



DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

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 or not 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.

III. A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Plan's comprehensive educational program is guided by the Board's Vision, Mission, Shared Beliefs and Goals.

Vison 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.

Shared Beliefs

- All students have value and can be successful
- High expectations and positive relationships are vital for student success
- All stakeholders should inspire students to love learning & reach their personal goals
- Each student deserves a high quality, well-rounded, education (academic, social, and life skills)

Lone Star Governance - Student Outcome Goals

The percentage of students in grades K-3 who are reading on or above grade level will increase from 54% to 64% by the end of school year 2022 (Baseline measure May 2017).

The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who meet standard on reading STAAR will increase from 61% to 68% by the end of school year 2022 (Baseline - 2017 STAAR English, STAAR Spanish and STAAR Alternative 2).

The Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation Rate (Graduated, Continued in School, or Received GED) will increase from 87.4% (Class of 2016 reported in 2017) to 90.0% (Class of 2021 reported in 2022).

Strategic Plan Goals

Improve Literacy - All students will be literate in order to be contributing members of society.

College and Career Readiness - All EISD students will possess the skill sets necessary to be college and/or career ready

Stewardship - EISD will provide each student with an exceptional educational experience, so they will be a contributing citizen in the 21st century global marketplace

Graduation/Dropout Rate - Each student that enters EISD will graduate!

Attendance - Every student will intrinsically want to be physically and mentally in class

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
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Class Size Ratio

(EEB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.111) (Ed. Code 25.112) (Ed. Code 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 student 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 & EB LEGAL) (Ed. 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) (ED. 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) (Ed. 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.