



Falls City ISD

Innovative Plan 2017-2018



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 March 15, 2017 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 April 19, 2017 during their regular meeting.

Board of Trustees

Wayne Lyssy	President
Jerry Jendrusch	Vice-President
Keith Sekula	Secretary
Barbara Braune	
Patrick Jarzombek	
Mindy Jendrusch	
Kevin Labus	

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.

Goals

- Falls City will strive to achieve exemplary status in all aspects of school life.
- Falls City ISD will recruit and retain highly qualified personnel.
- Falls City ISD will maintain fiscal and financial responsibility.
- Falls City ISD will implement a long and short term facilities plan.



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District Advisory Committee

Angela Moczygemba
Beth Deleon
Britt Hart
Charnel Ehlers
Christy Blocker
Jaime Albert
Jessica Ruple
Kellie Pawelek
Michael McReynolds
Michelle Gisler
Pam Sanchez
Pat Startz
Teri Crawford
Todd Pawelek
Wayne Lyssy

HS Parent
K-12 Counselor
Athletic Director
JH English Teacher
K-12 Principal
K-12 Paraprofessional
K-12 Assistant Principal
Elementary Parent
HS Science Teacher
JH Parent
Elementary Math Teacher
Technology
Business Manager
Superintendent
Board Member

District of Innovation Timeline

February 8, 2017 –Teacher Advisory meeting to discuss becoming a District of Innovation

February 15, 2017 - Board of Trustees approved a resolution become a District of Innovation

February 15, 2017 – Conducted a public hearing on becoming a District of Innovation

February 15, 2017 - Board of Trustees approval of the District Advisory Committee to develop the Innovative Plan

February 22, 2017 – District Advisory Committee meeting to develop the innovative plan

March 8, 2017 – District Advisory Committee meeting to finalize the innovative plan

March 9, 2017 - Post Falls City ISD Innovation Plan on website

March 9, 2017 – Notify TEA of District of Innovation Plan

March 15, 2017 - Public Meeting to discuss District of Innovation plan

April 19, 2017 - 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 the third Wednesday of August 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

- In order to best serve the students of Falls City ISD, decisions on certification will be handled locally. The Board of Trustees must approve



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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.
- 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.