

Chisum ISD

**District of
Innovation Plan**

February 2017 – January 2021

Planning Committee

<i>Member Name</i>	<i>Representation</i>	<i>Campus</i>
James Evans	Community Member	Middle School
Crystal Brown	Parent	Elementary
Don Hevron	Parent	High School
Jeff Rogers	Technology	ISD
Terri Hutto	Teacher	High School
Jennifer Sikes	Teacher	Elementary
Aaron Bridges	Principal	Middle School
Kathy Cook	Teacher	Middle School
Angie Sanders	Teacher	Middle School
Tricia Chalaire	Teacher	High School
Lori Hindman	Teacher	Middle School
Wendy Ruthart	Principal	Elementary
Carla Sanders	Teacher	Elementary
Sandy Deupree	Teacher	Elementary
Lori Kelley	Asst. Principal	Elementary
Gerry Young	Teacher	High School
Clint Miller	Principal	High School
Tommy Chalaire	Superintendent	ISD

Overview

House Bill 1842 passed in the 84th Texas Legislative Session, provides an opportunity for Texas public school districts to modify state requirements at the local level to better meet the needs of their unique student populations in order to prepare them for success and lifelong learning. As a District of Innovation, Chisum ISD wishes to implement an Innovation Plan with increased flexibility and freedom necessary to personalize learning experiences. As a District of Innovation, Chisum ISD intends to utilize the opportunity to enact maximum local control and design local policies as needed to best meet the needs of our students, employees, and community.

Term

The District of Innovation Plan will become effective February 2017 and will remain in effect for five years, through January 2021, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees of Chisum in accordance with the law. The District of Innovation Planning Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the plan and recommend to the Board of Trustees any suggested modifications to the plan.

Timeline

Timeline	Activity/Task
January 26, 2017	Board of Trustees to pass a resolution to begin District of Innovation(DOI) Plan
January 26, 2017	Chisum Board of Trustees to hold a public hearing on the District of Innovation
January 26, 2017	Chisum Board of Trustees to approve the District of Innovation committee
January 27, 2017	Initial planning meeting of the DOI committee
January 31, 2017	2 nd Planning meeting to finalize the District of Innovation Plan
February 2, 2017	District of Innovation Plan voted on by DOI committee
February 3, 2017	District of Innovation Plan posted to Chisum ISD website for 30 days
February 9, 2017	District of Innovation plan submitted to the Commissioner of Education.
March 6, 2017	Chisum Trustees vote on the District of Innovation Plan
March 8, 2017	Update all policy changes with TASB

School Start Date

(EB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)

Currently

Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August.

Proposed

Chisum ISD would like to locally determine the school start date for school. This flexibility would allow the districts to determine, on an annual basis, what start date best meets the needs of the students.

- Students will begin no earlier than the 3rd Monday of August.
- Teachers will begin no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.
- This will allow the first and second semesters to be closer in the number of days of instruction.
- The goal is to improve the district attendance rate and student success through the flexibility on the calendar.

Submitting Waivers for Kindergarten – Grade 4 Class Size

(EEB LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.112) (Ed. Code 25.113)

Currently

Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes are to be kept at a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency. Along with the waiver, school districts are required to send letters to each parent in classes that exceed the 22:1 ratio.

Proposed

Chisum ISD intends to remain within the education code guidelines regarding class size, but we are seeking local control to manage increases in class sizes to provide the best learning environment for our students in Kindergarten – 4th grades.

Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (Ed. Code 21.003)

Currently

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request.

Proposed

In order to best serve Chisum students, decisions on certifications 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 possess which qualify him/her to teach the 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 the individual's credentials. The Superintendent will then approve the request if the individual will be an asset to Chisum students. The Superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning employment. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will be at-will.
- This will allow more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

Teacher Contracts

(DCA LEGAL) (Ed. Code 21.102)

Currently

A probationary contract may not exceed one year for new teachers to our district who have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the district. Under this circumstance, the district must either give the teacher a term contract or terminate their contract after their first year in the district.

Proposed

Chisum ISD would like to have the ability to renew the probationary contract one additional one-year period, for a maximum of two school years, for all teachers who are new to the district and who have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of eight years preceding employment by the district.

Transfer Students

FDA (LOCAL) (Ed. Code 25.036)

Currently

Under TEC 25.036, a transfer is interpreted to be for a period of one school year.

Proposed

Chisum 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, attendance, grades, and assessment scores are all evaluated. TEC 25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer student as a one-year commitment by the district. The district is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applications. On rare occasions that include but are not limited to the following: suspensions, (in or out of school), DAEP assignment, expulsion,

habitual code of conduct violations, and attendance issues, Chisum ISD will seek exemption from the one-year transfer commitment.

Minimum Minutes of Instruction

EB (LEGAL), EC (LEGAL) (Ed. Code 25.081(e) and 25.082(a))

Currently

Both Texas Education Codes 25.081 and 25.082 address the length of the instructional day by limiting it to “420 minutes of instruction” or “seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses”, totaling 75,600 minutes for the year.

Proposed

Chisum ISD would like to be exempt from the 420-minute day requirement and have the flexibility to alter the length of the school day on selected days whenever it is determined to be necessary or beneficial to the district and its stakeholders.

- The opportunity to be exempt from the 420-minute school day requirement will provide the district the opportunity to provide each campus the flexibility of creating a daily schedule that will better serve the students and teachers on each campus
- This flexibility will give local control to the district in meeting the yearly requirement of 75,600 minutes in relation to the district calendar for each specific school year.
- This exemption will provide greater flexibility than the current 6 day waiver maximum that relates to the length of the school day.

Contract Service Days

DC (LEGAL) (Ed. Code 24.401)

Currently

Texas Education Code requires educators employed on a 10-month contract to provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Proposed

The passing of Texas Education Code 25.081 changed the required days of instruction to minutes. This law did not address contract days for 10-month contract employees. The determination of how many days are required to fulfill an employee’s contract should be a local decision. Chisum ISD proposes to reduce teacher contract days from 187 to 182 with no effect on their salaries. This proposal will increase the daily rate the district pays teachers and should enhance recruitment and morale.