Priddy

Independent School District



District of Innovation Plan

September 2022-June 2027

Priddy ISD

District of Innovation Plan

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in Spring 2015, and provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in the Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

Districts of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state statutes and will have:

- ➢ Greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students;
- ➢ Increased freedom and flexibility, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and ➢ Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes including curriculum and graduation requirements, and academic and financial accountability.

Process

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the District of Innovation Committee plans to discuss and draft the continuation of the Local Innovation Plan. This committee represents various stakeholders across the district, including teachers, parents, campus administration, district administration, and Board of Trustees. The committee met on February 9th and 11th to discuss and develop the plan. A follow up meeting to finalize the plan was held on March 4, 2022. The plan was posted on the district website April 14, 2022.

The District Site-Base Decision Making Committee, a body composed of representatives from all stakeholder groups within the district's community, meet

on April 18, 2022 If a majority of their membership approves the plan, it will go to the Board on May 11, 2022.

Amendment to this Plan

A designated District of Innovation may choose to amend or renew its plan at any time pursuant to applicable sections of Texas Education Code (TEC) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (1) Amendment. An amendment to an approved plan does not change the date of the term of designation as an innovation district. Exemptions that were already formally approved are not required to be reviewed.

- An amendment may be made to a DOI plan at any time during the term of the plan.
- An amendment to a DOI plan does not require the district to repeat the adoption process in its entirety.
- An amendment to a DOI plan does not change the date of the term of the plan; the original adopted term must remain the same.
- The district shall ensure that a copy of the local innovation plan is posted on the district's website in accordance with the TEC, §12A.0071, for the term of the designation as an innovation district.
- Not later than the 15th day after the date on which the board of trustees finalizes a local innovation plan either through adoption, amendment, or renewal, the district shall provide a copy of [link to] the current local innovation plan to the Texas Education Agency for posting on the agency website

In the spring of 2024, this approved District of Innovation plan was amended to update the wording of the section on Teacher Certification. The amendment process included the following steps and timeline:

- March 8, 2024: Public meeting of the District-level DOI Committee to consider and approved the proposed amendment to update wording of the section that discusses teacher certification.
- March 18, 2024: The amendment was approved the Priddy School Board in the Regular March Board Meeting.
- March 30, 2024: The Commissioner of Education was notified of the

proposed amendment and provided with a link to the district's web posting.

Term

The District of Innovation Plan became effective in September 2022, was amended in March 2024, and will remain in effect for five years, through June 2027 unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law.

Priddy I.S.D. Timeline

Timeline	**Activity/Task**
February 9, 2022	*1st Meeting of DOI Committee to discuss District of Innovation Plan*
February 11, 2022	*2nd Meeting of DOI Committee to discuss District of Innovation Plan*

March 4, 2022	*3rd Meeting of DOI Committee to discuss District of Innovation Plan*
April 13, 2022	*Board of Trustees adopted resolution to initiate District of Innovation and appointed Committee to draft a DOI Plan*
April 14, 2022	*Post DOI Plan on Priddy ISD website for 30 days*
April 18, 2022	*District Site-Based Committee Meeting*
April 19, 2022	*Flyer posted for 30 days asking for community participation*
May 18, 2022	*Recommend Final Plan to Board of Trustees for Approval*
March 8, 2024	*Public meeting of the District DOI Committee to consider an amendment to update wording of the teacher certification section*
March 18, 2024	*Priddy School Board voted to approve the amendment to the District of Innovation Plan that runs through June 2027*
February 25th, 2026	*Priddy School Board voted to approve the amendment to the District of Innovation Plan that runs through June, 2027*

District of Innovation Planning Committee

Member Name	**District/Community Role**
Mr James Baize Dr. Cindy Woody (amendment) David Coker (amendment)	*Interim Superintendent* *Superintendent* *Superintendent*
Carl Spruell Bucky Bates (amendment) Chayden Feist (amendment)	*Principal* *Principal*
Jeremy Herrera	*Business Manager* *Technology director*
Loretta Goehmann (also for amendment)	*Elementary Teacher* *Secondary Teacher*
Stacy Randolph Vicki Peters (amendment)	*Middle School Teacher* *Middle School Teacher*
Marcia Glasgow Michelle Buffe (amendment)	*High School Teacher*
Shawna Martin Pam Naglieri (amendment)	*Special Education Teacher*
Josie Ivy Lindsey Seider (amendment) Kelsey Buffe (amendment)	*Auxiliary Staff/Parent* *Teacher/Parent* *Parent*
Jamie Tiemann Julia Perez (amendment)	*Auxiliary Staff/Parent* *Sub/Parent*

Landon Buffe	*CTE Teacher*

Phillip Martin Derek Ahearn (amendment)	*Athletic Director* *Athletic Director*
Jason Partin Clarence Grelle (amendment)	*School Board President* *School Board President*
Clarence Grelle Cody Stegemoller (amendment)	*School Board Vice President* *School Board Vice President*
Sharron Hohertz	*School Board Secretary*
Dean Cagle	*School Board Member*
Debbie Tiemann LaDonna Feist (amendment)	*School Board Member* *School Board Member*
Clarence Grelle Ross Rhoades (amendment)	*School Board Member* *School Board Member*
Cody Stegemoller Barry Randolph (amendment)	*School Board Member* *School Board Member*
Wesley Peters (amendment)	*School Board Member*

Proposed Exemptions

The following are the provisions of the Texas Education code that inhibit the goals of the district and from which the district seeks to exempt itself through adoption of the District of Innovation Plan.

SCHOOL START DATE

(EB LEGAL) (Texas Education Code 25.0811)

Current Law

25.0811 - Students are prohibited from starting school before the 4th Monday of August. For years, this was strictly a local decision. The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped because they believed it was hurting their 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

This flexibility of a start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. This flexibility of the start date also offers the following opportunities:

a) This will allow the first and second semesters to be somewhat equal in the number of days of instruction.

b) Students participating in Dual Enrollment opportunities will work with balanced semesters, which align with our local colleges.

c) An early start date permits students an additional week of instruction prior to state assessments in December.

d) Students will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts and staff will be able to attend summer school classes as well.

e) This would allow an option to start school with a shorter week, easing the transition for students entering kindergarten, middle school, and high school.

PISD Local Guidelines

The district will determine, on an annual basis, when each school year will begin.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

(DK LEGAL, LOCAL) (Texas Education Code 21.003)

Current Law

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.

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. In certain circumstances, a district can use a local one-year permit. Contracted staff is required to work 187 school days.

(DK LEGAL, LOCAL) (Texas Education Code 21.057)

Current Law

A school district (superintendent) that assigns an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year shall provide written notice of the assignment to a parent or guardian of each student in that classroom.

(DK LEGAL, LOCAL) (Texas Education Code 21.053)

Current Law

A person who desires to teach in a public school shall present the person's certificate for filing with the employing district before the person's contract with the board of trustees of the district is binding. An educator who does not hold a valid certificate may not be paid for teaching or work done before the effective date of issuance of a valid certificate.

Proposed

In order to best serve Priddy ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. With the current teacher shortage, this exemption from teacher certification requirements will enable greater flexibility in staffing and will enrich

applicant pools in specific areas of need. It will also exempt the district from the requirement in TEC 21.057, which includes providing written notice to the parent or guardian of each student in a classroom to which an uncertified, or an inappropriately certified teacher, is assigned as the teacher of record.

Local Guidelines

Priddy ISD will maintain its current expectation for teacher certification and continue to seek highly certified educators for all teaching positions. The district will make every attempt to hire individuals with appropriate certification for the position(s) in question at the time of hire. However, where that is not reasonably possible, the district will have the flexibility to hire and locally certify individuals who are knowledgeable in the area and are fully equipped to effectively perform the duties of the position in question based on local certification criteria without requesting a waiver from T.E.A.

INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

(FDA LOCAL) (Texas Education Code 25.036)

Current Law

Currently, under Texas Education Code 25.036, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district, but TEC 25.036, has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of one school year.

Proposed

Priddy ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (Local) requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history records, work habits, and attendance records are also evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the district. TEC 25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one-year commitment by the district. The district is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. On rare

occasions, student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall below the TEA truancy standard. Students may also fail to maintain an appropriate academic standing. In these rare cases, Priddy ISD seeks exemption from the one year transfer commitment.

Local Guidelines

Nonresident students who have been accepted as a district transfer student may have such transfer status revoked by the Superintendent at any time during the year for the following reasons.

1. Non-resident students who have been accepted as a district transfer may have such transfer status revoked by the Superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expelled.
2. Non-resident students not meeting the state 90% attendance standard or truancy rule will be subject to immediate revocation of transfer status.
3. Non-resident students whose parent/guardian is uncooperative in addressing the student's behavior, attendance concerns, or work habits will be subject to immediate revocation of transfer status.
4. Non-resident students who are failing academically or refuse to complete their assigned work as directed by their teacher(s) will be subject to immediate revocation of transfer status.
5. Non-resident students who require additional tutoring as a result of not meeting the state standard on annual testing will be subject to revocation of transfer status due to limited staffing resources.

Revocation of transfers for the above reasons is final and may not be appealed.

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(*BDF LEGAL FFA LOCAL*) (*Texas Education Code 28.004*)

The board of trustees shall appoint at least five members to the local school health advisory council. A majority of the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not employed by the district. One of

those members shall serve as chair or co-chair of the council.

The local school health advisory council shall meet at least four times each year.

Any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome shall be selected by the board of trustees with the advice of the local school health advisory council.

Proposed

TEC 28.004 states that a school district shall establish a local school health advisory council (SHAC) to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction. While the District has established a SHAC, it will claim an exemption to section 28.004. An exemption would allow local control by the board of trustees, district administration, and the SHAC committee members to make determinations regarding the SHAC, such as required number of days for meetings, the notices and retention of meetings minutes, the appointment and make-up SHAC members and officers, the recording of minutes, and the adoption of curriculum material for the District's human sexuality instruction.

On May 18, 2022 the Board of Trustees adopted findings declaring that TEC 28.004 is not in any of the prohibited exemptions that can be included in a District's local innovation plan pursuant to Texas Education Code 12A.004 and the list of Commissioner's prohibited exemptions in Texas Administrative Code Title

19, Chapter 102, subchapter JJ, Section 102.1209.

Local Guidelines

A. Increased local control of the SHAC processes and procedures to allow Priddy ISD to be adaptive to the District's local community values regarding the district's health education instruction.
B. The SHAC committee will meet at the school boards discretion.

INNOVATION STRATEGY

Priddy ISD, in conjunction with the District of Innovation Committee, proposes the following additional flexibility with the Texas Education Code ("TEC"). With regard to the following additional area of an innovation:

A. The District declares exemption from the listed statutory provisions, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.