**Turkey-Quitaque ISD**

**District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)**

**2022-2027**

**“Achieving Excellence Together”**

**District of Innovation Planning Committee**

Jackie Jenkins - Superintendent

Brandon Smith – Principal

Rosa Villarreal – Paraprofessional, Migrant, ESL

Aaron Green – JH Teacher/Coach/Parent

Jeremy Taylor – HS Teacher/Parent

Paula Phillips – Community Member

Shadi Buchanan – HS Teacher/Technology

Laura Davidson – Community Member

Stuart Smith – Teacher/SPED

Sylvia Castillo – ELEM Paraprofessional

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District of Innovation Plan (HB 1842)

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During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 was passed in order to provide more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to utilize the exemptions of Education Law that charter schools currently are entitled to. We feel this is a great opportunity for our local district to create a plan based on the needs of our students, staff and community that will remain in effect for the next five years (2022-2027).

**School Start Date/Last Day of School**

EB(LEGAL), EB(LOCAL) (Ed. Code 25.0811)(Ed. Code 25.0812)

Current Law

Students are prohibited from starting school before the 4th Monday of August. For years, school start date was a local decision. Once legislation moved to set a uniform start date, district could file a waiver through TEA for a few years to start earlier.

The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this local control stopped because they believed it was hurting their tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and mandated that districts may not begin school prior to the 4th Monday of August.

In Section 25.0812, the last day of school may not occur before May 15.

Plan

To meet local and community needs, this plan would allow a more balanced number of instructional days per semester and use more instructional prior to the state assessments given in early May. With minute requirement at 75,600 and the state assessment given in early May, it might be possible to finish the school year prior to May 15.

a. Students will start school no earlier than the 2nd Monday of August.

b. Teachers will report for duty no earlier than the 1st Monday of August.

**Teacher Certification**

DBA(LEGAL),DBA(LOCAL), DK (LEGAL), DK(LOCAL), DK (EXHIBIT), Ed. Code 21.003)(Ed. Code 21.055)(Ed. Code 21.056)

Current Law

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request. In certain circumstances, a district can use a local one-year permit.

Plan

If a certified teacher does not apply, TQISD will allow certain courses to be taught by teachers without state certification and without applying for a waiver from TEA.

a. The principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach subject(s) out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses in which would qualify this individual to teach this subject.

b. If an appropriately certified teacher has not applied, an individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all the individual’s credentials. The superintendent will then approve the request if he/she feels the individual could be an asset to students. The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will be at-will.

c. This plan will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

**School Health Advisory Council**

BDF(LEGAL), (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 four times each year.

Plan

The SHAC shall meet at least one time each year and jointly with the Site-Based Decision Making Committee 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 annual report. The SHAC will meet more often than the one required meeting throughout the year if needed.

**Disciplinary Alternative Education Program**

(Ed. Code 37.008)

Current Law

TEC 37.008 states that each school district shall provide a disciplinary alternative education program that: (7) employs only teachers who meet all certification requirements established under Subchapter B, Chapter 21

Plan

Turkey-Quitaque ISD seldom needs the existence of a DAEP and it is a usually a short-term requirement since a very limited number of students are assigned to DAEP. Since most of the classes will be provided using computer/Chromebook based instruction, it is not necessary to have certified teachers monitoring DAEP. The Campus administrator will ensure that the staff of the DAEP has the support necessary to properly supervise the students assigned to the program and will lend assistance of teachers with specific certifications as needed.

**Inter-District Transfers**

FDA(LEGAL), FDA(LOCAL), TEC 25.036

Current Law

TEC 25.036 states that inter-district transfers are for an entire school year.

Plan

Turkey-Quitaque ISD would follow FDA(LOCAL) policy requiring nonresident students to file a transfer application each school year:

a. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student’s disciplinary record, attendance record, work habits and character will be evaluated.

b. Transfer students are required to follow the attendance requirements, as well as rules and regulations of the district.

c. Transfer status may be revoked by the superintendent at any time during the school year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to, suspension in or out of school, placement in DAEP or expulsion for serious and/or pervasive and persistent misbehavior in violation of the student code of conduct. In addition, students not meeting the state’s attendance standards may also be subject to immediate revocation of the student’s transfer status.

This will allow Turkey-Quitaque ISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students, who on rare occasions, violate the transfer policy. It will also allow Valley ISD to better utilize school resources and personnel for the benefit of the district.

**Class Size Ratios**

EEB(LEGAL); TEC 25.111; TEC 25.112; TEC 25.113)

Current Law

TEX 25.111 states that each school district must employ a sufficient number of teachers certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to maintain an average ratio of not less than one teacher for each 22 students in average daily attendance. TEC 25.112 states a school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a Kindergarten through 4th grade classroom. TEC 25.113states that a campus or district that that is granted a waiver exception under Section 25.112 from class size limits shall provide written notice of the exception to the parent or person standing in parental relation to each student affected by the exception.

Plan

Turkey-Quitaque ISD is a small school with one classroom per grade level at the elementary level. We firmly believe that small class size is a vital part of maximizing student success, and the district seeks to establish its own local ratio requirements. Turkey-Quitaque ISD will continue to strive to maintain class ratios below the 22-1 threshold. Turkey-Quitaque ISD will only use this exemption when all other options have been exhausted.

a. If a K-4 classroom exceeds the 22-1 ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees.

b. A TEA waiver will not be necessary when a K-4 classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.

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**Timeline of Actions to Meet Requirements**

**2022-2027**

Monday – Nov. 8, 2021 – Public meeting to discuss Renewal of TQISD District of Innovation Plan

Friday – Nov. 19, 2021 – Notified TEA of intent to renew current DOI Plan

Monday – December 6, 2021 – District of Innovation Advisory Committee met to review current DOI Plan and discuss potential revisions to the current plan

Monday – December 13, 2021 – (12:30 PM in Davidson Auditorium) – Opportunity for Public Comments for the proposed District of Innovation Renewal

Thursday – January 13, 2022 – Public meeting to discuss proposed District of Innovation Plan. DOI advisory council unanimously votes to approve the DOI plan to present the plan to the TQISD Board of Trustees

Monday, January 20, 2022 – Proposed TQISD DOI plan placed on district website <https://www.valleypatriots.com>

Monday – February 14, 2022 – Board of Trustees First Reading of TQISD DOI Plan

Monday – March 21, 2022 – Board of Trustees consider adoption of proposed TQISD Revised Innovation Plan for 2022-2027 and the continued designation of TQISD as a District of Innovation

By Monday, March 28, 2022 – Board notification to the Commissioner of Education of the Board’s renewal of the Revised TQISD DOI Plan with a link to the approved plan

\*\* Information in Red are proposed dates

**Renewal Term**

On November 8, 2021, Turkey-Quitaque ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution to begin the renewal process of the current District of Innovation Plan (2017-2022). The term of this Renewal Plan will start April 11, 2022 and will end in five years on April 11, 2027, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board in accordance with TEC 12A.006 and 12A.008. The Committee will annually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modification to the Plan on or before July 15 of each year implementation.