



Loop ISD

District of Innovation Plan

2022-2027

Loop Independent School District

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The 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1842 in the spring of 2015, providing public school districts the opportunity to become Districts of Innovation. To qualify, an eligible school district must adopt a five-year innovation plan according to the Texas Education Code.

Loop ISD is utilizing HB 1842, of the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, in order to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to have some of the same local flexibility that public charter schools have always been allowed. We feel this is a great opportunity for our local district to develop a plan based on the needs of our students and community.

This plan will be in effect for the 2022-2023 school year through the 2026-2027 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with approval of the Board of Trustees.

The logo for Loop ISD Longhorns is a large, light red circular emblem. It features a white silhouette of a longhorn's head and horns in the center. The word "LOOP" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the circle, and "LONGHORNS" is written across the bottom. The background of the circle is a light red color.

## Loop Independent School District

### *District of Innovation Plan Timeline:*

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021,

Administrators met to discuss local benefits of implementing District of Innovation Plan

January 24th, 2022,

School Board met and approved resolution to begin the District Innovation Plan process.

	Board also approved district improvement committee
January 17th, 2022,	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of District Improvement committee regarding Innovation Plan
February 17 <sup>th</sup> 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of District Improvement committee regarding Innovation Plan
April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2022,	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the District Improvement committee regarding Innovation Plan
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2022,	Final meeting regarding Innovation Plan
April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2022,	Board holds 2 <sup>nd</sup> public hearing regarding District Innovation Plan
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Post District Innovation Plan on website for 30 days
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2022,	Board notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of intention to vote on plan
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022,	Recommend final plan to Board of Trustees for approval
May 24 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Board of trustees formally notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of approved plan.
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Update all policy changes with TASB

## Loop Independent School District

### *District of Innovation Planning Committee:*

Member Name:

District/Community Role:

Heath Blackmon

Superintendent

Charla Scott

Pre-K – 12 Principal

Karen Trent	Science/Athletics
Kristy Harris	Elementary Faculty/Parent
Kim McConal	Academic UIL/Community
Vanetta Blackmon	District Testing Coordinator
Veronica Esquivel	Community/Parent
M'Kenzie Scott	Elementary Faculty
Bobby Avery	Secondary Faculty



Loop Independent School District *Board*  
*of Trustees:*

Member Name:

Board Position:

Norman Crow

President

Carla Young

Secretary

Pam Young

Vice-President

Jim Owens

Member

Brady McConal

Member

Henry Froese

Member

Jerry Bingham

Member



**§25.0811 Uniform School Start Date:**

A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system. A district may not receive a waiver for this requirement.

**Proposed:**

This flexibility of start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. It also offers the below opportunities:

- An improved balanced instructional calendar. Currently we have 78 days in the fall and 89 days in the spring for the 2016-17 school year by starting school 5 days earlier, our instructional calendar would be 83 days in the fall and 84 days in the spring.
- Students participating in dual enrollment opportunities will work with balanced semesters, which align with our local colleges.
- An early start date permits students an additional week of instruction prior to state assessments.
- Students will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts and staff will be able to attend summer school classes as well.

- Creates flexibility for District to pursue other calendar options for identified populations.

### **Local Guidelines:**

The district will determine, on an annual basis, when each school year will begin

### **§21.003 Certification**

TEC 21.003(a) states a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B. TEC21.057 requires districts to provide written notice to parents when an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year.

### **Proposed:**

To best serve Loop ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. With the current teacher shortage, this exemption from teacher certification requirements will enable greater flexibility in staffing and will enrich applicant pools in specific areas of need. The district's exemption from TEC 21.003 would allow the district to consider part time professionals to teach courses, allow industry expert professionals to transition to the teaching profession in Career and Technology and assist in staffing high need STEM and dual credit course offerings. Out of state certified teachers could be considered for positions upon a local review of experience, education and credentials. Often there are experienced certified teachers in our district that could teach a course outside of their certification area due to their education, background and/or experience. Local decisions outside of state certification requirements would allow innovation and flexibility in scheduling to meet student needs.

### **Local Guidelines**

- a) The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach a subject and/or grade level out of their field. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses qualifying this individual to teach the subject.
- b) An individual with experience in a Career and Technology field may be eligible to



teach a vocational skill or course. An individual may hold a teaching certification in another state for Core areas or Career and Technology. An individual may have background, experience, skills or work related/ industry experience to work full time or part time in a designated area. The principal will submit a request to the superintendent for local certification. The principal must specify the reason for the request and document what credentials the individual possesses qualifying this individual to teach the subject.

- c) The superintendent will approve or deny requests for local certification.
- d) Special education and bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified

### **§21.401 Teacher Contract Days**

TEC 21.401 As outlined in Chapter 21 of the Texas Education Code, teachers employed on a ten-month contract are required to provide a minimum of 187 day of service.

#### **Proposed:**

Recognizing that the requirements for instruction are now based on minutes attended instead of days and the latitude given with the optional flexible year calendar, Loop ISD will allow professional contracts to be reduced to 166 days without a decrease in salary while providing greater flexibility in professional development, lesson planning, student assessment, HB 4545 and reporting. Employee compensation will be consistent with a 187 day calendar.

### **TEC 25.036 Inter-District Transfers**

#### **Plan:**

- a. Loop ISD would follow FDA local policy requiring non-resident students to file a transfer application each school year.
- b. In approving transfer request, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history, records, work habits, and attendance records will be evaluated. The parent's willingness to cooperate with Loop ISD teachers, coaches, and administration in a positive manner will also be a determining factor.
- c. Transfer students are required to follow the attendance requirements, rules, and regulations of the district.

- d. Transfer students may be revoked by the superintendent at any time during the school year if the student is assigned disciplinary consequences such as suspension (in school or out of school), placement of the DAEP, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the student's transfer status. Furthermore, the student's transfer may be revoked by the superintendent if the parent or legal guardian fail to support the District in a positive manner.

Benefits:

- a. Allows Loop ISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students who, on rare occasions violate the transfer policy.
- b. Allows Loop ISD the flexibility to revoke transfer students, whose parents do not support the district.
- c. Allows Loop ISD to better utilize school resources for the benefit of the District.

