

Reagan County ISD



“Mining For Gold”

District of Innovation Plan



District of Innovation Committee

District Representatives:

- ▶ Steve Long, Superintendent of Schools
- ▶ Kim Hutchinson, Director of Special Programs
- ▶ Dr. Kara Sue Garlitz, High School Principal
- ▶ David Kohutek, Middle School Principal
- ▶ Mandy Traylor, Elementary Principal

Elementary Representatives:

- ▶ Mrs. Hayley Garcia, Elementary Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mrs. Ashley Weatherby, District-wide Representative
- ▶ Mrs. Erika Hernandez, Elementary Teacher Representative

MS/High School Representatives:

- ▶ Mrs. Lauren McPhaul, HS Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mr. Kelly Wilson, HS Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mr. Andy Perez, MS Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mr. Wendell Baucom, MS Teacher Representative

Parent and Business Representatives:

- ▶ Mrs. Brandi Lemons, Parent Representative
- ▶ Mrs. Nina Hallmark, Business/Parent Representative.



District of Innovation Timeline

- ▶ **Week of February 6th – Inform faculty of intent to apply for District of Innovation.**
- ▶ **Week of February 13th – Posted District of Innovation presentation information on the RCISD website**
- ▶ **Thursday, February 16th**
 - ▶ **Regular Board Meeting for Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. in order review and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation**
 - ▶ **Action to Consider: Board of Trustees to consider approving resolution to become a District of Innovation.**
 - ▶ **Action to Consider: Board of Trustees to consider approving the members of the District of Innovation Committee**
- ▶ **February 20th-February 24th: Window for campus faculty meetings to preview District of Innovation plan.**
- ▶ **Thursday, March 2nd at 3:30 p.m.: RCISD Administration - Meeting of the District of Innovation Committee**
- ▶ **March 2nd – April 7th: Post the District of Innovation Plan on the district website for 30 days**
- ▶ **Monday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m.: Regular RCISD board meeting to consider approving the District of Innovation Plan and approve the 2017-2018 school calendar**
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 11th: Update all policy changes with TASB**



Districts of Innovation

What is a “District of Innovation”?

- ▶ The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas’ open-enrollment charter schools.

Should my district become a “District of Innovation”?

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- ▶ **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- ▶ **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates such as:
 - School start date
 - Teacher certification (except as required by federal law)
 - Discipline Options



School Start Date Waiver Issue

The uniform school start date for the 2017-2018 school year is August 28, 2017. Using this start date will back up our school calendar up to the end of May or beginning of June.

If we receive this “district of innovation” designation we can start school on August 17, 2017 and will be able to maintain a school calendar similar to the current adopted calendar.

Steps from here:

- School Board will consider adopting an Innovation Plan Resolution in February.**
- Each campus will have at least two teachers to serve on an innovation planning team to develop the Innovation Plan.**
- Board will consider adopting the Innovation Plan after it has been posted online for 30 days.**
- Innovation Plans may have a term of 5 years.**
- District must achieve “met standard” on accountability ratings in order to maintain the Innovation Plan.**



District of Innovation Plan

What exemptions do Reagan County ISD intend to pursue?

► *RCISD will apply for exemptions of the following legal requirements:*

- 1. Uniform school start date: Chapter 25 - Admission, Transfer and Attendance, Subchapter C - Operations of Schools and School Attendance 25.081 - First Day of Instruction (EB Legal): This will allow RCISD to provide a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional development plan in conjunction with the new instructional minutes rather than instructional days required.*
- 2. Teacher Certification: Chapter 21- Educators, Subchapter A- General Provisions, 21.003 Certification Required; Subchapter B - Certification of Educators, 21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates and 21.057 Parental Notification (DK Legal and Local): In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside their certification, a district must submit a request to TEA. In order to best serve RCISD students, this will allow decisions on certification to be handled locally.*
- 3. Discipline Options: Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Oder: Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management, 37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator (DP Legal and Local): Senate Bill 107 requires the designation of a Campus Behavior Coordinator on each*

campus. This person is responsible for maintaining student discipline and the implementation of Chapter 37, Subchapter A.