



JIM NED CISD

Local District of Innovation Plan



Introduction

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 was passed, allowing Texas public schools to become *Districts of Innovation*. This designation allows school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. Jim Ned CISD is exercising this opportunity to gain more local control and flexibility in order to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of the students and community. This plan will be implemented with the start of the 2019-2020 school year and is a 5 year plan.

Local Innovation Team

Bobby Easterling, Superintendent
Treva Gambrell, HS Principal
Chris Holson, HS Asst. Principal
Arnett McClure, HS teacher
Matt Smith, Business leader
Jay Wise, MS Principal
Tina Brown, MS teacher
Crystal Stanaland, Community/Business person
Debbie Harris, Lawn Elem. Principal
Cari Cloud, Elem. teacher
Brooke Johnson, Parent/Community person
Cristi Doty, Buffalo Gap Elem. Principal
LoriAnn Senne, Elem. teacher
Kelli Humphries, Parent/Community person
Matt Fanning, Athletic Director

Term and Implementation

The Jim Ned CISD Local District of Innovation Plan will begin with the 2019-2020 school year upon the approval of the Board of Trustees. The Plan may be amended at any time by the Local Innovation Team with approval of the Board of Trustees.

The implementation and specific guidelines of each innovation strategy will be determined by the JNCISD Administration. Adjustments to Jim Ned CISD Board Policy will be researched, reviewed, and adopted by the Board of Trustees.



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JNCISD District of Innovation Timeline

Tuesday, September 11, 2018: Initial meeting with leadership team to discuss preliminary thoughts of the District of Innovation Proposal/Committee

Monday, October 15, 2018: JNCISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as an Innovation District.

Monday, November 12, 2018: Regular Meeting Approve a motion to approve the members of the District of Innovation Committee

Thursday, November 29, 2018: First Meeting of the District of Innovation Committee

Thursday, December 13, 2018: Public Hearing to explain and discuss possibility of becoming District of Innovation

Thursday, December 13, 2018: Regular Board Meeting to approve the local “District of Innovation” DRAFT plan.

Thursday, January 17, 2019: Second meeting of the District of Innovation Committee

Wednesday, February 27, 2019: District Site-Based Committee to approve District of Innovation Plan

Thursday, March 7, 2019: Board of Trustees approve the Final District of Innovation Plan

Monday, March 18, 2019: Post the District of Innovation plan on the district website for 30 days



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5 Year Plan
beginning with the 2019-2020 school year

JNCISD Innovations

In order to increase flexibility and local control, Jim Ned CISD proposes the following exemptions from the Texas Education Code:

1. **First Day of Instruction** (TEC §25.0811) (EB LEGAL)
 - CURRENT LAW
 - State law currently prohibits school districts from starting class before the fourth Monday in August, unless they are year-round districts.
 - RATIONALE
 - The flexibility in the start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the need of the students, the school, and the community. Another benefit of exempting this restriction is it allows 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. Additionally, the ability to change the school start date can also help to better balance the amount of days in each semester.
 - INNOVATION STRATEGY
 - Jim Ned CISD will have the flexibility to start class as early as the third Monday in August, depending on the needs of the district.

2. **School Day Interruptions** (TEC §25.083) (EC LEGAL) (EC LOCAL)
 - CURRENT LAW
 - State law currently requires the Board of Trustees to adopt and strictly enforce a policy limiting interruptions of classes during the school day for nonacademic activities such as announcements to once during the school day except in the case of an emergency.
 - RATIONALE
 - While the district agrees that maximizing class time is crucial, this requirement is not practical. The district will continue to minimize classroom disruptions to the greatest extent possible.
 - INNOVATION STRATEGY
 - Jim Ned CISD would like to have the freedom to make announcements as needed during class time for picture days and other days that are not routine.



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3. **Teacher Certification** (TEC §21.003a) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA LOCAL)

- CURRENT LAW
 - State law currently states that a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.
- RATIONALE
 - The current certification requirement severely limits the district's options to hire professionals with work related experience or degrees to teach a variety of courses from CATE and STEM related areas along with other required courses needed throughout the district.
- INNOVATION STRATEGY
 - The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach one subject in a related field for which he/she is not certified. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment shall also be noted.
 - In order to maximize the opportunities for students to take additional CATE/STEM courses, the district will consider the qualifications necessary to create a local requirement for these courses instead of the requirements set forth in TEC 21.003(a). This exemption will allow the district to:
 - Consider part-time professionals to teach courses
 - Give an opportunity for professionals to transition from other work related jobs to the teaching profession
 - Increase the number of CATE/STEM courses available
 - Offer trade related professionals the ability to teach related courses
 - The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignments.
 - A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.



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- *Special Education and Bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.*

4. **DAEP Teacher Certification Requirement Exemption** (TEC §37.008)

- CURRENT LAW
 - 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
- RATIONALE
 - Innovation Strategies Jim Ned CISD has a very limited number of students assigned to DAEP and often classes will be provided using computer based instruction and or a blended model, it is not necessary to have certified teachers on site.
- INNOVATION STRATEGY
 - Jim Ned CISD is a rural district and often does not have certified teachers available when DAEP is needed. 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 certification as needed.

5. **Probationary Contracts** (TEC §21.102)

- CURRENT LAW
 - Current law states that a probationary contract may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment with the district.
- RATIONALE
 - This period of time is not sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to the availability of end of year classroom and student data.
- INNOVATION STRATEGY
 - For experienced teachers, counselors, librarians, or nurses new to Jim Ned CISD that have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, the probationary period when becoming employed by Jim Ned CISD shall be for a period of two years with probationary contracts issued for each of the two years.