

Leon ISD

District of Innovation Plan

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislature Session in spring 2015. This bill provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities a school must adopt a District of Innovation Plan.

Districts of Innovation provides opportunities for:

- Greater local control;
- Increased flexibility governing education programming and
- Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statues related to curriculum, graduation requirements, nor academic and financial accountability.

District of Innovation (DOI) Committee

Member	Role
Jerod Neff, <i>Chair</i>	Assistant Superintendent
Geoffery Bowdoin	Elementary Principal
JD Foley	Junior High Principal
Jaw Winn	High School Principal
Erin Horne	Elementary Counselor
Rachael Robinson	Junior High Counselor
Elise Watson	High School Counselor
Ann McCoslin	Elementary Teacher
Becky Brown	Junior High Teacher
Julie Neyland	High School Teacher

I. TIMELINE	
January 19, 2017	Board Information The Leon ISD Board of Trustees will be provided an overview and introduction to District of Innovation
January 19, 2017	Adopt Resolution The Leon ISD Board of Trustees we be asked to approve a resolution to explore the opportunity for Leon ISD to become a District of Innovation.
March 6, 2017	Public Hearing The Leon ISD Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing for public input on the District of Innovation opportunity.
March 6, 2017	Appoint Committee The Leon ISD Board of Trustees will appoint a district-wide committee to develop a District of Innovation Plan
March 7, 2017	Develop Innovation Plan The appointed committee will explore and develop a District of Innovation Plan according to HB 1842 of the 84th Texas Legislature.
March 7, 2017	Propose Innovation Plan The appointed committee will propose a District of Innovation Plan.
March 7, 2017	Post Innovation Plan The Leon ISD District of Innovation Plan will be posted on the Leon ISD website for at least 30 days.
April 10, 2017	Approve Innovation Plan The Leon ISD Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the Leon ISD District of Innovation Plan. A copy of the approved District of Innovation Plan will be provided to the Texas Education Agency for posting on its website.

II. TERM

The term of the District of Innovation Plan is for five years beginning April 10, 2017 and ending April 10, 2022, unless amended or terminated earlier by the Leon ISD Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The DOI Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the District of Innovation Plan and recommend to the Leon ISD Board of Trustees any suggested modifications.

III. SCHOOL START DATE

Current Policy: TEC §25.0811

(a) *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 Policy:

A school district may begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August upon recommendation of the DOI Committee and approval from the Leon ISD Board of Trustees.

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III. SCHOOL START DATE (continued)

Benefits of Proposed Policy:

The flexibility provided by the Leon ISD District of Innovation Plan allows for:

- Increased number of instructional days before state assessments
- Balanced number of days between fall and spring semesters
- Alignment with local college academic calendars for dual-credit and college courses
- Earlier start dates for summer school instruction and accelerated instruction for state assessments
- Flexibility to meet community needs.