

Lockney ISD

District of Innovation Plan

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. On December 15, 2016 the Lockney Independent School District's Board of Trustees passed a Resolution to Adopt 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 the students and the community. This plan will be effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022.

Proposed Considerations:

School Start Date

(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION. 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.

Proposed

Lockney ISD reserves the freedom to develop a calendar which better fits the needs of the community (pending approval by the District Improvement Committee and the School Board). This would provide greater flexibility in this area and would allow the District Committee to better balance the first and second semesters, providing more instructional days prior to state testing.

Lockney ISD also reserves the freedom to begin school up to one week before the 4th Monday in August. Any start of school date will be approved by the Lockney ISD Board of Trustees.

Teacher Certification

(DK Legal) (Ed. Code 21.003)

CERTIFICATION REQUIRED. A person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.

Proposed

While having the most qualified teacher in every classroom will remain of utmost importance to Lockney ISD, there are certain times and circumstances when a certified teacher is not available. There are also times and circumstances when a non-certified expert might have certain vocational skills that might be beneficial to student, but lack the certification to teach.

Lockney ISD reserves the freedom to make decisions regarding certifications locally and based on the needs of the campus and students. In the event that the district cannot retain the services of a certified teacher for a position, Lockney ISD reserves the freedom to enter into an at-will employment agreement with a noncertified individual. This individual must agree to make significant progress toward achieving certification as defined by the agreement. Special education teachers and bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.

Lockney ISD also reserves the freedom to enter into an at-will employment agreement with part time personnel with field experience in particular vocational areas. This could prove beneficial to students in CTE or vocational classes and provide more options for students and flexibility in scheduling.

Class Size in Grades K through 4

(EEB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.112)

CLASS SIZE RESTRICTIONS. A district shall not enroll more than 22 students in a class, kindergarten through fourth grade, except as allowed by the commissioner of education.

Proposed

While we certainly believe that small class size plays a positive role in the classroom, this must be balanced with the logistics of the timing of adding staff. Many times the number of students entering a grade level at the beginning of a school year cannot be predicted ahead of time. We do not believe beginning a school year with one or two students above the limit of 22 has a negative impact in the classroom, especially when it is likely to be a temporary issue.

Lockney ISD reserves the freedom to exceed the maximum class size by not more than 3 students and when given permission by the Lockney ISD Board of Trustees. Parents will be notified in cases where the class size exceeds 22 in any kindergarten through 4th grade classroom.