

# Centerville

Independent School District



District of Innovation Plan

2022-2027

## **Introduction**

HB 1842, which was passed during the 84th Legislative Session, allows Texas public schools to become Districts of Innovation. This allows a traditional public school to utilize the exemptions in Education Law to which charter schools are currently entitled. Centerville ISD is exercising this opportunity to become a District of Innovation to obtain more flexibility to better meet the unique needs of our students and community.

## **Timeline**

February 17, 2022	Select Committee to revise plan
February 21, 2022	District of Innovation Committee Meeting
March 1, 2022	District of Innovation Committee Meeting
March 7, 2022	Plan posted to school website
April 18, 2022	Public Hearing & CISD Board of Trustee approval of DOI plan

## **Committee Members**

Carole Dickey, Superintendent	Cara Dudley, Curriculum Director,
Rebecca Hull, Counselor	Patrice Cox, Teacher
Stephanie Franklin, Teacher	Kla Sparkman, Teacher
Jessica Keeling, Teacher	Vicki Chase, Retired Teacher/Community
Denny Payne, Community	Karen Ellis, Community
Julie Schwab, Community	

## **Term:**

Centerville ISD's District of Innovation plan will renew for the 2022-2023 school year. It will conclude at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, unless the CISD Board of Trustees amends or terminates the plan in accordance with HB 1842.

### **Texas Education Code Exemptions**

The CISD District of Innovation Committee reviewed the subchapters of the Texas Education Code to determine which permissible exemptions currently inhibit the district from maximizing the educational opportunities of our students.

#### **First Day of Instruction**

TEC 25.0811 prohibits school districts from starting class before the fourth Monday in August, unless they are year-round districts.

- The calendar committee will have flexibility on the school start date, with staff beginning no earlier than the second week of August.
- An earlier start date will help balance the instructional days in each semester and create more instructional time before STAAR-EOC assessments.
- This exemption would allow the school to look at starting classes as a short week, which can ease the transition for students entering kindergarten, middle school, and high school.

#### **Teacher Certification**

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.

- Recruit teachers from the field, including individuals with certain trades/vocations with industry knowledge and real work experience.
- An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or CTE course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the individual's credentials to the superintendent. The superintendent will approve the request if he/she feels the individual could be an asset to the students.
- Allow experienced teachers to pick up an elective in an area they are qualified to teach. The principal may submit a request to the superintendent for local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of his/her field.
- This plan will allow more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

- The superintendent will notify the school board of all teachers receiving local certification.

### **Teacher Contract Days**

TEC 21.401 requires educators employed on a 10-month contract to provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

- Reduce teacher contract days from 187 to a decreased number of days with no effect on teacher salaries.
- This would be an attempt to better align the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required for students. This would enhance teacher recruitment and improve teacher morale.

### **Class Sizes and Student-Teacher Ratios**

TEC 25.112 requires districts to maintain a class ratio of 22 students or less for Kindergarten through fourth grade.

- While CISD will strive to maintain a student/teacher ratio that is less than 22:1, we believe the district should locally determine the adequate student/teacher ratio.
- Class size will be limited to the best extent possible at the beginning of the year; however, class size may be exceeded during the school year.
- While small class size is often cited as improving academic performance, class chemistry plays a large role in academic performance as well. Allowing this exemption gives CISD the local control to determine what is best for our students.

### **Probationary Contracts**

TEC 21.102 states that if a person has taught in public education for at least five of the last eight years, then they may only receive a one-year probationary contract.

- One year isn't enough time to sufficiently evaluate teacher effectiveness, especially when state assessment results are not back before contract renewal.
- CISD would like to be able to place experienced teachers, counselors, librarians, or nurses new to the district, that have been in public education for five of the last eight years, on a probationary contract for up to two years, if needed.

### **Teacher and Principal Evaluation**

TEC 21.352, 21.353, 21.354. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, Texas will be using a new teacher appraisal system called Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). The Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS) will also be implemented in 2016-17.

- CISD teachers will be formally evaluated at a minimum of once every three years. Every teacher will receive informal walk-throughs each year.
- All teachers will set classroom goals and have an annual summative conference to discuss the year and progress toward meeting their goals.
- Probationary teachers will be evaluated every year.
- Teachers and Principals will be evaluated annually using a locally developed plan that includes T-TESS, T-PESS, and relevant best practices.

### **Transfer Students**

TEC 25.036. Texas law allows a district to accept students as transfers who are not eligible to enroll in the district. TEC 25.036 requires the school district to enroll a student as a transfer for a period of one school year. Centerville ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (Local) requiring non-resident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. Before approving a transfer request, the availability of space, availability of instructional staff, availability of programs and services, and determination of the overall impact of any individual transfer on the educational program of Centerville ISD will be evaluated for each student. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the district.

The rationale for exemption:

- On rare occasions, student behavior warrants an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), or expulsion.
- The district's efforts to ensure exemplary services and performance could be negatively impacted by transfer students.
- A transfer student's enrollment of one year could negatively impact campus culture due to behavior or attendance concerns

Proposed innovation: The district is seeking exemption from the one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. Transfer students may have transfer status revoked by the superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences or in-school suspension, out of school suspension, placement in DAEP, or expulsion. Students not

meeting the state's attendance and/or truancy standard may also be subjected to immediate revocation of the transfer status.

## **SHAC**

School Health Advisory Council (BFDLEGAL, (Ed. Code 28.004) Current Law: A board shall establish a local school health advisory council (SHAC) to assist a district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction.

- The SHAC shall meet at least one time each year and jointly with SBDM as needed.
- As a small school district, council members are intimately aware of the needs of District and District students. We believe that one meeting and joint meetings with SBDM as needed should be sufficient to review and revise the District's Wellness Plan and develop an annual report.
- CISD's DOI Committee has determined that the requirements of 28.004 specifically those added in HB1525 create an undue hardship on the District.
- Due to the size of the District, flexibility from the meeting procedures required by current allow will allow the District to continue to support the District's commitment to health education and instruction without overburdening designated council members and staff.
- The SHAC will make reports to the CISD Board of Trustees, as appropriate, and will ensure community members have access to information about SHAC activities and recommendations.
- This exemption directly supports the District's commitment to health education and instruction without overburdening designated council members.

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