

**Motley County Independent School District
Local Innovation Plan**

Introduction

House Bill 1842 was passed by the 84th Legislative Session. This bill allows the opportunity for public schools in the state of Texas to become Districts of Innovations. This allows school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code to afford districts more flexibility and local control. On February 13, 2017, a resolution was passed by the Motley County ISD school board to initiate the process of becoming a District of Innovation. On February 20, 2017, the Motley County ISD school board held a public hearing to discuss becoming a District of Innovation. After the hearing, the board appointed the district site-based committee to serve as the District Innovation Committee.

Term

The District of Innovation Plan will be in effect for the 2017-2018 school year through the 2021-2022 school year (5 years). It will remain in effect until it is terminated or amended by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. Needed amendments to board policy will be researched and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Motley County ISD Site-Base and District Innovation Committee

William Cochran	Superintendent
James Richards	Principal
Judy Cooper	Secondary Teacher
Charli Bigham	Elementary Teacher
Kathy Gillespie	Secondary Teacher
Lacey Rankin	Elementary Teacher
Tammy Simpson	Non-Teaching Representative
Stayce Melton	Business Representative
Rosalee Davis	Non-Teaching Representative
Gail Ream	Business Representative
Nancy Marshall	Parent Representative
Robert Fisk	Parent Representative
Cathey Turner	Parent Representative

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Exemptions

Teacher Certification

Current Law

TEC 21.003 requires that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless that person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency

Plan

In order to serve the students of Motley County ISD, decisions on certification will be handled at the local level.

*The principal may submit to the superintendent a written request to allow a teacher to teach subject(s) out of their certified field. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials and/or qualifications the teacher possesses which would qualify this person to teach this subject.

*Individuals with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal would submit the request to the superintendent with all the person's credentials. The superintendent would present this to the board for approval. The local teaching certificate would be for one year and the individual would be an at-will employee.

*Certifications from other states will be accepted and Texas certification will be a condition of employment by the end of the third (3rd) school.

*This plan would provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students.

First Day Instruction

Current Law

TEC 25.0811 requires that school districts cannot start the school year any earlier than the fourth Monday in August.

Plan

The flexibility of the start date would allow Motley County ISD to determine annually what best meets the needs of the students, school, and community. This plan would allow a more balanced number of instructional days per semester. It would also allow our district to better align the start date with the college(s) that we use for dual credit classes.

*Students will begin school no earlier than the 3rd Monday in August.

Teacher Contract Days

Current Law

TEC 21.401 requires that educators employed on a 10-month contract to provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Plan

This plan would allow Motley County ISD to reduce the teacher contract days from 187 to 182 with no effect on teacher salaries. This would help the district to better align the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required of students.

*This would improve teacher morale

*It would enhance teacher recruitment

*It would increase the daily rate the district pays teachers