

**HOLLAND**  
**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**  
**DISTRICT**



**DISTRICT OF INNOVATION**  
**PLAN 2019 - 2023**



# Holland ISD

## District of Innovation Plan

### **Introduction**

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, allows Texas public schools with sufficient academic ratings to become a District of Innovation. Holland ISD will obtain exemptions from certain regulations of the Texas Education Code. On January 23, 2019, Holland ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution to initiate the process to become a District of Innovation (DOI). The purpose of passing the resolution is to increase local control over Holland ISD operations and the district's goals by supporting innovation and local initiatives to improve educational opportunities for the benefit of our students, staff, and community. HB 1842 does not allow for exemptions from statutes including curriculum and graduation requirements, or academic and financial accountability.

### **Process**

The Holland ISD Board of Trustees appointed the Site Based Decision Making Committee to create the plan for the district. The plan will be created by the Site Based Decision Making Committee over several meetings and then posted on the Holland ISD website for 30 days. The committee will vote on the plan after hearing any feedback, and will present the proposal to the school board for approval.

## **Holland Independent School District Site-Based Decision Making/DOI Committee**

Shane Downing	Superintendent
Britt Gordon	High School Principal
Melany Cearley	Counselor
Matt McCray	High School Assistant Principal
Leah Smith	Middle School Principal
Gracie Schlickeisen	Middle School Assistant Principal
Lori Kinard	Elementary Principal
Andrea Ruff	High School Teacher
Dr. Sharon Woodall	High School Teacher
Kelly Gordon	Middle School Teacher
Kelly Taisler	Middle School Teacher
Donna Lynn	Elementary Teacher
Vicki Malone	Elementary Teacher
Lauren Patterson	Elementary Teacher
Christy Hood	Reading Specialist
Barbara Wooley	Parent
Dr. Franklin Smalley	Parent

### **District of Innovation Timeline**

January 23, 2019	Board of Trustees voted to adopt the Resolution to Consider Designation as District of Innovation
February 13, 2019	Board held a public hearing to consider whether the district should become a District of Innovation
February 13, 2019	Board appoints the Site Based Decision Making Committee to develop a local District of Innovation Plan
February 20, 2019	Site Based Meeting to create District of Innovation plan
February 27, 2019	Site Based Meeting to create District of Innovation plan
March 6, 2019	Site Based Meeting to create District of Innovation plan
March 6, 2019	Final Draft to be posted onto district website for public review and comment (30 days)
April 4, 2019	Site Based Committee unanimously vote at public meeting to recommend District of Innovation Plan to Holland ISD Board of Trustees
April 5, 2019	Notify TEA of proposed District of Innovation Plan
April 10, 2019	Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation Plan

### **Term**

The plan will begin April 10, 2019 and end July 31, 2023 unless terminated, amended or renewed by the board of trustees in accordance to the law. The Site Based Committee will review the plan annually and will continue to determine the effectiveness of the plan.

# Innovations

Holland ISD proposes flexibility and seeks an exemption in the following areas:

## 1. First Day of Instruction (TEC 25.0811)

- A. State law currently prohibits school districts from starting class before the fourth Monday in August
- B. Rationale for exemption
  - More professional development opportunities during the school year for teachers
  - Balances grading periods for more equity in instruction of scope and sequence
  - Balance the amount of instructional time/days per semester.
  - Additional instructional days prior to required state assessments (E.O.C./S.T.A.A.R.)
  - Allow an option to start school with a shorter week, easing the transition back to school for all students
  - Calendar would be more aligned with college schedules, allowing students to enroll in summer courses that start in early June
- C. Proposed Innovation
  - The Holland ISD Site Based Committee will continue the current calendar recommendation process to meet the needs of the district.

## 2. Teacher Certification (TEC 21.003)

- A. Texas law restricts the district's ability to hire educators outside the SBEC approved certification fields
- B. Rationale for exemption
  - The law limits the district's ability to hire non-certified instructors for CTE courses
  - Small school district's schedules need flexibility in order to avoid the disruption of an instructional path
- C. Proposed Innovation
  - The district will establish local requirements such as years of experience, qualifications, and industry certifications
  - The district will utilize this exemption in the areas of career and technical education (CTE) and courses needed for instructional paths

- A currently certified teacher could teach one section of a course/subject, per year, outside his/her state certified field in order to avoid the disruption of an instructional path, with the approval of the district's superintendent
- The teacher must complete classroom management training along with any other continuing education requirements prior to teaching in the classroom and will be assigned a state certified teacher as a mentor

### **3. Absences for College, University, or Military visits** (TEC 25.087)

- A. Texas law states that students are excused for a maximum of two days for college or university visits in their junior year and again in their senior year
- B. Rationale for exemption
  - High school students are not allowed to receive an excused absence if they take more than two visits during their junior and senior year
- C. Proposed Innovation
  - The district shall excuse a student for up to two days during their junior year and up to four days during their senior year to visit an accredited institution of higher education and/or military enlistment activity

### **4. Transfer Students** (TEC 25.036)

- A. Texas law allows a district to accept students as transfers who are not eligible to enroll in the district. TEC 25.036 requires the school district to enroll a student as a transfer for a period of one school year. Holland ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (Local) requiring non-resident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. Before approving a transfer request, the availability of space, availability of instructional staff, availability of programs and services, disciplinary records, work habits, and attendance records will be evaluated for each student. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the district
- B. Rationale for exemption
  - On rare occasions, student behavior warrants in school suspension, out of school suspension, placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP), or expulsion
  - The district's efforts to improve attendance rate could be negatively impacted by transfer students with poor attendance

- A transfer student's enrollment of one year could negatively impact campus culture due to behavior or attendance concerns

C. Proposed innovation

- The district is seeking exemption from the one year commitment in accepting transfer applicants
- Transfer students may have transfer status revoked by the superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences of in school suspension, out of school suspension, placement in DAEP, or expulsion
- Students not meeting the state's attendance and/or truancy standard may also be subjected to immediate revocation of the transfer status