



DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.

- **Customization:** Districts can create an innovation plan for a level of school (e.g., only high schools), grade level, or a single campus.

- **Autonomy:** Districts must submit a district of innovation plan to the commissioner of education, but approval is not required.

- **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates such as:
 - School start date
 - 90% attendance rule
 - Class-size ratios
 - Site-based decision-making processes
 - Certain student discipline provisions
 - Use of planning and preparation periods
 - Teacher appraisal requirements

Hedley CISD Mission Statement:

To provide a safe and exciting learning environment which instills confidence and self-motivation where students, teachers, parents, and community work together to educate students.

In a way that:

- All students will achieve their full educational and social potential.
- Provides a well-balanced and appropriate curriculum for all students.
- Maintains effective and qualified personnel.
- Will encourage parents to be supportive and active in the education of their children.

So that the educational experience provides the opportunity for success and enables them to take control of their lives and be productive citizens.

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842 gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas open-enrollment charter schools. The plan will start with the 17-18 school year and will end in five years with the 21-22 school year.

FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC 25.0811: A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Benefit of Exemption for Hedley CISD:

- District Advisory Committee will have the flexibility to start school one week early, the third Monday in August or a mid-week start sometime that week.
- Starting one week earlier will better balance the two semesters with a natural Winter Break, set exams prior to Winter Break, and create more instructional time before STAAR/EOC/AP exams.
- The balanced semesters will align with college semesters as well, allowing more opportunities for summer school, internships, and industrial certification opportunities.

Local Guidelines:

- The District Improvement Committee will receive parent and staff input, then decide, subject to School Board approval, the school start date.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC 21.003 requires that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

Benefit of Exemption for Hedley CISD:

- The statutory certification requirements inhibit the District's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE), STEM Courses and non-core electives.
- Local Qualifications will allow the district to :
 - Allow experienced teachers to pick up an elective in an area they are qualified.
 - Recruit teachers from the field, including individuals from certain trades and/or

vocations with industry knowledge and real world experience

Local Guidelines:

- The District will establish Local Criteria, such as years of experience, qualifications, and industry certifications, to qualify for a local (district) teaching certificate.

TEACHER CONTRACT DAYS

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

Current education law in Chapter 21 defines a teacher contract as a 10 month contract equivalent to 187 days.

Benefits of Exemption for Hedley CISD:

Proposal would reduce teacher contract days from 187 to a decreased length with no effect on teacher salaries. This would be an attempt to better align the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required of students.

- Enhance teacher recruitment
- Improve teacher morale

Local Guidelines for Teacher Contract Days:

- Hedley CISD will present a recommendation to the Hedley CISD School Board regarding the number of contract days as a part of the total compensation and benefits program.