

# Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District

## *Local Innovation Plan*

### DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Daney Quigley-Alvarez	District Excellence Committee
Steffany Batik	At-Large
Don Cheek	At-Large
Melissa Critz	At-Large
David Denning	District Excellence Committee
Shelley Fugitt	At-Large
Tisha Ghormley	District Excellence Committee
Tonya Golden	District Excellence Committee
Heidi Hiatt	District Excellence Committee
Michele Kolling	District Excellence Committee
Heather Landrum	District Excellence Committee
Mary Marion	District Excellence Committee
Tonya McEnery	District Excellence Committee
Deborah Morgan	District Excellence Committee
Doug Noell	At-Large
Jamie Nutt	At-Large
Amy Oefinger	District Excellence Committee
Chrissie Tatum	District Excellence Committee
Stacey Voigt	At-Large
Bill Wong	At-Large

## I. INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, provides the opportunity for Texas public school districts to pursue the designation of District of Innovation. This allows local school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code that would allow more flexibility and local control for innovative programming. On April 25, 2016, the Grapevine Colleyville Independent School District passed a Resolution authorizing the district to pursue the District of Innovation designation 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 in the community.

On May 23, 2016, the GCISD Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing to allow the public to learn more about the designation and provide feedback. The Board appointed a Local Innovation Committee comprised of community members, parents, teacher leaders, and campus and district level administrators to prepare a Local Innovation Plan to address the needs of the district.

This Local Innovation Committee met over a three-month period to develop an initial draft of the Local Innovation Plan. The plan was posted online for public viewing and feedback on January 13, 2017, and remained online until February 27, 2017. The plan was presented to the GCISD District Excellent Committee (DEC) on February 2, 2017 and it was recommended by the DEC that the plan be presented to the Board for consideration. On February 27, 2017, the Local Innovation Committee presented the plan to the Board, where it was approved and adopted.

### Timeline:

April 25, 2016

- GCISD Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation Resolution as part of the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, which gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, the district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in the Texas Education Code.

May 23, 2016

- GCISD Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation committee.

May 23, 2016

- GCISD Board of Trustees approved the administration to pursue the designation of a District of Innovation.

September 15,  
2016

- Committee Meeting

October 13, 2016

- Committee Meeting

November 17,  
2016

- Committee Meeting

## II. TERM

The term of the Local Innovation Plan will begin at the start of the 2017-2018 school year and conclude at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If necessary, the committee will revisit the plan to ensure that the recommendations are still in line with the needs of the district. Any changes recommended would be on the district website for 30 days and require approval by the Innovation Committee and the Board of Trustees.

## III. CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

The Local Innovation Plan is guided by and aligned by the following:

### Mission Statement:

The mission of the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District is to be THE BEST. We will promote good citizenship and prepare, motivate and encourage each student to reach his or her full potential within a safe, caring, cooperative environment by providing an effective and enduring education.

### Vision Statement:

The Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District inspires, encourages and empowers students to achieve their full potential in a global society.

## GCISD LEAD 2021 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. No less than once annually, all students will collaboratively develop, revise and accomplish a rigorous personalized learning plan leading to college and career readiness and culminating with all graduates possessing a postgraduate plan aligned with their individual goals.
2. Every Student (PK-12) will responsibly and effectively use and apply the latest relevant technology and, upon graduation, all students will be able to use technology masterfully in all dimensions of their academic work.
3. All members of the GCISD family will promote good citizenship and demonstrate mutual respect
4. All students will be positive participants in their local communities and our global society.

# GCISD | District of Innovation Plan

## MINIMUM MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION (per day/per year)

### Exemptions

TEC Code 25.081(a): ...for each school year each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses, for students

TEC Code 25.082(a): A school day shall be at least seven hours each day, including intermissions and recesses.

### Benefit of exemption for GCISD

Exempting from the requirement of 75,600 minutes of instruction for the year and 420 minutes of instruction per day allows the school district to create flexible schedules, which incorporates needed professional development, early release days for the purpose of teacher/parent/student conferences and future innovations that currently are restricted due to the requirement of 75,600 annual minutes and 420 daily minutes.

### Local Guidelines

The district will establish a process to determine a school calendar that incorporates the necessary minutes of non-instructional time in order to realize our vision for the school district while providing the time necessary to cover the academic requirements. The district will establish a process to determine when it will be appropriate for a school schedule to include a regularly scheduled day that will be less than 420 minutes. The district will never allow a school schedule to include a regularly scheduled day that is less than 240 minutes.

## FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

### Exemption

TEC 25.0811: A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

### Benefit of Exemption for GCISD

The District Excellence Committee, which helps determine the school calendar, will have the flexibility to start earlier than currently allowed by the Texas Education Code for either the entire District or individual campuses.

Because August will only have four Mondays instead of five over the next few years, this presents a new problem with the way the calendar falls forcing the fall and spring semesters to be more out of balance than they have been over the past few years. Starting earlier will allow the district to continue planning the two semesters with a natural Winter Break, which provides the opportunity to schedule semester exams prior to Winter Break.

### Local Guidelines

The District Excellence Committee will receive parent and staff input then decide, subject to School Board approval, whether the district will start school prior to the fourth Monday in August.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION & FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE

### **Exemption**

TEC 21.003 requires that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

### **Benefit of Exemption for GCISD**

The statutory certification requirements inhibit the district's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) and STEM courses. Additionally, the requirements inhibit the district's ability to hire individuals fluent in other languages not currently taught in the district.

Local Qualifications will allow the district to:

- Recruit teachers from the field, including individuals from certain trades and/or vocations with industry knowledge and real world experience
- Recruit teachers fluent in languages not currently offered

### **Local Guidelines**

The district will establish local criteria, such as years of experience, qualifications and industry certifications, to qualify for a local (district) teaching certificate.

Principals, along with corresponding curriculum department, will submit candidates to the Superintendent with credentials. The Superintendent will determine whether it is in the best interest of the district to certify the individual. The Superintendent will notify the Board prior to offering employment.