

MONTAGUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
"BUILDING A LEGACY"



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**Proposed Montague ISD
District of Innovation Plan
2017-2022**

Introduction

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB1842 passed. This bill allows Texas public schools to become Districts of Innovation, which would allow them to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. Montague ISD is exercising this opportunity to gain more local control and will request the following exemptions from the Texas Education Code.

Term

Montague ISD's Innovation Plan will begin with the 2017-2018 school year and conclude at the end of the 2021-2022 school year unless the plan is terminated or amended by the Montague ISD Board in accordance with HB1842. If at any time within this 5 year plan, other areas of exemptions are to be considered, the Board will nominate a new committee to consider new exemptions. Any future amendments will adhere to the same term of the original plan.

Innovations

Goal #1

Kindergarten – Grade 4 Class Size

(TEC 25.112a-g) (TEC 25.113a-b) (EEB LEGAL)

Statutes that relate to this goal

TEC 25.112 requires districts to maintain a class size of 22 students or less for Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes. When any class exceeds this limit, the district must complete and file a waiver with the Texas Education Agency.

TEC 25.113 requires districts to notify parents of waivers or exemptions top class size limits.

Innovation Strategies:

1. At the beginning of each school year, Montague ISD will meet the suggested student to teacher ratio of 22:1 per K-4 homeroom class. In the event that any class size exceeds this ration during the school year, the superintendent will report this information to the Board of Trustees and to the parents of the affected students. The determination of whether to add another teacher to bring the class under the 22:1 mandate will be made by the administration and this recommendation will be reported to the Board of Trustees.
2. A TEA waiver will not be filed when a K-4th classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio.

Goal #2

School Start Date

(TEC 25.0811a) (EB LEGAL)

Statues that relate to this goal

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

The current process allows no flexibility in the design of annual calendars to fit the needs of the community or the wished of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

Innovation Strategies:

1. Montague ISD students will begin instruction no earlier than the second week of August. This changes will create better flexibility in the creation of the district calendar as well as allowing more opportunities in scheduling meaningful and balanced staff development days.
2. The earlier start date will allow the district to move instructional days that occur after state mandated testing dates to the front of the school year.
3. The earlier start date will provide more balance to the first 3 six weeks grading periods.

Goal #3

Length of School Day

(TEC 25.082a) (SAAH 3.8.1)

Statutes that relate to this goal

TEC 25.082a states that a school day must be 7 hours each day including recesses and intermissions.

SAAH 3.8.1 states that a school day must be at least 420 minutes including recesses and intermissions. School districts are subject to this requirement.

The current rule allows no flexibility in the design of district schedules.

Innovation Strategies:

1. The opportunity to exempt from the 420 minute school day requirement will provide the district the opportunity of flexibility when creating a daily schedule that will better serve the students and teachers. This flexibility will give local control to the district in meeting the yearly requirement of 75,600 minutes in relation to the district calendar for each specific school year.
2. This exemption will provide greater flexibility than the current 6 day waiver maximum that relates to the length of the school day.
3. The opportunity to be exempt from the 7 hour day requirement will allow the district to create more flexibility within the daily schedule for students and staff. This flexibility will be used to create a unique bell schedule instead of the static schedule required of schools by this mandate.
4. The district will provide teachers and administrators the opportunity for more customized staff development opportunities through the creation of these unique schedules.