



Falls City ISD

Innovative Plan 2019-2021



Background

The 84th Legislature passed House Bill 1842 which allows school districts to declare exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code by becoming a designated District of Innovation. Falls City ISD Board of Trustees met on February 15, 2017 in a regular scheduled board meeting to consider Falls City ISD becoming a District of Innovation. The Falls City ISD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution to become a District of Innovation and approved the district advisory committee to develop the Innovative Plan. On February 20, 2019 Falls City ISD hosted a public hearing to discuss the Innovative Plan that was developed. The Falls City ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the plan on June 19, 2019 during their regular meeting.

Board of Trustees

Wayne Lyssy	President
Marlin Moczygemba	Vice-President
Keith Sekula	Secretary
Barbara Braune	
Jerry Jendrusch	
Russel Kowalik	
Marlin Moczygemba	
BJ Sekula	

Vision Statement

Falls City ISD vision is to be an exemplary educational environment fostering excellence in all areas and focusing on academic achievement.

Mission Statement

Falls City ISD will educate all students to their highest potential in a safe, small school setting with highly qualified staff providing infinite instructional opportunities.



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District Advisory Committee

Vanessa Tieman

Beth Deleon

Britt Hart

Charnel Ehlers

Christy Blocker

Jaime Albert

Jessica Ruple

Kristi Janysek

Michael McReynolds

Pat Startz

Lauren Arenas

Todd Pawelek

Wayne Lyssy

Elementary Parent

K-12 Counselor

Athletic Director

JH English Teacher

K-12 Principal

K-12 Paraprofessional

K-12 Assistant Principal

Elementary/Secondary Parent

High School Science

Technology

PIEMS

Superintendent

Board Member

District of Innovation Timeline

February 15, 2017 - Board of Trustees approved a resolution become a District of Innovation, conducted a public hearing on becoming a District of Innovation and Board of Trustees approval of the District Advisory Committee to develop the Innovative Plan

February 11, 2019 – District Advisory Committee meeting to review current plan and make changes as needed

February 15, 2019 - Post Falls City ISD Innovation Plan on website and notify TEA of District of Innovation Plan

February 19, 2019 - Public Meeting to discuss District of Innovation plan

June 19, 2019 - Board of Trustees approval of the Innovation Plan



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TEXAS EDUCATION CODE EXEMPTIONS

1. **§TEC 25.0811 First Day of Instruction**- States that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August.

Innovation Strategy

- Flexible Calendar- Falls City ISD will begin instruction no earlier than August 14th in an effort to create greater flexibility in the school calendar. This flexibility will allow more opportunities to schedule timely and meaningful staff development throughout the calendar year. Additionally, this allows the district to incorporate optional flexible year days in the spring for our Juniors and Seniors. Subsequently, district staff and student attendance should improve with this flexibility.

2. **§TEC 21.102 Teacher Employment Contracts**- Currently, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. This time period is not sufficient to evaluate a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

Innovation Strategy

- Probationary Contracts- Experienced teachers and counselors new to Falls City ISD that have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the last date of district employment. Partial years will not qualify toward the two-year requirement. This will allow the district more time to evaluate a staff member's effectiveness.

3. **§ TEC 21.003 Teacher Certification** 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.

Innovation Strategy



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- In order to best serve the students of Falls City ISD, decisions on certification will be handled locally. The Board of Trustees must approve all assignments of teachers who do not have proper certification annually.
 - The principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a teacher to teach subject(s) out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the teacher possesses which would qualify this individual to teach this subject.
 - An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all the individual's credentials. The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual could be an asset to students. The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment. The employee will be employed on at-will or a non-certified contract.
 - This plan will provide more flexibility in our scheduling and more options for our students in class offerings.
4. **§TEC 21.401 Teacher Contract Days** Current education law located in Chapter 21 defines a teacher contract as a ten-month contract equivalent to 187 days.

Innovative Strategy

- This plan reduces teacher contract days from 187 to 185 with no effect on teacher salaries. This reduction in contract days at the current salary schedule would make our salaries more competitive.
- This plan will increase the daily rate the district pays teachers.
- This plan should enhance teacher recruitment.
- This plan will provide teachers more flexibility during the summer months to seek out beneficial staff development that relates to their field.



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- As feasibly possible in each year of the plan, it will be part of the calendar planning process to maintain the reduced number of teacher contract days.