



Loop ISD

**District of Innovation Plan**

**2017-2022**

# Loop Independent School District

## District of Innovation Plan

2017-2022


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 2017-2018 school year through the 2021-2022 school year. This plan may be amended at any time by the committee with approval of the Board of Trustees.

# Loop Independent School District

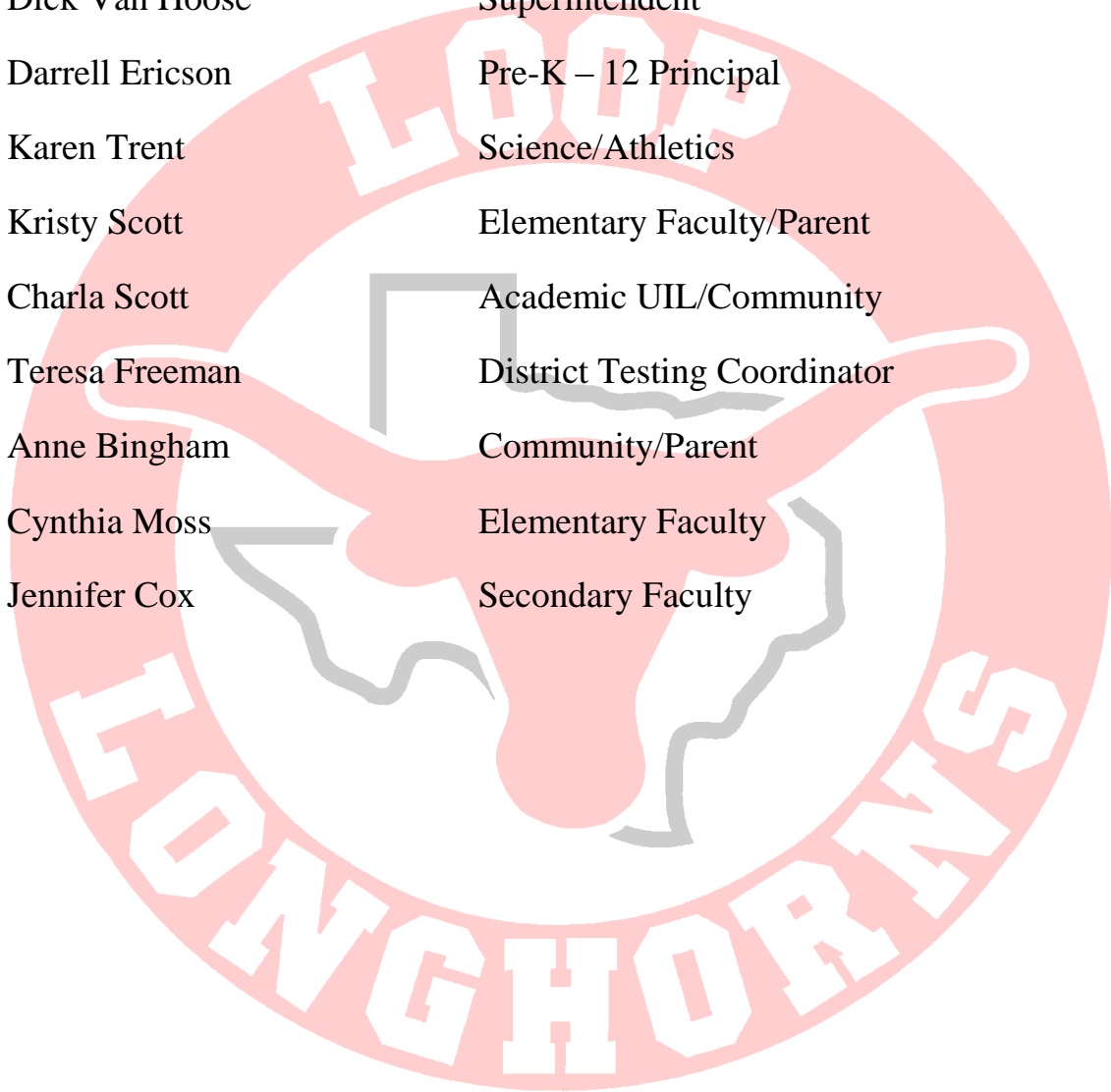
## *District of Innovation Plan Timeline:*

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- December 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 Administrators met to discuss local benefits of implementing District of Innovation Plan
- December 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 School Board met and approved resolution to begin the District Innovation Plan process.  
Board also approved district improvement committee
- January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of District Improvement committee regarding Innovation Plan
- February 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of District Improvement committee regarding Innovation Plan
- April 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the District Improvement committee regarding Innovation Plan
- April 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 Final meeting regarding Innovation Plan
- April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 Board holds 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing regarding District Innovation Plan
- April 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 Post District Innovation Plan on website for 30 days
- April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 Board notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of intention to vote on plan
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017 Recommend final plan to Board of Trustees for approval
- May 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 Board of trustees formally notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of approved plan.
- June 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 Update all policy changes with TASB

# Loop Independent School District

## *District of Innovation Planning Committee:*

<u>Member Name:</u>	<u>District/Community Role:</u>
Dick Van Hoose	Superintendent
Darrell Ericson	Pre-K – 12 Principal
Karen Trent	Science/Athletics
Kristy Scott	Elementary Faculty/Parent
Charla Scott	Academic UIL/Community
Teresa Freeman	District Testing Coordinator
Anne Bingham	Community/Parent
Cynthia Moss	Elementary Faculty
Jennifer Cox	Secondary Faculty



# Loop Independent School District

## *Board of Trustees:*



Member Name:

Board Position:

Norman Crow

President

Carla Young

Secretary

Pam Young

Member

Shawnda Bodey

Member

Benny Wright

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:**

TEC 25.081 changed instructional time for students from 180 days to 75,600 minutes. However, the number of contract days required of teachers was not addressed. Loop ISD would reduce teacher contract days from 187 to 182 with no effect on teacher salaries.

### **Local Guidelines:**

By Loop ISD reducing teacher contract days from 187 to 182 with no effect on teacher salaries the benefits would include:

- a. Loop ISD salaries would be more competitive with other districts.
- b. Teacher recruitment would be enhanced.
- c. Increase daily rate of district teachers.
- d. Improve teacher morale.
- e. Provide increased opportunity for instructional staff to obtain quality professional development during summer months.
- f. In each year of the plan, it will be part of the calendar planning process to maintain the reduced number of teacher contract days.