

Bay City ISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in Spring 2015. This bill provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities a school district must adopt a District of Innovation Plan.

District of Innovation provides opportunities for greater local control, increased flexibility governing education programming, and empowerment to innovate and think differently. However, districts are not exempt from statutes related to curriculum, graduation requirements, nor academic and financial accountability.

District Leadership Team

Districts are required annually to engage in the Texas Accountability Intervention System (TAIS) due to the identification of low performance in the state accountability system and/or the performance-based monitoring analysis system (PBMAS) system. As outlined by TEA guidance, BCISD annually develops a “broad-based District Leadership Committee to conduct and monitor activities of the TAIS process which must include representatives from programs staged in PBMAS and campuses in improvement.”

This committee was appointed by the BCISD Board of Trustees to also serve as the District Of Innovation Committee. The committee elicited input from campus stakeholders through faculty meetings, department meetings, and staff surveys to develop the following plan to address flexibility in the school start date and additional time needed for professional learning communities within the school calendar.

Educational Improvement Council

The Educational Improvement Council plays a vital role in the checks and balances procedures built into the District of Innovation process. This committee will hold a public comment meeting regarding the District of Innovation Plan, which was developed by the District Leadership Team. Following the public meeting, the DOI plan will require a 2/3 majority approval by the EIC prior to presentation to the BCISD Board of Trustees for their approval.

Flexible Calendar (TEC25.0811)

Currently:

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

Proposed:

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, we would like to consider a flexible calendar option which may include an early start date which also emphasizes the importance of quality instruction.

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 inhibits these goals by prohibiting the District from beginning instruction before the fourth Monday in August. Flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable the District to improve quality instruction by balancing the amount of instructional time in the semesters which will allow teachers to better pace and deliver instruction before and after the winter break. This change will also afford more time to teaching semester courses at the secondary level. In addition, by having the flexibility to start and end the school year earlier, students will be able to enroll in college courses and/or trade school courses that start in early June, thereby increasing college and career readiness. This flexibility would also allow the school year to end prior to June 1st which would allow for a longer summer school session for those students needing accelerated instruction prior to the third administration of STAAR and more instructional time for students seeking credit recovery in the summer. Finally, adjusting the start date will afford additional days prior to Spring Assessments such as:

- *State Mandated Testing*
- *Advance Placement Testing*
- *Dual Credit Finals*

District of Innovation Plan Revisions

If approved by the Educational Improvement Council, the BCISD Board or Trustees and TEA, this District of Innovation Plan, as written, will remain in effect for 5 years. Any future revisions, deletions, or additions to the plan must follow the same process as outlined below:

- BCISD Board of Trustees would appoint a District Leadership Committee to pursue revisions or additions to the plan.
- District Leadership Committee would seek stakeholder input and design revisions to plan
- The plan would be taken to Educational Improvement Council for approval.
- The plan would be posted for 30 days and the public would have the opportunity to review and comment during a public meeting.
- The plan would be submitted to the BCISD Board of Trustees for final approval.
- The revised plan would be submitted to TEA.

2017 TIMELINE OF EVENTS	
2/1/17	<p>Resolution Adopted On February 1, 2017, the BCISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution to explore the opportunity for Bay City ISD to become a District of Innovation and seek flexibility in regulations regarding the school start date.</p>
2/1/17	<p>Public Hearing On February 1 2017, the BCISD Board of Trustees held a public hearing for public input on the District of Innovation opportunity.</p>
2/1/17	<p>Committee Appointed On February 1, 2017, the BCISD Board of Trustees appointed the District Leadership Committee to develop a District of Innovation Plan addressing the need for flexibility of start date for students in the school calendar.</p>
2/7/17 and 2/13/17	<p>Develop District of Innovation Plan and Draft Calendars reflecting Flexibility in School Start Date The District Leadership Team met on these dates to discuss calendar issues, collect stakeholder input from all campuses, and compose several draft calendars. This committee voted on the top three draft calendar submissions which were presented to all BCISD employees to vote on.</p>
3/10/17	<p>Employee/Stakeholder Input All employees participated in voting process for the top three calendar submissions.</p>
3/17/17	<p>District Plan of Innovation Posting The BCISD District Plan of Innovation was posted on the BCISD website for 30 days.</p>
4/11/17	<p>Open Meeting for Public Comment BCISD Educational Improvement Council will hear public comments regarding the District of Innovation Plan in an open public meeting.</p>
4/11/17	<p>Approved District Plan of Innovation BCISD Educational Improvement Council will vote on approval of the District of Innovation Plan. A 2/3 majority approval will be required to proceed forward with Board Approval</p>
4/17/17	<p>District of Innovation Plan Approved by Board of Trustees If approved by the BCISD EIC, the District of Innovation Plan will be presented to the BCISD Board of Trustees at the regularly scheduled board meeting. If approved, a copy of the District of Innovation Plan will be provided to Texas Education Agency for posting on its website</p>

Bay City ISD District Leadership Committee

Lisa Moya, Director of Curriculum
Lisa Volkmer, Director of Federal Programs
Chris Townsend, BCHS Principal
Mary Lynn Mosier, BCHS AP/Instructional Coach
Becky Morrison, BCHS Teacher
Jessie Deleza, BCHS Teacher
Keely Coufal, BCJH Principal
Jessica Douglas, BCJH Teacher
Nora Dearing, BCJH Teacher
Amanda Driscoll, BCJH Teacher
Crystal Zepeda, BCJH Teacher
Merideth Dodd, Cherry Principal
Jackie Ramsey, Cherry Teacher
Melisa Carroll, Roberts Principal
Gina Branton, Roberts Teacher
Katherine Gassen, Roberts Teacher
Estela Reyes, Holmes Principal
Megan Guay, Holmes Teacher
Eileen Petrucha, Holmes Teacher
Elvira Armstrong, Holmes Teacher
Jessica Estlinbaum, Instructional Coordinator
Amanda Carlin, Instructional Coach
Sonya Sonia, Director of Special Education
DeAmber Solis, Special Education Supervisor

Bay City ISD Educational Improvement Council 2016-2017

Two Year Term

Debra Grebe
Traci Gernand
Victoria Sparks
Emily Gardner
Gina Branton

Bay City High School
Bay City Jr. High
Cherry Elementary
Holmes Elementary
Roberts Elementary

One Year Term

Becky Morrison
Nora Dearing
Amy Hudson
Jennifer Kovar
Stephanie Crain

Bay City High School
Bay City Jr. High
Cherry Elementary
Holmes Elementary
Roberts Elementary

Parents

Thomas Battle
Daisy Martinez

Community Members

Jennifer Runnels

Business

Linda Allison
Cody Holloway

Student Representatives

Erika Moreno
Ashlynn Biggerstaff

Special Education

Sonya Sonia

Central Office

Lisa Moya

CTE Representative

Lisa Volkmer

Instructional Support

Jessica Estlinbaum

Amanda Carlin