

District of Innovation Committee Meeting

January 17, 2017

Instructional Minutes Committee

United Independent School District



Instructional Minutes Committee

Lyndon B. Johnson
United High School
Clark MS
Traumann MS
Clark ES
CSB ES
DeLlano ES
Roosevelt ES
Veteran's ES
Zaffirini ES
Parent
Exec. Director of Elem. Ed.
Exec. Director High School
Director Elementary

Kristi Burough
Alejandra Lightner
Randal Fox
Adriana Sanchez
Socorro Reyes
Dr. Myrtha Villarreal
Martha Alcaraz
Aurora Infante
Nora Villarreal
Julie Mora
Mirtha Sandoval
Cynthia Rodriguez
Dolores Barrera
Elouisa Diaz



SUBCHAPTER C. OPERATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Sec. 25.081. OPERATION OF SCHOOLS. (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.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 824, Sec. 2, eff. June 20, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1084 (H.B. 2610), Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 2015.

Sec. 25.0811. FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION. (a) 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. A school district may:

(1) begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August if the district operates a year-round system under Section 25.084; or

(2) begin instruction for students for a school year on or after the first Monday in August at a campus or at not more than 20 percent of the campuses in the district if:

(A) the district has a student enrollment of 190,000 or more;

(B) the district at the beginning of the school year provides, financed with local funds, days of instruction for students at the campus or at each of the multiple campuses, in addition to the minimum number of days of instruction required under Section 25.081;

(C) the campus or each of the multiple campuses are undergoing comprehensive reform, as determined by the board of trustees of the district; and

(D) a majority of the students at the campus or at each of the multiple campuses are educationally disadvantaged.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a school district that does not offer each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 and whose prospective or former students generally attend school in another state for the grade levels the district does not offer may start school on any date permitted under Subsection (a) or the law of the other state.

(c) Repealed by Acts 2006, 79th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 5, Sec. 9.03, eff. May 31, 2006.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 909, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2006, 79th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 1), Sec. 9.02, eff. May 31, 2006.

Acts 2006, 79th Leg., 3rd C.S., Ch. 5 (H.B. 1), Sec. 9.03, eff. May 31, 2006.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 708 (H.B. 2171), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2007.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 277 (H.B. 1555), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 25.0812. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a school district may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a school district that does not offer each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 and whose prospective or former students generally attend school in another state for the grade levels the district does not offer may schedule the last day of school on any date permitted under Subsection (a) or the law of the other state.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1084 (H.B. 2610), Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 2015.

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Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1084 (H.B. 2610), Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 2015.

Sec. 25.082. SCHOOL DAY; PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE; MINUTE OF SILENCE. (a) A school day shall be at least seven hours each day, including intermissions and recesses.

(b) The board of trustees of each school district and the governing board of each open-enrollment charter school shall require students, once during each school day at each campus, to recite:

(1) the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag in accordance with 4 U.S.C. Section 4; and

(2) the pledge of allegiance to the state flag in accordance with Subchapter C, Chapter 3100, Government Code.

(b-1) The board of trustees of each school district and the governing board of each open-enrollment charter school shall require that the United States and Texas flags be prominently displayed in accordance with 4 U.S.C. Sections 5-10 and Chapter 3100, Government Code, in each campus classroom to which a student is assigned at the time the pledges of allegiance to those flags are recited. A district or school is not required to spend federal, state, or local district or school funds to acquire flags required under this subsection. A district or school may raise money or accept gifts, grants, and donations to acquire flags required under this subsection.

(c) On written request from a student's parent or guardian, a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall excuse the student from reciting a pledge of allegiance under Subsection (b).

(d) The board of trustees of each school district and the governing board of each open-enrollment charter school shall provide for the observance of one minute of silence at each campus following the recitation of the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags under Subsection (b). During the one-minute period, each student may, as the student chooses, reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student. Each teacher or other school employee in charge of students during that period shall ensure that each of those students remains silent and does not act in a manner that is likely to interfere with or distract another student.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 126, Sec. 1, 2, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 881 (H.B. 773), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1140 (S.B. 2), Sec. 42, eff. September 1, 2013.

Sec. 25.083. SCHOOL DAY INTERRUPTIONS. (a) The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting interruptions of classes during the school day for nonacademic activities such as announcements and sales promotions. At a minimum, the policy must limit announcements other than emergency announcements to once during the school day.

(b) The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting the removal of students from class for remedial tutoring or test preparation. A district may not remove a student from a regularly scheduled class for remedial tutoring or test preparation if, as a result of the removal, the student would miss more than 10 percent of the school days on which the class is offered, unless the student's parent or another person standing in parental relation to the student provides to the district written consent for removal from class for such purpose.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 211 (H.B. 5), Sec. 5(a), eff.
June 10, 2013.

SCHOOL YEAR

EB
(LEGAL)

SCHOOL START DATE A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system (see below). A district may not receive a waiver of this requirement.

EXCEPTIONS A district that does not offer each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 and whose prospective or former students generally attend school in another state for the grade levels the district does not offer may instead start school on any date permitted under the law of the other state.

A district with a student enrollment of 190,000 or more may begin instruction for students for a school year on or after the first Monday in August at a campus or at not more than 20 percent of the campuses in the district if:

1. The district at the beginning of the school year provides, financed with local funds, days of instruction for students at the campus or at each of the multiple campuses, in addition to the minimum number of days of instruction required under Education Code 25.081;
2. The campus or each of the multiple campuses are undergoing comprehensive reform, as determined by the board; and
3. A majority of the students at the campus or at each of the multiple campuses are educationally disadvantaged.

Education Code 25.0811

LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR A district shall operate so that it provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses, each school year.

EXCEPTIONS The Commissioner may approve the operation of schools for less than the number of minutes specified above when disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailments, or other calamities have caused the closing of schools.

If the Commissioner does not approve reduced instruction time, a 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.

Education Code 25.081

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL A district may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15. However, a district that does not offer each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 and whose prospective or former students generally attend school in another

state for the grade levels the district does not offer may schedule the last day of school on any date permitted under Texas law or the law of the other state. *Education Code 25.0812*

OPTIONAL
FLEXIBLE YEAR
PROGRAM

To enable a school district to provide additional instructional days for an optional extended year program [see EHBC], the school district may, with the approval of the Commissioner, provide a number of days of instruction during the regular school year that is not more than ten days fewer than 180 days. *Education Code 29.0821(b)(1)*

YEAR-ROUND
SCHOOLS

A district may operate its schools year-round on a single or a multi-track system. If it adopts a year-round system, it may modify:

1. The number of contract days of employees and the number of days of operation, including any time required for staff development, planning and preparation, and continuing education, otherwise required by law.
2. Testing dates, data reporting, and related matters.
3. The date of the first day of instruction of the school year under Education Code 25.0811 for a school that was operating year-round for the 2000–01 school year.
4. Students' eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities when their calendar track is not in session.

Education Code 25.084

United ISD
240903

SCHOOL YEAR

EB
(LOCAL)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Superintendent shall be authorized to approve variations from the Board-adopted school calendar, as necessary.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to close schools for reasons of public health and safety.

Note: The Board has adopted an innovation plan that affects application of provisions in this legally referenced policy. The District's innovation plan can be found at http://www.episd.org/community/docs/lic/final_local_innovation_plan_05-17-16.pdf.

SCHOOL START DATE

A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system (see below). A district may not receive a waiver of this requirement.

EXCEPTIONS

A district that does not offer each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 and whose prospective or former students generally attend school in another state for the grade levels the district does not offer may instead start school on any date permitted under the law of the other state.

A district with a student enrollment of 190,000 or more may begin instruction for students for a school year on or after the first Monday in August at a campus or at not more than 20 percent of the campuses in the district if:0)

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Education Code 25.081

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Education Code 25.084

Note: The Board has adopted an innovation plan waiving all or a portion of state law. The District's innovation plan may be found on the District's website at http://www.episd.org/community/docs/lic/final_local_innovation_plan_05-17-16.pdf. This local policy has been revised to replace state law waived by the District's innovation plan.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Annually, after consultation with DEIC, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board a school calendar that complies with all applicable legal requirements.

Upon Board approval, the calendar shall be made available to students, staff, and parents.

The calendar shall include dates for the following:

1. Teacher preparation days.
2. Teachers report for duty. The teachers' first day on duty shall constitute the first day of the school year.
3. Opening and closing of school.
4. Grade reporting periods/exam days.
5. Semester beginnings and endings. The last day of required attendance for the students shall be considered the last day of instruction.
6. Scheduled holidays.
7. Scheduled staff development activities.

SCHOOL START
DATE

The District has waived provisions in state law that prohibit students from beginning school before the fourth Monday of August.

EMERGENCIES

The Superintendent is authorized to make decisions regarding variations from the school calendar in case of emergencies.

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SCHOOL START
DATE

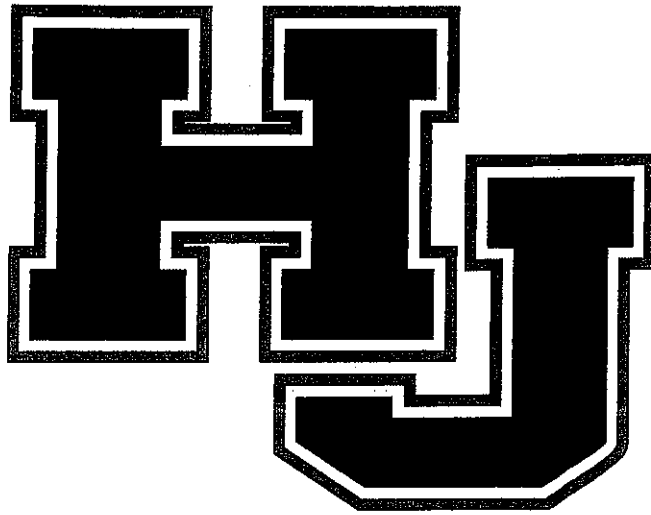
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EMERGENCIES

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HARDIN-JEFFERSON

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Local Innovation Plan 2017-2021

HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session,
allows Texas districts to qualify as a District of Innovation.
Districts of Innovation are able to gain local control of certain operations
that are currently under the control of the Texas Education Agency.



HJISD INNOVATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from certain mandates including the uniform school start date and required minutes of instruction.
- **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- **Autonomy:** Districts must submit a district of innovation plan to the commissioner of education, but approval is not required.

On August 15, 2016, the Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a Resolution to explore the development of a District of Innovation Plan to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives. The adoption of this plan seeks to increase the District's flexibility in order to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community. On August 15, 2016, the Board appointed a 16-member District of Innovation Committee ("Committee") comprised of diverse leaders representing a cross-section of the District's stakeholders including teachers, principals, parents, community members, and administrators. The Committee met on September 7, 2016, and September 14, 2016, to discuss and draft the Local Innovation Plan ("Plan"). The Committee met again on October 11, 2016, to conduct a public forum and accept input on the proposed District of Innovation Plan. Based on the input received from the community, the Committee made adjustments to the plan, and then approved the plan by a unanimous vote. The HJISD Board of Trustees will consider the Plan at its meeting on November, 14, 2016.

TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2021, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If, within the term of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of HB 1842, the Board will appoint a new committee to consider and propose additional exemptions in the form of an amendment to the Plan. Any amendment adopted by the Board will not extend the term of this Plan. The District may not implement two separate plans at any one time.

AREAS OF INNOVATION

With regard to each area of innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provisions, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.

1. School Start and End Date

Exemption from: TEC §25.0811; TEC §25.0812

Related Board Policies: EB LEGAL

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

TEC 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August. TEC 25.0812 states that a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of annual calendars to fit the needs of the community or the wishes of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

Previously, districts had the option of applying to TEA for a waiver to start earlier, even as early as the 2nd Monday in August. 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.

Innovation Strategies

- a. Relief from the statute will allow HJISD to develop a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional development in conjunction with the new instructional minutes requirement, rather than days.
- b. Alignment of the district calendar with local universities, advanced placement exams, and STAAR timelines.
- c. Provide for increased local control of the instructional calendar in order to be responsive to community needs.

2. Instructional Minutes / Length of Instructional Day / Early Release Days

Exemption from: TEC 25.081

Relevant Board Policies: EB LEGAL

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

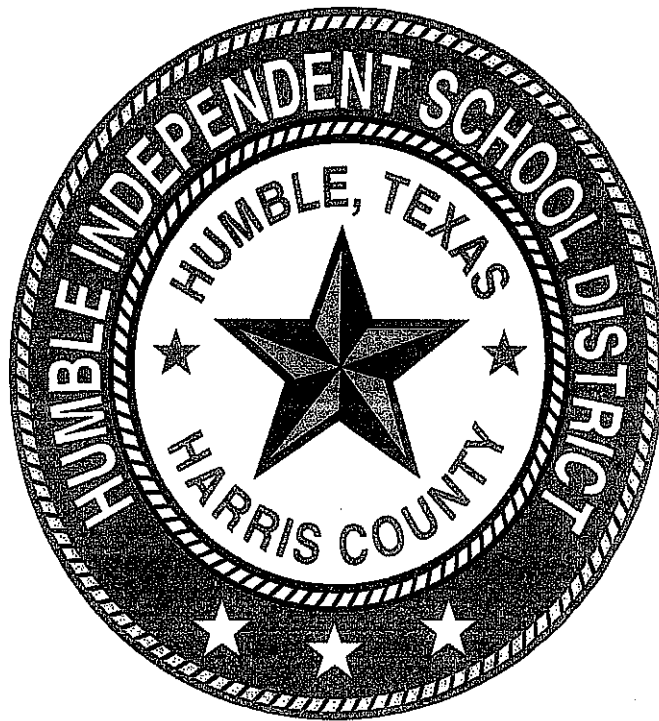
TEC 25.081 requires that a school district provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction each school year, including intermission and recess. School districts must seek a waiver of this requirement from TEA in order to provide fewer than the required number of instructional minutes in the case of natural disaster or calamity. This requirement

restricts the District in the development of the academic calendar, including the scheduling of early release days and staff development days.

TEC 25.081(e) references a day of instruction as 420 minutes

Innovation Strategies

- a. The district seeks relief from this section in order to provide staff development before the start of instruction, as well as additional days throughout the school year. These non-instructional days have been purposefully placed throughout the calendar to allow for teachers to plan instruction based on student instructional data in addition to engaging in relevant, targeted professional development.
 - b. The district seeks additional flexibility to schedule early release days in the calendar in order to provide for student and district needs.
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District of Innovation

APPROVED
Humble ISD Board of Trustees
August 9, 2016

While the District intends to remain within the guidelines of the current education code as much as possible, the District seeks flexibility to provide the best learning environment for our K-4 students.

The District intends to remain within the 22:1 ratio in K-3. In the event a classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio in K-3 or 24:1 in grade 4, the situation will be reviewed by appropriate district and campus personnel and additional assistance will be provided. The Board will be informed of K-4 classes that exceed 22:1 in K-3 or 24:1 in grade 4.

3. Length of Instructional Day

Both Texas Education Codes 25.081 and 25.082 address the length of the instructional day by limiting it to "420 minutes of instruction" or "seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses." While the intent of the Legislature was to standardize across all districts the amount of time students spent learning in a classroom, Humble ISD wishes to meet the goal of 75,600 minutes of instruction per year, but seeks an exemption from these statutes so that it may reach the 75,600 minute total in a more creative manner without being limited to either 420 minutes or seven hours of instruction every day. The length of the instructional day cannot be changed absent the District becoming a District of Innovation.

For the past 15 years, Humble ISD has been a progressive district that functions as a Professional Learning Community during the school day by providing a two hour late arrival or early release once every week for secondary students while elementary students have received early release times during the school year.

Humble ISD believes that having a flexible school day benefits teachers and campus leaders who participate in Professional Learning Communities, perfecting their craft, deepening their content knowledge, and analyzing student data. In addition, at the elementary level this flexible day allows for teachers to conference with parents about the progress of their child. The loss of a flexible day would be counter-productive to the Humble ISD community which has embraced the current flexible school day.

Huffman ISD District of Innovation Plan

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in Spring 2015, and provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

Districts of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state statutes and will have:

- greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students;
- increased freedom and flexibility, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and
- empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes including curriculum and graduation requirements, and academic and financial accountability.

Our Process

On August 1, 2016, the Huffman Independent School District's Board of Trustees passed a Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation in order to support innovation and local initiatives to improve student learning. A public hearing was also conducted on this date to inform our board of trustees and public on the opportunities and processes of becoming a District of Innovation. The Board also appointed a District of Innovation Committee on August 1 representing various stakeholders across the district, including teachers, parents, campus administration, and local business owners.

The Committee met on August 11th to discuss and give input on the draft of this Local Innovation Plan. Based on direction provided by the Board and input from various district stakeholders, the Committee proposed this Plan of Innovation.

The plan was presented to our Board of Trustees on August 22nd for review and was posted on our website on August 24th to begin our thirty day review requirement.

The District-wide Educational Improvement Council, along with members of our District of Innovation Committee, met on September 26 to review and vote on our plan. The plan was approved unanimously. The plan was then presented to our Board of Trustees the on September 26 for final approval. It was approved unanimously.

The Plan

1. Teacher Certification for Career and Technical Education Instructors

Prior to 2013, students were expected to graduate under the "4x4" which required such courses as physics and Algebra II. With the adoption of House Bill 5 by the Texas Legislature in 2013, the state's graduation requirements moved to a more personalized graduation plan that allowed

students to earn endorsements in specific areas of study, including STEM, business and industry, public services, etc. Many of the career pathways that fall under the endorsements, such as health services or engineering, require very specialized certification in that particular field. Texas Education Code, sections 21.003, 21.053, 21.044 and 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 231, inhibit the development of post high school plans and improvement of work force skills to the extent these laws limit the District's ability to hire teachers to teach hard-to-fill, high demand career and technical courses when quality certified teachers are not available.

In order to enable more students to obtain the educational benefit of career and technical course offerings, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such courses in lieu of the requirements set for in law while adhering to Texas Education Code 21.055(d.1).

Huffman ISD will only seek to exempt qualification requirements for teachers instructing Career and Technology Education courses. This exemption will afford the District the flexibility to hire professionals in certain trades and vocations to teach the crafts of those trades and vocations, such as welding, health sciences, architecture and construction, in career and technical courses.

2. Length of Instructional Day

Both Texas Education Codes 25.081 and 25.082 address the length of the instructional day by limiting it to "420 minutes of instruction" or "seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses". While the intent of the Legislature was to standardize across all districts the amount of time students spent learning in a classroom, Huffman ISD wishes to meet the goal of 75,600 minutes of instruction per year, but seeks an exemption from these statutes so that it may reach the 75,600 minute total in a more creative manner without being limited to either 420 minutes or seven hours of instruction every day. The length of the instructional day cannot be changed absent the District becoming a District of Innovation.

Beginning with last school year, Huffman ISD's secondary campuses strived to demonstrate innovative functions by employing Professional Learning Communities during the school day by providing a two hour late arrival or early release once every week for secondary students.

Huffman ISD believes that having a flexible school day benefits teachers and campus leaders who participate in Professional Learning Communities, perfecting their craft, deepening their content knowledge, and analyzing student data.



innovate. educate. graduate.

Grand Prairie Independent School District Local Innovation Plan

Local Innovation Committee Members	
Bessye Adams	Community Member/Parent
Wendell Davidson	Community Member/Parent
Claudia Munoz	Community Member/Parent
Lupe Salazar	Community Member/Parent
Lorimer Arendse	Campus Leader
Donnie Bartlett	Campus Leader
Mary Smith	Campus Leader
Kristin Booth	Campus Leader
Jennifer Ellison	Campus Leader
Veronica Kunschik	Campus Leader
Hollye Mohler	Campus Leader
Juan Espinosa	Classroom Teacher, District Teacher of the Year
Mary Cavasos	Classroom Teacher, District Teacher of the Year
Twila Read	Counselor, TCTA Representative
Mary Grafflin	Classroom Teacher, ATPE Representative
Dorris Hill	Classroom Teacher, TSTA Representative
Cindy King	Classroom Teacher
Thad Myers	Classroom Teacher
Alejandro Padilla	Classroom Teacher
Jennifer Jordan	Classroom Teacher
Gabriel Trujillo	Chief of Schools
Elna Davis	Chief of Schools
Demetrus Liggins	Chief of Schools
Traci Davis	Chief of Innovation and Choice
Susanna Ramirez	Assistant Superintendent of Student Support
Patricia Lewis	Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement
Robb Welch	Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Loraine Morazzano	Senior Chief of Human Capital
Winston Minix	Director of CTE
Teri Wilson	Chief of Staff
Linda Ellis	Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Ad Hoc Members	
Susan Simpson Hull	Superintendent
Tom Dyar	Legal Counsel
Vern Alexander	Deputy Superintendent
Nancy Bridges	Deputy Superintendent
Nugget Cunningham	Deputy Superintendent



Grand Prairie Independent School District Local Innovation Plan

Minimum Minutes of Instruction:

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC Code 25.081 (HB 2610): 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.

Pre-Kindergarten Exemption:

Benefits for GPISD PK/PPCD Program:

The state requires 75,600 minutes for full day programming. For half-day programs such as PK and PPCD the required minute requirement would be 37,800 minutes. There is not enough time in the day to be able to accommodate 37,800 minutes for both a morning and afternoon group of students in our 170 day calendar. We would like to request that we be allowed to offer a 210 minute school day for half-day programs. This will allow each teacher to have a morning and an afternoon group of students along with their conference period and duty free lunch within the regular school day. This 210 minute exemption will result in the students receiving 35,700 minutes of instruction during their half day program.

Local Guidelines for PK/PPCD Program:

GPISD will offer a PK schedule consisting of two three-hour sessions of 210 minutes, which allows each teacher to teach two groups of students while still having the required conference period and 30-minute duty free lunch.

Alternative Education Setting Exemption:

Benefits for GPISD Alternative Campuses (ie. Crosswinds)

- o Campuses such as Crosswinds offer an alternative education program designed to meet the needs of non-traditional students. This program offers an opportunity for students to accelerate credit attainment, acquire credits at a faster rate, and mitigate credit deficiencies. Crosswinds High School provides an alternate route to graduation for students who have not been successful in the traditional school due to special challenges. These challenges include (but are not limited to) parent or parenting students; over-age students; family hardships created by economic situations that result in the student having to work instead of attend school; being credit deficient for various reasons; and/or having difficulty passing STAAR End-of-Course exams.

GALENA PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN

1. Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (TEC 21.044, 21.003)

Currently

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position, or a teacher is assigned to a subject outside of his/her certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. Approval or denial of this request must then be issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Proposed

To best serve Galena Park ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. The District's goal will continue to be hiring certified teachers; however, flexibility is needed in the areas that are difficult to fill.

- A. Galena Park ISD proposes to submit a request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent or designee:
 - i. For a certified teacher to teach one subject out of his/her certified field; or
 - ii. To allow an individual who holds a four-year degree to teach in a bilingual classroom, if he/she is willing to pursue a bilingual certification and is eligible to take the bilingual exam, and/or be enrolled in an appropriate Alternative Certification program.
- B. The written request would outline the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which would qualify this individual to teach the subject, and must be submitted by the principal to the Superintendent or designee for approval.

The request will afford the District the flexibility to hire professionals in certain trades and vocations to teach the crafts of those trades and vocations, such as welding, health sciences, architecture and construction, and other career and technical courses.

Rationale

Exemption from TEC 21.044 and 21.003 would enrich applicant pools in specific content areas and enable more students to obtain the educational benefit of career and technical course offerings.

4. Minimum Minutes of Instruction

(EC LEGAL & EB LEGAL) (TEC 25.081)

Currently

House Bill 2610, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, amends the Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.081, by striking language requiring 180 days of instruction and replacing with language requiring districts and charter schools to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction (including intermissions and recess). The bill also allows school districts and charter schools to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disasters, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or other reasons.

Proposed

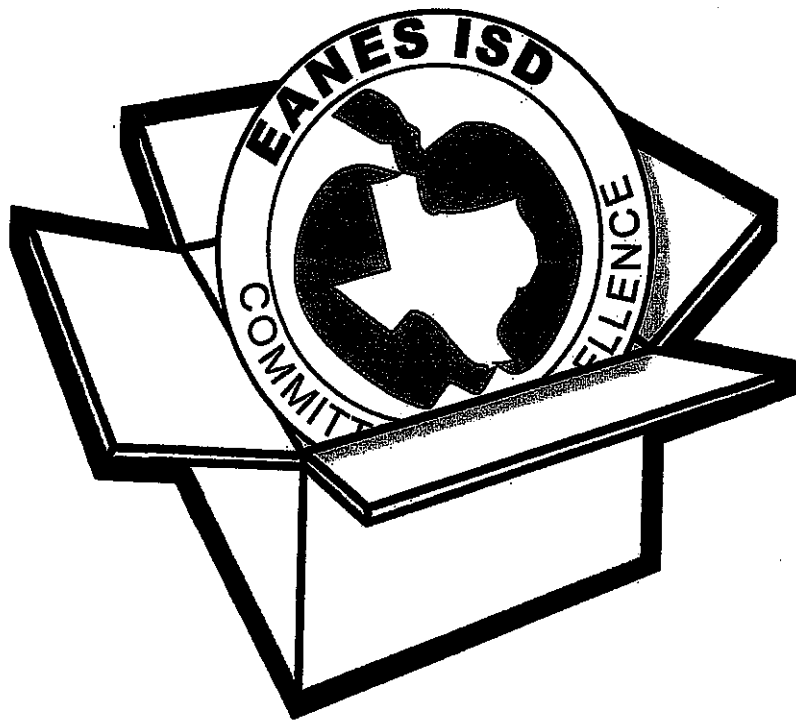
To best serve the Galena Park ISD community, the exemption from TEC 25.081 would allow our Superintendent or designee to determine whether to amend our District calendar to make up lost instructional time.

Rationale

The proposed exemption from TEC 25.081 will allow Galena Park ISD to avoid submitting waiver requests to TEA in cases of unforeseen changes to school calendar, and will further allow Galena Park ISD to adjust school day schedules to better meet the instructional needs of students

A DISTRICT PLAN FOR INNOVATION & LOCAL CONTROL

2017 thru 2022



Approved the
Board of Trustees
Dec. 13, 2016

*In accordance with
Texas HB 1842
and
Chapter 12A of the
Texas Education Code*

***“Innovation is generated by
thinking outside the box.”***

Local Innovation Strategies:

- A. In exceptional circumstances, when a certified educator is not found for a unique or innovative class, the campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for *local* certification that will allow a non-certified yet highly qualified professional to teach OR a certified educator to teach a subject in a related field for which she or he is not credentialed by the state.
- B. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what qualifications the individual possesses to teach the proposed subject. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment should also be noted.
- C. Whenever possible, lesson plans or curriculum guides to support the uncertified yet highly qualified educator will be developed or provided in partnership with certified teachers in the same field.
- D. In the event an uncertified yet highly qualified educator or professional is assigned to a course, the superintendent will inform and obtain consent from the Board of Trustees – in accordance with district policy, procedure and practice – AND will notify parents of students who gain from this decision.
- E. A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.

4. ADJUST INSTRUCTIONAL MINUTES AND SCHOOL DAY LENGTH

(TEC §25.081) (TEC §25.082) (EB LEGAL)

Manner in which the statute inhibits the plan:

The Texas Education Codes define the length of the instructional day as “420 minutes of instruction” or “seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses.” The intent of this code is to standardize across all districts the amount of time students engage in classroom learning. The school code also allows school districts and charter schools to add minutes 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.

Eanes ISD believes flexibility in use of minutes as well as the length of the school day will support teachers and staff who participate in Professional Learning Communities, perfecting their craft, deepening their content knowledge and analyzing student data. In addition – particularly at the elementary level – flexibility in both instructional minutes and the length of the school day will protect all-important parent-teacher conferences especially in the event of inclement weather days, which may impact cumulative instructional minutes allocated over the course of a school year.

Local Innovation Strategies:

- A. Eanes ISD will make an effort to maintain the total of 75,600 minutes of instruction per year, but seeks an exemption from these statutes as necessary so it may approach the 75,600-minute goal in a more creative manner without being confined to either 420 minutes or seven hours of instruction every day.
- B. The flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction can reinforce personalized learning through the increasing use of advanced instructional technology, and will better meet individual student needs.

- C. This exemption will also allow Eanes ISD to alter the length of a school day or a school year, which could include additional professional development and collaboration opportunities for educators, social-emotional benefits for students, and will allow for accommodations during parent-teacher conferences and in case of inclement weather.