

*Redwater Independent School District*

*District of Innovation Plan*



*March 2017 - March 2022*

*Life Matters*

## INTRODUCTION

During the 84th Legislative Session, House Bill 1842 was passed permitting Texas public independent school districts to become Districts of Innovation (DOI). A District of Innovation is able to obtain exemption from certain sections of the Texas Education Code, providing an increase in local control and allowing districts to better serve the needs of their students and community.

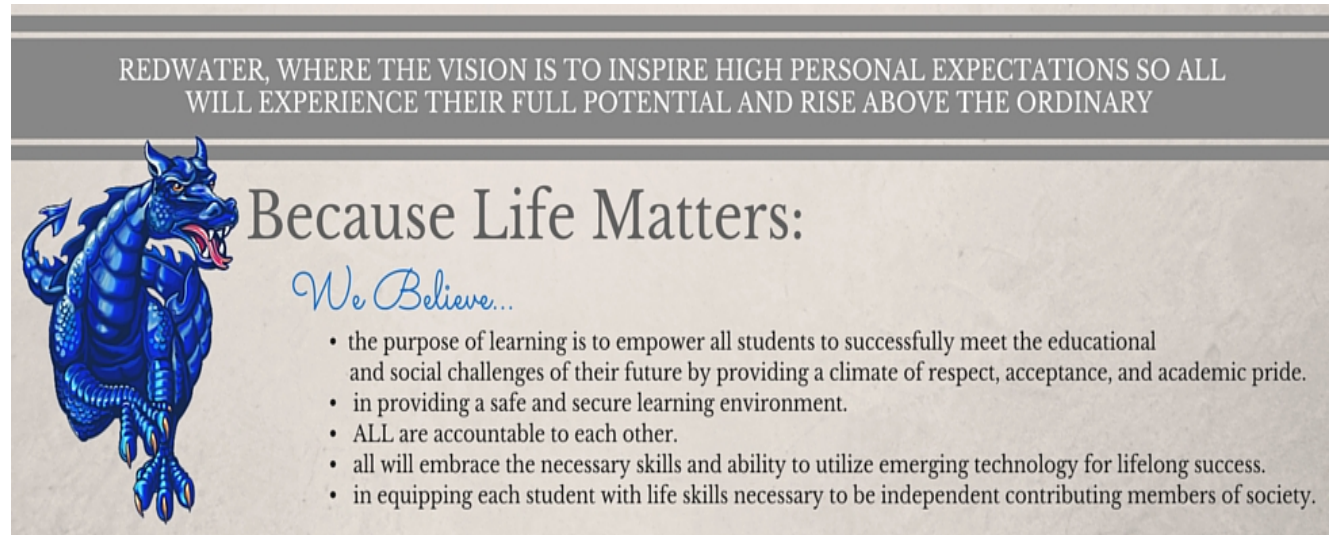
On January 10, 2017, Redwater ISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to begin the process of becoming a District of Innovation. The Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing and appointed a District of Innovation Committee composed of staff and community members on January 23, 2017. This committee met on January 24, 2017 and January 31, 2017 to draft the Local Innovation Plan.

## TERM

The term of a District of Innovation designation may not exceed five years according to state law. The term of Redwater ISD Local Innovation Plan begins March 2017 and ends March 2022, unless the Board of Trustees amends or rescinds the plan in accordance with law. The District of Innovation Committee will be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the plan and will continually ensure the recommendations of the plan are continuing to meet the needs of the District as intended.

## EDUCATIONAL FOCUS

The Local Innovation Plan is aligned to the District vision, mission, and beliefs.



REDWATER, WHERE THE VISION IS TO INSPIRE HIGH PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS SO ALL WILL EXPERIENCE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND RISE ABOVE THE ORDINARY

**Because Life Matters:**

*We Believe...*

- the purpose of learning is to empower all students to successfully meet the educational and social challenges of their future by providing a climate of respect, acceptance, and academic pride.
- in providing a safe and secure learning environment.
- ALL are accountable to each other.
- all will embrace the necessary skills and ability to utilize emerging technology for lifelong success.
- in equipping each student with life skills necessary to be independent contributing members of society.

## **INNOVATION PLAN EXEMPTION**

It has been determined that the following Texas Education Code requirements hinder the pursuit of the goals of Redwater ISD, thus inhibiting the needs of all students to be met.

### **Inhibiting statute:**

TEC §25.0811 Uniform School Start Date

A school district must delay the beginning of instruction for students for a school year until the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system. A district may not receive a waiver for this requirement.

### **Proposed innovation strategies:**

The flexibility of start date allows the district to determine locally what best meets the needs of the students and local community. By beginning school before the fourth Monday in August, we will be able to:

- Provide consistency in the amount of days from the fall semester to the spring semester. The 2016-2017 school calendar has semesters of drastically different lengths, with 78 days in the fall and 94 days in the spring. This becomes problematic for teachers and students.
- Allow professional development and collaboration among teachers and staff to be embedded in the school year calendar.
- Provide flexibility for summer school options, internships, and professional certification experiences for students.
- Provide additional instructional days to prepare for state tests.
- Align with Advanced Placement and Dual Credit semester requirements.

### **Local Guidelines:**

On an annual basis, the district will determine when each school year will begin.

## **SUMMARY**

Upon approval from the Board of Trustees, the DOI Committee created this Local Innovation Plan based on the needs of students and the local community. The proposed exemptions will be monitored by staff, the DOI committee, and the Board of Trustees by using student performance data. Adjustments to this plan may be made if necessary to better meet the needs of the District.

**District of Innovation Timeline**  
**Redwater ISD**

✓	Initial meeting with administrative staff to discuss initial thoughts of pursuing DOI plans	Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 2017
✓	Board approval of Resolution that will begin the DOI decision process (TEC 12A.001(c)(1))	Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 2017
✓	Public Hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a DOI (TEC 12A.002(b)(2))	Monday, Jan. 23rd, 2017
✓	Board appoints members of District of Innovation Committee (TEC 12A.002(b)(2), 12A.003))	Monday, Jan. 23rd, 2017
✓	First meeting of the District of Innovation Committee	Tuesday, Jan. 24th, 2017
✓	Second meeting of the District of Innovation Committee	Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 2017
✓	District of Innovation plan posted on district website for 30 days (TEC 12A.005(a)(1))	Wednesday, Feb. 1st, 2017
✓	Commissioner notified of Board's intent to vote on District of Innovation plan (TEC 12A.005(a)(2))	Wednesday, Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017
✓	District Site-Based Decision Making Committee Public Meeting (TEC 12A.005(a)(3))	Wednesday, Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2017
✓	District Site-Based Decision Making Committee passes the plan by majority vote (TEC 12A.005(a)(3))	Wednesday, Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2017
✓	Board of trustees approve District of Innovation plan by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote (TEC 12A.005(b))	Monday, March 20th, 2017
✓	Notify Commissioner of plan approval	Thursday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017
✓	Notify TASB of policy changes	Thursday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017

**District of Innovation Committee  
Redwater ISD**

Kathy Allen	<b>Superintendent</b>
DiAnn Bransford	<b>Director of Instruction</b>
Kim Hornbuckle	<b>GT Coordinator</b>
Jay Sutton	<b>Band Director</b>
Karen Zink	<b>Technology Director</b>
Kasey Coggin	<b>ES/MS Asst. Principal</b>
Lee Ann Corbin	<b>JH Principal</b>
Lindsay Crain	<b>MS Principal</b>
Gary Hill	<b>JH/HS Asst. Principal</b>
Emily Lee	<b>ES Principal</b>
Rhonda Roberts	<b>HS Principal</b>
Tanya Calhoon	<b>ES Teacher</b>
Ocie Hanes	<b>JH Teacher</b>
Belinda Simpson	<b>MS Teacher</b>
Mallory Smith	<b>HS Teacher</b>
Paula Coggin	<b>Community Member</b>
Jonathan Shumate	<b>Parent</b>