

District of Innovation

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, effective immediately, that gives traditional school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan as set forth in Texas Education Code chapter 12A.

Timeline

Board of Trustees approve a resolution for becoming a District of Innovation

Public Hearing to consider whether the district should develop a local innovation plan

Board of Trustees approve the members of the District of Innovation Committee

District Advisory Committee Meeting

Post District of Innovation Plan on the district website for 30 days

Board of Trustees approve the District of Innovation Plan

District of Innovation plan not to exceed five years

Anthony ISD

District of Innovation Committee

Steven Saldivar	Superintendent
Oscar Troncoso	Assistant Superintendent/High School Principal
Oralia Moseley	Elementary School Principal
Sandy Honts	Special Education Director
Lora Holt	Instructional Specialist

Fernando Garnica	Middle School Principal
Maria Retana	Parent
Stephanie Litz	M.S. Teacher
Jeanette DeSantiago	H.S. Teacher Elementary
Lauren Reichardt	Teacher

**Anthony ISD District of
Innovation 2016-2017**

1. Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT)

Currently

In the event the district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies the request. There is a lot of paperwork involved and the process takes a long time.

Proposed

In order to best serve AISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally.

- a. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach outside their field.
- b. 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 a request to the superintendent and the superintendent will approve if the individual is an asset to the students. The employee will be an at-will employee and the certificate will be for one year.
- c. This will allow more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.

2. School Start Date

(EB LEGAL) (ED. CODE 25.0811)

Currently

Students are prohibited from starting school before the 4th Monday of August. For years, this was strictly a local decision.

The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped because they believed it was hurting tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that districts may not begin until the 4th Monday, with no exceptions.

Proposed

To develop a calendar that fits the needs of the community of Anthony. We will develop a calendar that meets the needs of students, community, and staff.

- a. This start date will allow more educational days prior to state testing.
- b. This will balance the first and second semesters to be somewhat equal in the numbers of days of instruction.
- c. The goal is to improve the district attendance rate and student success through the flexibility in the calendar.

3. Educators and School District Employees

(APPLICABLE D LEGAL AND D LOCAL) (ED. CODE Chapter 21)

Currently

Chapter 21 in the Texas Education Code has many aspects that impact teachers, students and school districts. Many of the features found in Chapter 21 have been taken away from local school districts. Decisions that should be made locally are made at the state level. The state bureaucracy mishandles these important local issues and hinders the district from running effectively and efficiently.

Proposed

In order to best serve AISD, Chapter 21 decisions will be handled locally.

AISD will be exempt from certain aspects of Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code. The District reserves the right to deviate from the rights stated in Chapter 21 whenever it's deemed in the best interest of students. It's AISD's obligation to achieve maximum student achievement.