



Ennis I.S.D.

District of Innovation

Educate **E**ncourage **E**mpower 

I. INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1842 was passed during the 84th Legislative Session. This bill provides the opportunity for Texas public school districts to pursue becoming a District of Innovation, which allows districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code to allow more flexibility and local control for innovative programming.

District of Innovation provides opportunities for:

- Greater local control
- Increased flexibility governing education programming
- Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes related to curriculum, graduation requirements, nor academic and financial accountability.

ENNIS ISD MISSION STATEMENT

The Ennis Independent School District shall be an educational institution that continuously challenges and stimulates its students. Ennis ISD shall provide the highest quality institutional staff and the appropriate facilities to ensure that every student is equipped to his or her greatest academic potential.

ENNIS ISD VISION STATEMENT

Qualities of character to be taught, modeled, and upheld in Ennis ISD shall include honesty, integrity, and respect. The curriculum, programs, offerings, and opportunities provided by Ennis ISD shall be intended to produce a responsible people of high moral character, capable of personal and professional success, who shall have a positive impact on society.

ENNIS ISD CORE BELIEFS

1. We believe in working to improve performance for all students, which includes closing the achievement gaps.
DISTRICT GOAL: Ensure all students receive high-quality instruction.
2. We believe that all employees are critical to the success of our students.
DISTRICT GOAL: Provide and support high quality staff for all classrooms.
3. We are committed to providing the resources necessary to ensure educational excellence.
DISTRICT GOAL: Empower staff with resources to ensure student excellence.
4. We believe all students deserve to be educated in a safe and secure environment with high expectations for positive student behavior.

DISTRICT GOAL: Provide a safe and secure learning environment, cultivating character and high expectations.

- We believe that maintaining a positive two-way partnership with our community will enhance and strengthen our school system's appeal.

DISTRICT GOAL: Maintain a positive two-way partnership designed to strengthen the strategies aligned to the district vision and continuously improve teacher effectiveness and student outcomes.

- We believe that our facilities should be of the highest quality and well maintained to meet the needs of all stakeholders of the district.

DISTRICT GOAL: Maintain high-quality facilities with an instructional focus.

II. PLANNING TIMELINE

The timeline for **District of Innovation** is below. Please note there is some flexibility in this schedule that includes date ranges for certain activities. Board approval is targeted for the EISD Regular School Board Meeting for April 11, 2017.

Event	Date
District-wide administration attend the DOI Institute in Mansfield ISD.	November 7, 2016
Overview presentation to district administration.	November 14, 2016
Board approval of resolution that will begin the decision process (TEC 12A.001(c)(1))	January 10, 2017
Public Hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation. (TEC 12A.002 (a)) (Board must hold hearing)	February 14, 2017
Board approval of members of District of Innovation Committee (TEC 12A.002 (b)(2))	February 14, 2017
First Meeting of District of Innovation Committee	February 16, 2017
Second Meeting of District of Innovation Committee	February 21, 2017
District of Innovation plan posted on the district website for 30 days (TEC 12A.005(a)(1))	March 1, 2017
Commissioner notified of Board's intent to vote on District of Innovation. (TEC 12A.005(a)(2))	March 8, 2017

District Wide Committee hold Public Meeting (TEC 12A.005(a)(3)) (present overview of EISD DOI Plan)	April 11, 2017
Ennis ISD Board of Trustees discuss and approve the EISD District of Innovation Plan (TEC 12A.005(b))	April 11, 2017
District of Innovation plan sent to Commissioner with required checklist	April 12, 2017
DOI plan shared with campuses	April 2017

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
 Time: 4:30 pm
 Location: Ennis ISD Administration Building
 303 W. Knox St., Ennis, TX 75119

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017
 Time: 4:30 pm
 Location: Ennis ISD Administration Building
 303 W. Knox St., Ennis, TX 75119

Public Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017
 Time: 4:30 pm
 Location: Ennis ISD Administration Building
 303 W. Knox St., Ennis, TX 75119

III. ENNIS ISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Name	Position & Campus
Kelly McManus	Trustee Place 1 Board of Trustees
Suzanne Carl	Parent/Community Member
Eric Pierce	Principal Carver ECC
Kelsey Falls	Teacher Crockett ECC
Hayli Thompson	Paraprofessional

	Austin Elementary
John Peterson	Principal Bowie Elementary
Sarah Stapleton	Teacher Houston Elementary
Jeri Taylor	Teacher Travis Elementary
Evelyn Carter	Assistant Principal Lummus Intermediate
Kelli Rios	Teacher Miller Intermediate
Diane Lanicek	Counselor Ennis Junior High
David Averett	Principal Ennis High School
Mari Hillger	CTE Teacher Ennis High School
Billy Keilers	Teacher Alamo Education Center
Lindsey Zmolik	Instructional Coach Central Office
Ryan McCabe	Executive Director of Student Services Transportation Bldg.
Facilitators - Nonvoting	
Dr. John Chapman	Superintendent Central Office
Jason Gilstrap	Asst. Superintendent Central Office
Twilla Rex	Asst. Superintendent Central Office

IV. TERM

The term of the District of Innovation Plan will be in place for the 2017 – 2018 school year through the 2021 – 2022 school year unless amended or terminated by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The Ennis ISD District of Innovation Committee will revisit the plan annually to ensure that the recommendations still meet the needs of the district. Any recommended changes will be posted on the website for 30 days for feedback and require approval of the Ennis ISD District of Innovation Committee, the EISD DWC Committee, and the Board of Trustees.

V. EISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

The District proposes flexibility in the following areas:

CTE Teacher Certification

Texas Education Code: [Sec. 21.003](#). CERTIFICATION REQUIRED

“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.”

Board Policy:

DBA: EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS CREDENTIALS AND RECORDS

[DBA Legal](#)

[DBA Local](#)

Rationale: Ennis ISD believes school district leadership should decide what is best for its students in determining the candidate best suited to teach career and technical education (CTE) courses.

School Calendar

Texas Education Code: [Sec. 25.0811](#) FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

“a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.”

Texas Education Code: [Sec. 25.0812](#) LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

“a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15.”

Board Policy:

EB: SCHOOL YEAR

[EB \(Legal\)](#)[EB \(Local\)](#)

Rationale: Ennis ISD believes the local community should decide what is best for its students in setting the first day of instruction and the last day of school. By claiming exemption from [Sec. 25.0811](#) and [Sec.25.0812](#), the district shall determine the first day of instruction and the last day of school for its students on an annual basis with input from stakeholders. Local control of the instructional calendar affords the District the following advantages:

- Elimination of imbalanced 9 weeks and semester schedules while still ending the first semester prior to the holiday break.
- Alignment of calendar with dual credit courses, Advanced Placement Exams, and STAAR/EOC timelines.
- Creates flexibility for the District to pursue year round school of choice for identified populations.

Regardless of whether any adjustments or changes are made to the current start date law, Ennis ISD believes this issue to be a local decision as opposed to a state mandate.