

Iowa Park CISD

District of Innovation



Iowa Park Consolidated Independent School District

District of Innovation Timeline

Wednesday, February 16, 2022	3:00 District-Level Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting and Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Conclude planning of District Innovation Plan.
Thursday, February 17, 2022	Post proposed Iowa Park CISD District of Innovation Plan on the district website for 30 period.
Thursday, February 17, 2022	Notify Commissioner of Education of intent to vote on the adoption of the proposed District of Innovation Plan.
Thursday, April 14, 2022	7:00 School Board Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Board of Trustees to approve the District of Innovation Plan
Friday, April 15, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Send notification to Commissioner of Education of Board's approval of District of Innovation Plan.▪ Update all policy changes with TASB.▪ Send adopted DOI to TEA

Iowa Park Consolidated Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan

2023-2027

Introduction

The 84th Texas Legislature passed HB 1842 allowing eligible Texas school districts to be designated as Districts of Innovation. Districts of Innovation are able to gain local control and obtain exemptions from certain operations of the Texas Education Code (TEC). Iowa Park CISD believes this local innovation plan will allow our Board of Trustees and district staff to make decisions based on the needs of our students, teachers, parents, and community members. In accordance with TEC § 12A.006, this local innovation plan shall remain in effect for a period of five years (2022-2023 through 2026-2027) unless terminated by the commissioner pursuant to TEC § 12.A.008.

District of Innovation Team Members

Jodi Schlaud	Curriculum and Instructional Technology Director
Cindy Teichman	Student Services Director
Shawn Price	Board of Trustees
Amie Schultz	Iowa Park Community Member
Jennifer Roberts	Kidwell Elementary Principal
Marlaina McKnight	Kidwell Elementary Teacher
Alicia Meza	Kidwell Elementary Teacher
Sabrina Thornton	Kidwell Elementary Parent
Brandi Swenson	Bradford Elementary Principal
Kelli Cotton	Bradford Elementary Teacher
Sierra Hamm	Bradford Elementary Teacher
Jamie Dansby	Bradford Elementary Parent
Darla Bidy	WF George Middle School Principal
Braden Perry	WF George Middle School Teacher
Trisha Wells	WF George Middle School Teacher
Dana Bishop	WF George Middle School Parent
Clifton McFadden	Iowa Park High School Principal
Brian Davidson	Iowa Park High School Teacher
Erin Nimetz	Iowa Park High School Teacher
Shellye Sullivan	Iowa Park High School Parent

Aligned Educational Program

The IPCISD District of Innovation Plan is guided by and aligned with the Board's Mission and Strategic Goals for the District.

IPCISD Board Mission

The Mission of the Iowa Park CISD is to ensure our students the best educational experience of any North Texas school district. We will provide a well-rounded school experience in a safe environment that will prepare our graduates to attain their life goals.

IPCISD District Goals

1. Provide a safe and secure learning environment featuring state-of-the-art technology that enhances communication, instruction, learning, and safety
2. Provide for the efficient and effective operation of each campus, district facilities, and grounds
3. Support the actions of the administration and professional staff as they develop a curriculum and effective instructional strategies that prepare students to be successful in their academic and occupational endeavors
4. Respond to the personnel needs of the district and develop a process for ongoing accountability for personnel employed by the district
5. Support all campuses for involving the parents and community members as participants in the education of Iowa Park students

Innovations

1. School Start Date

(EB LEGAL) (TEC § 25.0811)

Aligned

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of effective instructional strategies and opportunities for students in core courses, career and technology courses, and dual credit courses. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)

Currently

TEC § 25.0811 states a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August.

Proposed

To allow for a calendar that fits the local needs of our community, more closely balances instructional days for the first and second semesters, and aligns with our college programs, we would like to consider determining a start date that is before the fourth Monday of August.

2. Teacher Certification

(DK LEGAL, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (DBA LEGAL, DBA LOCAL)
(TEC § 21.003)

Aligned

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of effective instructional strategies and opportunities for students in core courses, career and technology courses, and dual credit courses. In that emphasis, the board is focused on recruiting the most knowledgeable and qualified personnel to educate our students. (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.3)

Currently

TEC § 21.003 states a person may not be employed as a teacher by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

Proposed

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

- a. An individual with experience in a Career and Technology Education (CTE) field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local CTE teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all of

the credentials of the individual. The superintendent will then approve or deny whether the individual could be an asset to IPCISD students. The superintendent will then report to the Board of Trustees prior to the start of employment of the individual. Local CTE teaching certificates will be for one year.

- b. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of his or her certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which qualify this individual to teach the subject. The approval process will be on an annual basis.

These exemptions will allow for more flexibility in scheduling and more options for class offerings. Note: Per statute, Special Education and Bilingual/ESL teachers must be SBEC certified.

3. Probationary Contracts

(DCA LEGAL) (TEC § 21.102)

Aligned

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of having the best teachers for our students. In Strategic Plan Goal #4, the board focuses on personnel needs of the district and developing a process for ongoing accountability for personnel employed by the district.

Currently

TEC § 21.102 states 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 a district.

Proposed

IPCISD would like the ability to renew the probationary contract one additional year for a maximum of two years for teachers who are new to the district and who have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of eight years preceding employment by the District.

4. Transfer Students

(FDA LEGAL) (TEC § 25.036)

Aligned

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of providing all students the necessary support and maximum opportunities to become successful students and productive

citizens of their community. Further, the district will provide for the safety and security of all students and employees that is conducive to a safe and healthy learning environment.

Currently

TEC § 25.036 states a transfer is interpreted to be for a period of one school year.

Proposed

IPCISD would like the ability to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applications for the following circumstances:

- Student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school, placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion);
- Unacceptable academic performance – Students must maintain a passing average of 70 in each class;
- Student attendance falls below the TEA truancy standard.