

Childress Independent School District

Local Innovation Plan

Local Innovation Committee Members:

Rick Teran, Superintendent

Karen Leonard, Business Manager

Sarah Mills, Curriculum Director

Paige Steed, Childress High School Principal

Marsha Meacham, Childress Junior High Principal

Janet Word, Childress Elementary School Principal

Ann Johnson, Childress Elementary School Assistant Principal

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 July 11, 2016, the Childress Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation 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 July 11, 2016, the Board appointed the seven member Local Innovation Committee ("Committee") comprised of district administrators. The Committee met on July 18, 2016 to discuss and draft this Local Plan ("Plan").

Term

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning August 19, 2016 and ending August 19, 2021, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board 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.

Innovations

The District proposes flexibility in the following areas:

Teacher Certification

(TEC 21.003) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA LOCAL)

Texas Education Code Section 21.003 states that "a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B." The current certification requirements inhibit the District's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career And Technical Education (CATE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM), Foreign Language, History, and English Language Arts courses. In order to provide more students the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such courses in lieu of the requirements set forth in law. The District does not wish to be exempted from any existing laws relating to teacher contracts or teacher benefits. Flexibility to establish its own teacher certification requirements.

School Calendar

(TEC 25.0811) (TEC 25.0812) (EB LEGAL) (EB LOCAL)

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August. Texas Education Code Section 25.0812 states that a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15.

Class Size Ratio

(EEB Legal) (TEC 25.111) (TEC 25.112) (TEC 25.113)

Texas Education Code Section 25.112 addresses the number of students that may be in a single kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class and limits that number to 22. The intent of this statute was to ensure that classrooms maintained a small teacher/student ratio under the belief that smaller classes led to improved achievement for students who benefited from more individualized teacher attention. While the maximum number of students in K-5 classrooms may be addressed by a state waiver, said waivers must be applied for annually and must be applied for by each district, each year. By seeking an exception from TEC Section 25.112, the District would have flexibility for all campuses and classrooms for the duration of the District of Innovation Designation and would not be required to seek waivers annually. The District does not traditionally seek waivers in this area and will strive to maintain a ratio of 22-1 or less.

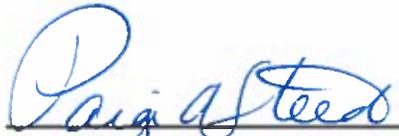
Implementation

In order to offer students additional opportunities, this Innovation Plan has been created with guidelines in which the District will operate. Campuses and departments in the District will develop specific implementation plans. Adjustments to Board Policy will be adopted when appropriate.

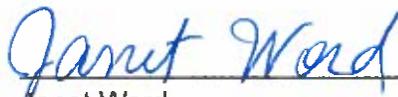
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