Turkey-Quitaque ISD
District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)
2017-2022

Local Innovation Committee – (SBDM)
Brandon Smith – Principal
Aaron Green – JH Teacher/Coach
Rosa Villareal – Parent
JoAnna Walden – Parent
Casey Carson – Community Member
Jackie Jenkins – Superintendent
Shadi Buchanan – Elem Teacher
Paula Phillips – HS Teacher
Kirk Saul – Parent
Donald Beard – Business Member
Guy Young – Business Member

Turkey-Quitaque ISD Board of Trustees
Lisa Campbell – President
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Keeli Stumbo – Member
Fidel Valdes – Member
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JC Pigg – Member
Chris Tucker – Member

House Bill (HB) 1842 was passed during the 84th Legislative Session to provide school districts with the opportunity for increased local control by allowing a legal path for exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Codes. By declaring exemptions from certain TEC provisions, a district will become a designated District of Innovation. TQISD will take advantage of this opportunity to create a plan based on the needs of our students and community. This plan will remain in effect for the next five years (2017-2022).

1. Uniform Start Date (TEC 25.0811)

Current Law:
Texas Education Code, Section 25.0811 prohibits a school district from beginning instruction for students for a school year prior to the fourth Monday in August.

Justification for Exemption:
a. The flexibility of determining the appropriate start date for TQISD students allows the district to meet the needs of students, school, and community.
b. Beginning school prior to the fourth Monday in August provides for a more balanced number of instructional days per semester.
c. It also allows for increased instructional opportunities prior to the state assessments.
2. **Teacher Certification** (DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL) (TEC 21.003)

**Current Law:**
State law states that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate issued by the governing state agency. In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of his/her certification field, the district must request an emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and/or the State Board of Educator Certification. TEA then approves or denies the request.

**Justification for Exemption:**
Turkey-Quitaque ISD (Valley School) is located in the country halfway between the rural communities of Turkey and Quitaque. Course offerings are limited at Valley due to a combination of a tight budget and minimal ability to draw teachers and their families to the area. To best serve the students and stakeholders of TQISD, decisions regarding certification will be handled locally by:

- allowing certified teachers to teach subject(s) out of their certification fields
- allowing individuals with experience in a CTE field(s) to obtain a local teaching certificate in their area of expertise.

This plan will allow flexibility in scheduling and provide more course options for students.

3. **Teacher Contract Days** (DCB Legal, DCB Local, TEC 21.401)

**Current Law:**
As outlined in Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code, teachers employed on a ten-month contract are required to provide a minimum of 187 day of service.

**Justification for Exemption:**
TEC 25.081 changed instructional time for students from 180 days to 75,600 minutes. However, the number of contract days required of teachers was not addressed. TQISD plans to reduce teacher contract days from 187 to 182 with no effect on teacher salaries. Benefits include:

- TQISD salaries would be more competitive with other districts.
- Teacher recruitment would be enhanced.
- Increasing daily rate of district teachers.
- Improving teacher morale
- Providing increased opportunity for instructional staff to obtain quality professional development during summer months
f. In each year of the plan, it will be part of the calendar planning process to maintain the reduced number of teacher contract days.

**TQISD Innovation Timeline**

- **February 13, 2017**: Board adopted a resolution to initiate the process.
- **February 20, 2017**: Board held a public hearing to consider whether to develop a plan.
- **February 20, 2017**: Board appointed a committee to develop the local innovation plan.
- **February 23, 2017**: Innovation committee met to write the innovation plan.
- **February 23, 2017**: Innovation committee held a public meeting to consider and vote on the plan. The plan was approved by majority vote.
- **February 23, 2017**: The Board voted to notify TEA of the innovation plan.
- **March 1, 2017**: The innovation plan will be posted on the district website [www.valleypatriots.com](http://www.valleypatriots.com)
- **March 6, 2017**: TEA is notified that the plan is posted on the website and the Board intends to vote on the adoption.
- **April 10, 2017**: Probable date for Board to vote on adopting innovation plan.
- **April 11, 2017**: Notify Commissioner of approval of the plan
- **April 11, 2017**: Post plan on website for term of the designation as an Innovation district (August 2017-July 2022)