

Rusk ISD
District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)
Term of Designation 5 Years: April 10, 2017- April 9, 2022

I. Innovation District – Rusk ISD

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become districts of innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.

On February 13, 2017, the Rusk ISD Board of Trustees (“Board”) passed a Resolution for the sole purpose of exemption from TEC §25.0811 First Day of Instruction. This resolution initiated the process of designation as a District of Innovation in order to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

On February 13, 2017, the board held a public meeting and made the determination to pursue the district of Innovation designation for the sole purpose of exemption from TEC §25.0811 First Day of Instruction. At that time, the Board appointed the District Education Improvement Council (DEIC) as the Local Innovation Committee representing the District’s various stakeholders including teachers, principals, parents, community members and administrators. The purpose of the Local Innovation Committee is to develop a local innovation plan for exemption from TEC§25.0811 First Day of Instruction only.

On February 14, 2017 and March 6, 2017 the Local Innovation Committee met to draft the Local Innovation Plan (“Plan”).

The Committee sought and considered input for the plan through a public meeting held on March 6, 2017 as well as through input from members reaching out to constituents throughout the planning process. (See District of Innovation Timeline)

This is a 5 year innovation plan from April 10, 2017 through April 9, 2022. This plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed if the action is approved by a majority vote of the district-level committee (DEIC) and a two-thirds majority vote of the board of trustees.

Based on recommendations by the Local Committee of Innovation, with input from various stakeholders, the Committee recommends the following plan:

II. Comprehensive Educational Program

The Rusk ISD District of Innovation Plan is founded and aligned to the District’s Mission, Vision, Values Goals and Objectives.

A. Mission: We Learn

B. Vision: Our District must become a professional learning community.

C.Values:

- A. Working in collaborative teams that takes collective responsibility for student learning
- B. Implementing a guaranteed and viable curriculum
- C. Monitoring student learning through quick checks
- D. Using results of quick checks to improve practice, achieve goals and intervene and enrich on behalf of students
- E. Providing systematic process for intervention and enrichment
- F. Communicating

D.Goals:

- A. Increase student achievement,
- B. Promote student growth,
- C. Close the achievement gap,
- D. Develop college and career readiness.

E. Objectives:

- A. District will work toward meeting all accountability index targets for all campuses.
- B. District will work toward implementing a guaranteed and viable innovative curriculum to meet the needs of all learners by appropriately pacing curriculum throughout the year before state required testing.
- C. District will implement instructional methods to increase performance.
- D. Assist teachers in implementing best practices learned at high-quality professional development throughout the school year.
- E. District will develop and utilize strategies to ensure parent involvement and community participation for 100% of identified targeted student group
- F. District will work toward putting processes and structures in place to support intervention of targeted students.

The District needs local flexibility for First TEC Sec. 25.0811 First Day of Instruction to improve outcomes as described above.

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC Sec. 25.0811. FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION. (a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August. (Policy EB Legal, EB (Local))

Benefit of Exemption to Rusk ISD:

Flexibility to allow instruction to begin earlier in August will enable the District to balance the amount of instructional time between semesters which will allow teachers the opportunity to better pace their innovative curriculum and deliver instruction before and after Christmas break. By having the flexibility to start and end the school year earlier, students will have the advantage of additional instructional days before the state testing. Students will also be available to enroll in college courses or college camps that start early in June.

Rusk Independent School District District of Innovation Timeline	
Thursday, January 5, 2017	Initial meeting with administrative team to discuss preliminary thoughts concerning District of Innovation
Tuesday, February 7, 2017	The admin team met to review District of Innovation requirements, possible exemptions and District of Innovation Committee possible membership.
Monday, February 13, 2017	6:00 PM Board Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board considers resolution regarding consideration of designation of district as a district of innovation and development of local innovation plan• Board holds Public Hearing to consider whether the district should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as a district of innovation• Board appoints committee to develop a local innovation plan
Tuesday, February 14, 2017	3:30 PM Meet with District of Innovation Committee (DEIC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate regarding District of Innovation• Seek input from committee• Draft local innovation plan
Monday, March 6, 2017	3:30 PM Meeting with District Advisory Committee (DEIC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider input from constituents• Revise local innovation plan• Public meeting to consider the final Rusk ISD District of Innovation Plan• Approval of Plan by District Advisory Committee (DEIC) (approved by voting members of DEIC)

Tuesday, March 7, 2017	Post proposed Rusk ISD District of Innovation plan on the district website for 30 days and notify commissioner of Board's intention to vote on the adoption of the District of Innovation Plan
Monday, April 10, 2017	6:00 PM regular Board Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Considers Adoption of District of Innovation Plan • District begins operation as District of Innovation
Tuesday, April 11, 2017	District notifies Commissioner of approval of the plan along with a list of approved TEC exemptions and posts adopted plan on website.

The District of Innovation local plan has been developed by the following committee:		
District of Innovation Committee (DEIC)		
1.	Scott Davis	Superintendent, Advisory Member
2.	Lesa Jones	Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. Advisory Member
3.	Betty Collins	Director of Instructional Programs, Advisory Member
4.	Theresa Gates	Director of Special Programs and Assessments, Advisory Member
5.	Noreen Freeman	Director of Special Education, Advisory Member
6.	Gary Cruseturner	Director of Technology, Advisory Member
7.	Candis Mabry	Administrative Assistant, Advisory Member
8.	Sandra Parsons	Principal, Ad Hoc
9.	Crystal Nichols	Assistant Principal, Advisory Member
10.	Angela Berry	Counselor, Voting Member
11.	Elaine Tarrant	Teacher, Voting Member
12.	Shirley Goldsberry	Teacher. Voting Member
13.	Elissa Berryman	Teacher, Voting Member
14.	Debbie Welch	Principal, Ad Hoc
15.	Elizabeth Cahalane	Counselor, Voting Member
16.	Heather Beck	Teacher, Voting Member
17.	Tammy Brogdon	Teacher, Voting Member
18.	Dawn Lee	Teacher, Voting Member
19.	Carlene Clayton	Principal, Ad Hoc
20.	Kriste Davis	Counselor, Voting Member
21.	Kenzie Bixler	Teacher, Voting Member
22.	Molly Strube	Teacher, Voting Member
23.	Melyssa Cox	Teacher, Voting Member
24.	John Burkhalter	Principal, Ad Hoc
25.	Kathy Guidry	Assistant Principal, Advisory Member
26.	Angela Dowling	Counselor, Voting Member
27.	Brian Williams	Teacher, Voting Member
28.	Breanna Hancock	Teacher, Voting Member
29.	Shelia McCullough	Teacher, Voting Member
30.	Scott Schwartz	Principal, Ad Hoc

31.	Jason Wilcox	Assistant Principal, Advisory Member
32.	Terri Daniel	Counselor, Voting Member
33.	Lisa Cockrum	Counselor, Voting Member
34.	Brandy Murray	Teacher, Voting Member
35.	Mick Guess	Teacher, Voting Member
36.	Leslie Brummett	Teacher, Voting Member
37.	Hailey Kirkpatrick	Nurse, Advisory Member
38.	Shinnitta Foreman	Parent, Advisory Member
39.	Elmer Stewart	Community Member, Advisory Member
40.	Austin Young	Business Representative, Advisory Member