

Weimar ISD
District of Innovation
(2018-2019 through 2022-2023)

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. In an effort to transform systemic improvement to better serve and accommodate the diverse needs of all stakeholders, including students, staff, parents, and community members, Weimar ISD seeks to become a District of Innovation. This distinction allows the district increased local control over district operations to improve the quality of services benefiting all stakeholders.

A resolution to initiate the process of the Weimar ISD becoming a District of Innovation was adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 12, 2018 during their regular board meeting. At such time, a District of Innovation Team (DIT) was established and charged with crafting a cohesive local innovative plan to improve the outcomes of all stakeholders. The final DOI plan was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees for the Weimar Independent School District on April 9th, at a regular board meeting.

The Weimar ISD Local Innovation Plan is for five years, beginning in the 2018-2019 school and ending in the 2022-2023 school year. This plan may be terminated or amended by the Board of Trustees at any time in accordance with the law. The DIT will monitor the effectiveness of the plan and provide updates and/or necessary modifications to the Board of Trustees on a regular basis.

DISTRICT INNOVATION TEAM (DIT)

1. Jon Wunderlich, Superintendent
2. Angie Luksovsky, Business Manager
3. Robert Klekar, High School Principal
4. Amanda Turlington, Special Education Director
5. Stacy Heger, Junior High School Principal
6. Kristy Janecka, Elementary Principal
7. Karen Bellue, Special Programs Director

TIMELINE for DOI:

Month	Activity/Task	Completion Date
January	- Board Meeting – WISD Board of Trustees discusses process for being an Innovation District	✓ 1/22/2018
February	- Board Meeting – Board votes to adopt Resolution to initiate consideration for being designated as a District of Innovation	✓ 2/12/2018
	- Board Meeting – Board holds public hearing, appoints the District Innovation Team (DIT), the current WISD Leadership Team, to develop a Local Innovation Plan (LIP).	
	DIT meets to discuss innovative ideas for the school district.	✓ 2/13/2018
	DIT meets to review data, innovative ideas, and determine focus areas.	✓ 2/21/2018
	District Advisory Panel hosts a public meeting.	✓ 2/28/2018
March	- Post District Innovation Plan on district website. http://www.weimarisd.org	✓ 3/2/2018
	- Board Meeting – WISD Board of Trustees vote to notify Commissioner of its intention of adopting final LIP by sending TEA a copy of the plan.	✓ 3/08/2018
	- Notify Commissioner via email	✓ 3/09/2018

April

- Board Meeting – District presents proposed District Innovation Plan to Board of Trustees for approval with 2/3 votes.

✓ 4/9/2018

- District sends approved plan to Commissioner of Education for Final approval.

✓ 4/11/2018

- Work with TASB to update (LEGAL) and (LOCAL) policies affected by our plan.

Pending Final Approval

May

- Board adopts new affected (LOCAL) policies and review the (LEGAL) policies.

5/8/2017

District of Innovation Plan

(August 2018 – July 2023)

The district exercises innovations in the following areas under House Bill 1842 that was passed in the 84th Legislature:

TEC 25.0811 First Day of Instruction

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

Innovation Strategy: Weimar ISD proposes to begin school earlier than the 4th Monday in August.

TEC 25.112 TEC 25.113 Class Size, Notice of Class Size

Currently: Requires districts to maintain a class size of twenty-two students or less for Kindergarten-fourth grade classes. Also requires districts notify parents of waiver filed for class size.

Innovation Strategy: Weimar ISD proposes to occasionally exceed the class size as the population in our rural district is unpredictable and often fluctuates slightly above and below this ratio. During occasions of exceeding the ratio, the district will forgo official parent notification.

TEC 21.003 Teacher Certification

Currently: Requires districts to submit a request to the Texas Education Agency for permission to fill a position with personnel that does not hold corresponding certifications.

Innovation Strategy: Weimar ISD proposes to occasionally hire personnel exempted from certification requirements to fill positions within the District. This will not be applicable to special education or bilingual teachers.

TEC 25.081 Length of School Day

Currently: Requires that each school days must be 420 minutes long in order to count for ADA calculations and funding purposes and to accumulate instructional minutes toward the 75,600 minutes of instruction required for students annually.

Innovation Strategy: Weimar ISD proposes to include early release days throughout the school year when it is determined necessary or beneficial to the district and its stakeholders. To the greatest extent possible, these days will be denoted on the school calendar.

TEC 25.036 Inter-District Transfers

Currently: Requires that the length of the transfer period must be the entirety of one school year.

Innovation Strategy: Weimar ISD proposes to allow the Superintendent to revoke transfer agreements at any time that a student fails to meet attendance requirements, is suspended, or placed in DAEP.