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Centerville Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan

2022 - 2027

Summary Points: A District Plan for Innovation and Local control

**“Innovation is creativity in action.”**

The 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1842 in Spring 2015,

providing public school districts, the opportunity to become

Districts of Innovation. To qualify, an eligible school district must adopt a five‐year innovation plan according to the Texas Education Code.

**DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN**

**2022-2027**

Proposed Actions of the Plan of Innovation

As a result of this plan, Centerville ISD will apply the following innovative governance guidelines to the

unique, local, and instructional needs of its students and community.

Flexible Calendar

(TEC25.0811)

**Currently:**

*Students may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August.*

**Proposed:**

T*o allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, we would like to consider a flexible calendar option which may include an early start date.*

* Students may begin earlier than the fourth Monday of August. This earlier start date will allow a better balance between semesters, more instructional days prior to mandatory testing, and a school end date prior to June. By ending earlier, CISD can support students who need remediation, as well as students who are entering college or trade school.

Implement a Local Teacher and Administrator Appraisal System

(TEC §21.352) (DNA LEGAL) (TEC§21.354) (TEC§21.3541)

**Currently:**

*New state‐wide teacher appraisal systems, the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T‐TESS)*

*and the Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T‐PESS), are being introduced for the first time*

*since 1997.*

**Proposed:**

*While these systems are designed to meet the needs of the entire state, they do not adequately align with the standards and expectations in Centerville ISD. These systems also require state standardized test scores be used as the primary evaluation measure for both teachers and administrators.*

* Centerville ISD will develop a new localized appraisal system which will better align with the Centerville ISD District Improvement Plan and local expectations. This exemption would allow local flexibility to evaluate various performance measures, including classroom observations, goal setting and tracking, and collective (not individual) student growth progress toward identified learning objectives.

Allow Alternatives to Educator Certification for Distinctive Subjects

(TEC §21.003a) (TEC §21.057a‐e) (DK LEGAL)

**Currently:**

*Texas Education Codes state a person may not be employed as an educator by a school district unless the individual holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. In the event a school district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position, or a teacher is teaching a subject outside her or his certification, the district must request emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and/or the State Board of Educator Certification.*

**Proposed:**

*This system is burdensome and does not take into account the unique financial and/or instructional needs of the district, especially for innovative classes where certification may not exist or educators with those credentials may not be readily available.*

* In exceptional circumstances, when a certified educator is not found for a unique or innovative class, the campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a non‐certified yet highly qualified professional to teach OR a certified educator to teach a subject in a related field for which she or he is not credentialed by the state.
* The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what qualifications the individual possesses to teach the proposed subject. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment should also be noted.
* Whenever possible, lesson plans or curriculum guides to support the uncertified yet highly qualified educator will be developed or provided in partnership with certified teachers in the same field.
* In the event an uncertified yet highly qualified educator or professional is assigned to a course, the superintendent will inform and obtain consent from the board of trustees and will notify parents of students who benefit from this decision.
* A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.