



# Winnsboro ISD District of Innovation Plan

2018-19 through 2022-23

**Winnsboro ISD**  
**District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)**  
**2017-2018**

When the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session passed HB 1842, a unique opportunity presented itself for Texas public school districts to have more local control. HB 1842 allows independent school districts to modify certain state requirements in an effort to better serve the needs of students, effectively allowing the district to more accurately mirror the values of the community it serves. With the recent passage of a bond to construct a new high school and CTE facility, we feel that the time is right to take advantage of this opportunity that will allow our local district to tailor plans based on the needs of our students and community. This plan will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year through the 2022-2023 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with the approval of the Winnsboro ISD Board of Trustees.

**District of Innovation Committee**

1. Susan Morton - Superintendent
2. Torri Miller – Director of Curriculum
3. David Pinnell – Winnsboro High School Principal
4. Jeff Akin – Memorial Middle School Principal
5. Kristie Amason – Winnsboro Elementary Principal
6. Mary Ellen Knight – Special Education Director
7. Kelly Knight – WHS Teacher
8. Laura Murdock – MMS Teacher
9. Jessica Crocker – WES Teacher
10. Darren Swanner – Parent
11. Joe Grimes – Parent
12. Tori Simons - Parent

**1. School Start Date**  
*(EB LEGAL) (TEC 25.0811)*

**Currently:** *TEC 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August. TEC 25.0812 states that a school may not schedule the last day of school before May 15.*

**Proposed:** To allow for a calendar that fits the needs of our local community, we would like to consider moving the mandatory start date back one week to benefit our students.

- Students will begin no earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of August.
- Teachers will begin no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of August.
- This will allow the first and second semesters to be more balanced in terms of the number of days of instruction.
- This will allow for a calendar that fits the needs of our local community, staff, and students.

## **2. Teacher Certification**

*(DK LEGAL) (TEC 21.003)*

**Currently:** *TEC 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.*

**Proposed:** In order to best serve Winnsboro ISD students, decisions of certification for classroom teachers will be handled locally.

- The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which qualify this individual to teach this subject.
- An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all of the individual's credentials. The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual could be an asset to the students. The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will be at-will.
- This will allow more flexibility in scheduling and expand options for course offerings where certified people are not readily available.
- It is the intent of WISD to utilize this option sparingly – and only as it relates to expanding opportunities for possible class offerings in the schedule.

## **3. Probationary Contracts**

*(DCA LEGAL) (TEC 21.102)*

**Currently:** *TEC 21.102 states that a probationary contract may not be for a term exceeding one school year. The probationary contract may be renewed for two additional one-year periods, for a maximum permissible probationary contract period of three school years, except that the probationary period may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the district.*

**Proposed:** Winnsboro ISD would like to have the ability to renew the probationary contract by an additional one-year period, for a maximum of two school years, for all teachers that are new to the district, regardless of their teaching experience prior to employment by the District.

In order to preserve fidelity in regard to program intent, the District of Innovation committee will conduct an annual review of the program and a presentation will follow for the Board of Trustees. Additionally, if a committee member cannot continue to serve, the committee will come to a consensus on an appropriate replacement.

## Timeline:

### WINNSBORO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT District of Innovation Timeline

Thursday, January 4, 2018	<p>Initial meeting with administrative staff to discuss preliminary thoughts, possible exemptions, and possible members of the District of Innovation Committee. The District of Innovation Committee will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent</li> <li>• Administrative Staff</li> <li>• Principals from each campus</li> <li>• One teacher from each campus</li> <li>• Two – five parents and/or community members</li> </ul>
Monday, January 22, 2018	<p>6:30 p.m. – Special Board Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board approved a resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation</li> </ul> <p>6:45 p.m. – Public Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain and discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation</li> </ul> <p>7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved a motion to pursue local “District of Innovation” plan</li> <li>• Approve the members of the District of Innovation Committee</li> </ul>
Friday, February 2, 2018	<p>2:00 p.m. – Meeting of the District of Innovation Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate them about HB 1842 and Districts of Innovation</li> <li>• Discuss possible exemptions</li> <li>• Decide which exemptions to pursue and include in our plan</li> </ul>
Monday, February 12, 2018	<p>2:00 p.m. – Meeting of the District Site Based Committee and the District of Innovation Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public meeting to consider the WISD District of Innovation Plan</li> <li>• Plan was approved by a unanimous vote by the District Site Based Committee</li> </ul>
February 19, 2018	<p>Posted proposed WISD District of Innovation plan on the district website for thirty days.</p>

March 26, 2018	7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting Board voted to notify Commissioner of Education of intent to vote on the adoption of the proposed District of Innovation plan.
March 29, 2018	Mailed notification to the Commissioner of Education
April 16, 2018	7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting Board of Trustees voted to approve the District of Innovation Plan
April 17, 2018	Mailed notification to the Commissioner of Education of Board’s approval of District of Innovation Plan. Updated all policy changes with TASB