



District of Innovation Plan 5-Year Revision 2022-2027

Regular Board Meeting March 28, 2023

Edgewood ISD Mission Statement

Edgewood ISD provides an exceptional learning experience that engages, empowers, and prepares students to compete and reach their highest potential in an ever-changing World.

Edgewood ISD as a District of Innovation

I. Introduction

House Bill 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 April 18, 2017, the Edgewood Independent School District's Board of Managers passed a resolution to initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation, pursuant to Texas Education Code Chapter 12-A, in order to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

On May 11, 2017, the Board of Managers held a Public Hearing to consider whether Edgewood ISD should develop a District of Innovation Plan. After hearing from the public, the Board of Managers approved the appointment of a Local Innovation Committee to develop a comprehensive District of Innovation plan. The Board of Managers recommended the District Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) comprise the Local Innovation Committee and recommended additional ad hoc members be added to ensure all campuses are represented. The Committee was comprised of district leaders representing a variety of roles and responsibilities.

The Committee met on May 31, 2017, June 6, 2017, and on June 21, 2017, to discuss and draft the Local Innovation Plan. Based on guidance provided by the Board of Managers and input from various District stakeholders, the Committee developed the plan. This plan is specific to the exemptions as outlined. The district intends to follow the Texas Education Code in all areas. The DEIC met on September 7, 2017, to approve the District of Innovation Plan. Minor revisions were added to clarify processes in the plan. The revised plan was taken to the DEIC on October 5, 2017 and approved. If at some point it is decided that changes or additional exemptions should be considered, as per the Districts of Innovation process, the district will reconvene the District Education Improvement Committee to explore the requested changes.

Under HB 1842, districts may identify certain requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code (TEC) "that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. . ." The Edgewood ISD Strategic Plan 2016-2021 demands innovative practices and opportunities for our students; therefore, Edgewood ISD seeks exemption from the following permissible provisions of the TEC as allowed in the statute:

II. TERM

The term of the Innovation Plan is for five years, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the Plan.

On January 27, 2022, the District Educational Improvement Committee met to review the District of Innovation Plan and considered the addition of the following two items to the DOI Plan, 1.) **Officers and Officials Duties and Requirements of Depository** and 2.) **School Health Advisory Councils**. The DEIC approved the addition of the two items included on page 6.

III. A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Plan's comprehensive educational program is guided by the Edgewood ISD Board's Vision, Mission, Lone Star Governance Goals, the Number One Outcome, Core Values, and Board/Superintendent Goals.

Vision Statement

For every child, success in life. Edgewood Proud!

Mission Statement

Edgewood ISD provides an exceptional learning experience that engages, empowers, and prepares students to compete and reach their highest potential in an ever-changing World.

Lone Star Governance Goals

The percent of students in grades K-3 reading on or above grade level will increase from 54% to 64% by June 2022 (baseline measure May 2017).

The percent of students in grades 3 - Algebra 1 meeting standard on STAAR mathematics will increase from 66% to 76% by June 2023 (baseline measure - 2018 STAAR Mathematics).

The College, Career and Military Readiness Scaled Score will increase from 61 to 82 by June 2023 (baseline measure Class of 2017 reported in 2018).

Outcome

Graduate ALL scholars College, Career, or Military ready per their expected date of graduation!

Core Values

P = Professionalism A = Accountability C = Communication

Board/Superintendent Goals

Goal 1: Focus on Student Success

Goal 2: Focus on Students, Families & Community

Goal 3: Focus on Operational Excellence

Goal 4: Focus on Employee & Organizational Improvement

Goal 5: Focus on Financial Stewardship

IV. THE INNOVATION PLAN

This plan is specific to the exemptions as outlined. The district intends to follow the Texas Education Code in all other areas. If at some point it is decided that changes or additional exemptions should be considered, as per the Districts of Innovation process, the district will reconvene the District Education Improvement Committee to explore the request.

Under HB 1842, districts may identify certain requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code (TEC) “that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. . .” The EISD Strategic Plan demands innovative practices and opportunities for our students, and therefore, EISD seeks exemption from the following permissible provisions of the TEC as allowed in the statute:

- Class Size Ratio
- Minimum Minutes of Instruction
- Teacher Certification
- Uniform Start Date

Class Size Ratio

EEB (LEGAL), Texas Education Code 25.111, 25.112, and 25.113

Current Statute: Kindergarten - 4th Grade class sizes are to remain at or below a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. These waivers are completed at the start of a school year as well as anytime a child enrolls in an elementary school at a grade level where the ratio is already maintained according to staffing projections the previous year.

Proposed Flexibility: If the student/teacher ratio averaged across a grade level goes over the 22 students to 1 teacher, it must have teacher approval. The extended class minimum approval applies after the first four weeks of instruction. In the event a classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio in grades K-4, campus, and district administration in collaboration with the teacher would request an exemption from the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will then report to the Board of Trustees the number of exemptions granted.

Rationale: Moving students during the year can be detrimental to the continuity and stability of their academic and emotional growth. EISD is required to seek a waiver each year to approve this practice that supports increased class size. In addition, flexibility around class size can be considered at the elementary level based on student need and teacher request.

Minimum Minutes of Instruction

EC (LEGAL) and EB (LEGAL), Texas Education Code 25.081

Current Statute: House Bill (HB) 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 this language 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 disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity.

Proposed Flexibility: Edgewood ISD seeks exemption from the requirement that an instructional day must be at least 420 minutes/seven hours a day in length. Flexibility for the district to schedule half-days for the purpose of planning for student needs.

Rationale: Edgewood ISD seeks to expand or adjust school schedules to accommodate student course work needs. To meet the needs of students in special programs (i.e., Early College High School). Edgewood ISD seeks a later start or additional early release time to accommodate professional development/collaboration for teachers to provide sufficient time for teacher collaboration.

Teacher Certification

DK (LEGAL), DK (LOCAL), DK (EXHIBIT), Texas Education Code 21.003

Current Statute: In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request.

Proposed Flexibility: 21.003 certification required (for example, Career and Technical Education/Dual Credit/Early College High School courses); 21.0031 failure to obtain certification; contract void; 21.053 presentation and recording of certificate. The campus principal may submit to the Superintendent a request to allow a teacher to teach a course in a highly specialized or hard-to-fill area. The superintendent will make a determination as to whether the applicant is qualified to teach such a course or vocational skill through a local teaching certificate. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The Superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees. In the event that an employee seeks a position where they are not certified, they may request approval of a local teaching certificate based on district need/availability. Note that special education and bilingual teachers must continue to be certified.

Rationale: A lack of specialized courses and dual enrollment courses exist at the secondary level. The District shall make every effort to hire teachers with appropriate state certification. However, in hard-to-fill positions, the District shall be exempt from state certification requirements. All employees issued a local teaching certificate will be provided a comprehensive professional development plan to address the following: classroom management, TEKS, relationship building, as well as all of the required professional development provided to new teachers.

Uniform School Start Date

EB (LEGAL), Texas Education Code 25.0811

Current Statute: Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. In the past, districts could apply for a waiver to start the school calendar earlier to meet the needs of the local community. This waiver opportunity was met with resistance from the Texas tourism groups who lobbied to have the practice ended, because they believed it was detrimental to the Texas 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.

Proposed Flexibility: To be able to start prior to the fourth Monday in August, but not earlier than the 2nd Monday, in order to have a balanced calendar for grade reporting and aligning to state assessments.

Rationale: Based on the current schedule, the fall semester ends in the middle of January. An earlier start will provide a balance between the fall and spring semesters. Ending the fall semester before the winter break will improve results due to extinction of knowledge over the winter break. This balance will also provide additional instructional time prior to state assessment administration. The additional time will increase time for intervention time. Families may save on utilities by having children in school. Better alignment with state testing calendar. Annual calendars be created to address each year.

Officers and Officials Duties and Requirements of Depository

BDAE (LOCAL), Texas Education Code 45.206(a)

Current Statute: The depository bank when selected shall serve for a term of two years and until its successor is selected and has qualified. A school district and the district's depository bank may agree to extend a depository contract for two additional two-year terms. An extension under this subsection is not subject to the requirements of Section 45.206. The contract term and any extension must coincide with the school district's fiscal year.

Proposed Flexibility: The depository provision allows the district's existing bank contract to be extended beyond the total 6-year allowable contract term if the district determines contract pricing remains competitive. It alleviates the administrative burden related to preparing and reviewing the depository contract every two years.

Rationale: The exemption allows EISD to continue its strong relationship with its current banking institution.

School Health Advisory Councils

BDF (LEGAL), Texas Education Code 28.004

Current Statute: Meetings - The SHAC shall meet at least four times each year. For each meeting the SHAC shall: At least 72 hours before the meeting post notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting on a bulletin board in the central administrative office of each campus in the district; and ensure that the required notice is posted on the district's internet website, if the district has an internet website; Prepare and maintain minutes of the meeting that state the subject and content of each deliberation and each vote, order, decision, or other action taken by the council during the meeting; Make an audio or video recording of the meeting; and not later than the tenth day after the meeting, submit the minutes and audio or video recording of the meeting to the district. As soon as practicable after receipt of the minutes and audio or video recording, the district shall post the minutes and audio or video recording on the district's internet website, if the district has an internet website. Education Code 28.004(d-1), (d-2)

Proposed Flexibility: Edgewood ISD will claim an exemption to Local School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) meeting requirements. The members of the SHAC shall determine how often the committee should meet. The District shall determine the reporting and communication structure of the SHAC meetings, preparation, posting of meeting minutes. The EISD SHAC shall meet at least once per year. The SHAC is consistently aware of the needs of the District's students and is often able to review, advise, and revise plans in fewer than four meetings.

Rationale: To expedite the SHAC to effectively and consistently be aware of the needs of the District's students and to review, advise, and revise plans during each meeting.