

# Reagan County ISD



**“Mining For Gold”**

**District of Innovation Plan**



# District of Innovation Committee

## District Representatives:

- ▶ Steve Long, Superintendent of Schools
- ▶ Kim Hutchinson, Director of Special Programs
- ▶ Dr. Kara Sue Garlitz, High School Principal
- ▶ David Kohutek, Middle School Principal
- ▶ Mandy Traylor, Elementary Principal

## Elementary Representatives:

- ▶ Mrs. Hayley Garcia, Elementary Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mrs. Ashley Weatherby, District-wide Representative
- ▶ Mrs. Erika Hernandez, Elementary Teacher Representative

## MS/High School Representatives:

- ▶ Mrs. Lauren McPhaul, HS Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mr. Kelly Wilson, HS Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mr. Andy Perez, MS Teacher Representative
- ▶ Mr. Wendell Baucom, MS Teacher Representative

## Parent and Business Representatives:

- ▶ Mrs. Brandi Lemons, Parent Representative
- ▶ Mrs. Nina Hallmark, Business/Parent Representative.



## **District of Innovation Timeline**

- ▶ **Week of February 6<sup>th</sup> – Inform faculty of intent to apply for District of Innovation.**
- ▶ **Week of February 13<sup>th</sup> – Posted District of Innovation presentation information on the RCISD website**
- ▶ **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**
  - ▶ **Regular Board Meeting for Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. in order review and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation**
    - ▶ **Action to Consider: Board of Trustees to consider approving resolution to become a District of Innovation.**
    - ▶ **Action to Consider: Board of Trustees to consider approving the members of the District of Innovation Committee**
- ▶ **February 20<sup>th</sup>-February 24<sup>th</sup>: Window for campus faculty meetings to preview District of Innovation plan.**
- ▶ **Thursday, March 2<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.: RCISD Administration - Meeting of the District of Innovation Committee**
- ▶ **March 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>: Post the District of Innovation Plan on the district website for 30 days**
- ▶ **Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.: Regular RCISD board meeting to consider approving the District of Innovation Plan and approve the 2017-2018 school calendar**
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>: Update all policy changes with TASB**



# Districts of Innovation

## What is a “District of Innovation”?

- ▶ The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas’ open-enrollment charter schools.

## Should my district become a “District of Innovation”?

### Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- ▶ **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- ▶ **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates such as:
  - School start date
  - Teacher certification (except as required by federal law)
  - Discipline Options



## **School Start Date Waiver Issue**

**The uniform school start date for the 2017-2018 school year is August 28, 2017. Using this start date will back up our school calendar up to the end of May or beginning of June.**

**If we receive this “district of innovation” designation we can start school on August 17, 2017 and will be able to maintain a school calendar similar to the current adopted calendar.**

### **Steps from here:**

- School Board will consider adopting an Innovation Plan Resolution in February.**
- Each campus will have at least two teachers to serve on an innovation planning team to develop the Innovation Plan.**
- Board will consider adopting the Innovation Plan after it has been posted online for 30 days.**
- Innovation Plans may have a term of 5 years.**
- District must achieve “met standard” on accountability ratings in order to maintain the Innovation Plan.**



## District of Innovation Plan

*What exemptions do Reagan County ISD intend to pursue?*

► ***RCISD will apply for exemptions of the following legal requirements:***

***1. Uniform school start date: Chapter 25 - Admission, Transfer and Attendance, Subchapter C - Operations of Schools and School Attendance 25.081 - First Day of Instruction (EB Legal): This will allow RCISD to provide a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional development plan in conjunction with the new instructional minutes rather than instructional days required.***

***2. Teacher Certification: Chapter 21- Educators, Subchapter A- General Provisions, 21.003 Certification Required; Subchapter B - Certification of Educators, 21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates and 21.057 Parental Notification (DK Legal and Local): In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside their certification, a district must submit a request to TEA. In order to best serve RCISD students, this will allow decisions on certification to be handled locally.***

***3. Discipline Options: Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Oder: Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management, 37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator (DP Legal and Local): Senate Bill 107 requires the designation of a Campus Behavior Coordinator on each***

***campus. This person is responsible for maintaining student discipline and the implementation of Chapter 37, Subchapter A.***

***4. Class Sizes and Student-Teacher Ratios: Texas Education Codes 25.111, 25.112, 25.113, 25.114: State law requires districts to maintain an average student-teacher ratio at most of 20 to 1 in average daily attendance. For physical education, the student-teacher ratio cannot be greater than 45 to 1. In kindergarten through fourth grade, the class student-teacher ratio must not exceed 22 to 1.***

***Small class sizes play a positive role in the classroom, it must be balanced with the logistics of the timing of adding staff, and the best teacher to student ratio that can be achieved given the total number of students. While it is often cited that smaller class sizes improve academic performance, the decision for what size is the appropriate size should be a local decision. Many times, it is not the number of the students but the makeup and chemistry of the classroom which influence the learning environment. Most importantly, research clearly shows it is the teacher in the classroom that has the greatest impact on student learning, not absolute class size.***