Innovation Plan to be posted on school website for 30 days prior to BOE consideration for adoption.

**Friday, December 2nd, 2016**
Information on Final Innovation Plan posted on district Website for 30 days.

**Wednesday, January 4th, 2017**
DOIC met for consideration of feedback and finalize plan.

**Monday, February 15th, 2017**
The District of Innovation plan was presented to the BOE for consideration. The plan was approved designating Honey Grove ISD as a District of Innovation.
1. **First Day of Instruction**  
(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.811)

**TEC Code Requiring Exemption**

TEC Sec. 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August. TEC Sec. 25.0811 allows no flexibility in the design of annual calendars to fit the needs of the community of the wishes of local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

**District of Innovative Strategy**

Improve student success through the flexibility in the calendar by not beginning instruction for students any earlier than the 3rd **Monday of August**. This strategy will allow first and second semesters to be closer in the number of days of instruction and create more instructional time before STARR/EOC exams. In addition balanced semesters will align with college semesters as well as allow more opportunities for summer school, internships and industrial certifications.

2. **Teacher Certification**  
(TEC 21.003, DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT)

**TEC Code Requiring Exemption**

TEC 21.003 requires that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. 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 request emergency certification for the Texas Education Agency and/or State Board of Educator Certification.

**Innovative Strategy**

In order to best serve Honey Grove ISD students by allowing more flexibility in scheduling and more course offerings, decisions on certification will be handled locally. For grades 6-12, in all subjects except Special Education and ESL/Bilingual, the campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for a local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach one subject in a related filed 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 the individual to teach the proposed subject.

This proposal will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students 
in class offerings. We envision classrooms with multiple subjects being taught through multiple 
formats, in which the “teacher” will become a facilitator in student learning. The 
Superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees following the assignment.

3. Teacher Contract Days  
(DCB Legal, DCB Local) (Ed. Code 21.401)

**TEC Code Requiring Exemption**

TEC 21.401 defines a teacher contract as a ten month contract equivalent to 187 days.

**Innovative Strategy**

This plan has the ability to reduce teacher contract days less than 187 days. This will have no 
effect on the state mandated salary scale. Due to low property values, it is difficult for Honey 
Grove ISD to compete with local schools in the area of teacher salary. This reduction in 
contract days at the current salary schedule would make our salaries more competitive by 
increasing the daily rate the district pays teachers, and enhance teacher recruitment, therefore 
putting the district on a more level playing field with neighboring districts.

If you have any comments or concerns about the District of Innovation Plan, please contact 
Superintendent Todd Morrison @ btmorrison@honeygroveisd.net.