



Scurry-Rosser Independent School District District of Innovation Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. On November 28, 2016, the Scurry-Rosser Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a resolution to initiate the process of designation as a District of Innovation in order to increase local control over district operations and to support innovation and local initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

On January 16, 2017, the Board appointed a thirteen member District of Innovation Committee ("Committee") comprised of stakeholders representing a variety of roles and responsibilities. The Committee met on January 26 and February 2, 2017, to discuss and draft this District of Innovation Plan ("Plan"). Based on direction provided by the Board and input from various district stakeholders, the committee proposes this plan.

II. TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning May 26, 2017 and ending May 26, 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the Plan.

III. A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The plan's goal is to allow Scurry-Rosser ISD the flexibility to create an educational plan that best equips these students to achieve their highest level of success and preparedness. This comprehensive educational program is guided by the school board's mission statement, district goals, and core beliefs.

Mission Statement: Our purpose is to enable students to pursue excellence, to be competitive in the workplace and in institutions of higher learning, and to make sound, informed, ethical decisions both now and during their future lives as contributing members of society.

IV.REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION CODE (TEC) THAT INHIBIT THE GOALS OF THE DISTRICT AND WILL BE EXEMPT FROM UPON ADOPTION OF THIS PLAN

- **Minimum Attendance for Class Credit**

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC Sec 25.092 (FEC LOCAL/LEGAL) MINIMUM ATTENDANCE FOR CLASS CREDIT OR FINAL GRADE (a) Except as provided by this section, a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 may not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

Benefit of Exemption for SRISD:

As we continue to expand innovative and engaging instructional arrangement offerings, such as on-line learning, blended learning, service learning projects, and internships, we need an exemption from the requirement that credit is determined by a student's physical time in a classroom seat for an arbitrary percentage of time the class is offered. We believe strongly that a student's mastery of learning outcomes should be the determining factor in earning credit and a grade rather than "seat time". Exemption from this requirement will allow the District to provide active learning opportunities to students in the areas of time, location, and method thereby allowing students more voice and choice in determining their learning path. While the District has offered on-line learning through on-line learning for many years, the addition of blended learning, internships, and service learning projects are recently emerging.

- **First Day of Instruction**

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC Sec 25.0811 (*EB LOCAL/LEGAL*) FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION (a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Benefit of Exemption for SRISD:

The first benefit is the ability to develop a calendar that fits the needs of Scurry-Rosser ISD and community. In past years, Scurry-Rosser ISD has ended the first semester before Winter Break, so that time in January is not lost in reviewing for exams when students return. Having to wait to start classes until the fourth Monday in August has forced our semesters to be significantly unequal in length, with second semester being approximately four weeks longer than the first semester. Flexibility to begin instruction earlier in August will enable the District to improve active learning by balancing the amount of instructional time in the semesters, which will allow teachers the opportunity to better pace and deliver instruction before and after the Winter Break. This start date will also provide more educational days prior to state testing. The goal will improve the district attendance rate and student success through the flexibility in the calendar.

The change will take place, as follows, over a two year period;

2017-2018 - Move school start date back one week to the third week of August

2018-2019 - Move school start date back one week to the second week of August

2019-2022 - No further changes to start date

- **Teacher Certification for Career and Technical Education Instructors**

TEC Code Requiring Exemption:

TEC Sec 21.003 (*DK LOCAL/LEGAL*) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED (a) 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.

Benefit of Exemption for SRISD:

The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a qualified instructor to teach in their field of expertise. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the qualified instructor possesses, which would qualify an individual to teach this subject. The request then goes to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees for consideration and approval. This proposal will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings. While this exemption would be exercised in a limited way for specific situations, it would allow the District to recruit instructors from the field, including individuals from certain trades and/or vocations with industry knowledge and real world experience. In addition, this would potentially allow us to offer more dual credit opportunities in CTE courses and hire experienced instructors in these areas. An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach vocational skills or courses through a local teaching certificate.

- **Teacher Contract Days**

TEC Sec 21.401 (*DCB LOCAL/LEGAL*) MINIMUM SERVICE REQUIRED (b) An educator employed under a 10-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Benefit of Exemption for SRISD:

This proposal reduces teacher contract days from 187 to 185 with no effect on teacher salaries. This proposal will increase the daily rate the district pays teachers as well as enhance teacher recruitment, therefore putting the district on a more level playing field with larger districts. This change is expected to significantly improve teacher morale.

Scurry-Rosser Independent School District
District of Innovation Plan


District of Innovation Committee Members:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| JD Berryhill | Community Member |
| Gail Crow | District Administration |
| Vickie Griffith | Elementary School Principal |
| Grant Miller | Middle School Principal |
| Cindy Palmer | Community Member |
| Michelle Pechal | Middle School Staff |
| Brian Pierce | High School Staff |
| Christian Reed | High School Principal |
| Taylor Reneau | Elementary School Staff |
| Sonnie Sikes | Community Member |
| Brian Smith | Community Member |
| Cathie Stringer | High School Staff |
| Cindy Wiedemann | District Administration |


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District of Innovation Committee Members Signature:

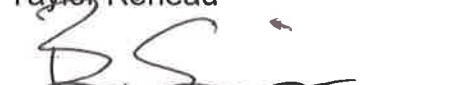

JD Berryhill


Vickie Griffith


Cindy Palmer

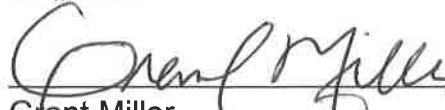

Brian Pierce


Taylor Reneau


Brian Smith


Cindy Wiedemann

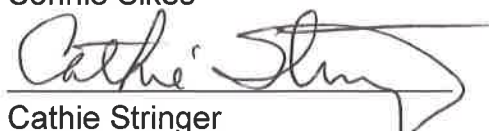

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