

WHITEWRIGHT ISD

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

Introduction

Whitewright ISD is utilizing HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session, in order to have 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 enjoyed. This is a great opportunity for our district to tailor plans based on the needs of the Whitewright students and community. This plan will be in effect from 2017-2022. The plan may be amended during this time period with approval of the Board of Trustees.

Innovation Committee Members

Steve Arthur	Superintendent
Bobby Worthy	Asst. Superintendent
Steve Morrow	WHS Principal
Christine Knabe	WHS Teacher
Rodney Stanford	WHS Teacher
Vickie Franklin	WHS Community Member
Christine Tillett	WHS Parent
Charles Nash	WMS Principal
Karen Reeves	WMS Teacher
Donna Chesser	WMS Teacher
Bud Roach	WMS Community Member
Jason McCartney	WMS Parent
Brandon Whiten	WES Principal
Brittani Dodson	WES Teacher
Amber Price	WES Teacher
Tammy Francis	WES Community Member
Nicole Grant	WES Parent

District of Innovation Timeline

Friday, November 4, 2016

Initial meeting with administrative staff to discuss District of Innovation.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

7:00pm, Special Board Meeting

*Board of Trustees approve resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation.

7:15pm Regular Board Meeting

*Public Hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation.

*Approve a motion to pursue developing a District of Innovation plan, parameters, and members for the District of Innovation committee.

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

District of Innovation committee meeting to develop plan.

Friday, December 2, 2016

Post District of Innovation Plan on website for 30 days

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Public Meeting to vote on committee approval of proposed Innovation Plan

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Notify Commissioner of Education of the Board's intention to vote on adoption of proposed plan.

Monday, January 23, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

*Approve District of Innovation Plan

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Notify Commissioner of Education of District of Innovation Plan approval.

INNOVATIONS

1. School Start Date (EB Legal, Local) (TEC 25.0811)

Under current Texas law, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Innovation strategy would be to annually determine the school start date that is best for our community. This would give flexibility to balance the number of days in each semester, provide more instructional days before state assessment is given, and more properly align classes to college courses.

2. Probationary Contracts (DCA Legal) (TEC 21.102)

Under current Texas Law, newly hired teachers, counselors, librarians, or nurses who have been employed in public education for five of the previous eight years are limited to a one year probationary contract. This requires employment decisions to be made before the school year ends, and before state assessment results are available.

Innovation Strategy would be for teachers, counselors, librarians, or nurses new to the district that have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the first day of employment.