



Jarrell ISD
District of Innovation Plan
2016-2017 through 2021-2022

Jarrell ISD is utilizing HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session, in order to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to be named as a District of Innovation and 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 tailor plans based on the needs of our students and community.

This plan will be in effect for the 2016-2017 school year through the 2020-2021 school year. The District of Innovation Committee may amend this plan at any time with approval of the Jarrell ISD Board of Trustees.

District of Innovation Process

- October 17, 2016 – Special Board meeting to adopt the District of Innovation resolution to begin the process to be designated a District of Innovation
- October 17, 2016 – Public Hearing to inform board and public about being a District of Innovation
- October 17, 2016 – Board Approved the Jarrell ISD District of Innovation Committee at a regularly scheduled board meeting
- October 28, 2016 – JISD District of Innovation Committee met to discuss options open to JISD under the District of Innovation and develop the JISD District of Innovation Plan
- November 11, 2016 – JISD District of Innovation Plan is posted to the JISD web page for review.
- December 12, 2016 – Innovation Committee hosts a public hearing at 6pm at JISD Administration Building at 6pm
- December 12, 2016 – JISD Board of Trustees approve Plan.

Jarrell ISD Innovation Committee:

Dr. Bill Chapman	Superintendent
Dr. Becky Snow	Assistant Superintendent
James Garrett	Business Manager
Lindsie Almquist	Principal, Jarrell High School
Abbe Lester	Principal, Jarrell Middle School
Brenda Hight	Principal, Jarrell Intermediate School
Jack Wilson	Principal, Jarrell Elementary School
Dr. Michael Cosimeno	Member, Jarrell Board of Trustees
Michelle West	Teacher, Jarrell Elementary School
Liz Boyd	Teacher, Jarrell Middle School
Morgan Taylor	Parent
John Hairgrove	Parent

Innovations:

1. Class Size: Kindergarten - Grade 4

(JISD Policy EEB Legal and TEC 25.112)

Current Texas Education Code requires that districts maintain class sizes of 22 students or less in kindergarten through fourth grade, and a waiver must be completed if a class exceeds the number. With the exemption, JISD would continue to achieve the required student-to-teacher ratio but would be given flexibility if the ratio was exceeded during the school year, negating the need to apply for a state waiver

2. Teacher Certification – CTE

(JISD Policy DK Legal, TEC 21.003, 21.053, 21.044 and TAC 19.231)

The Texas Education Code and the Texas Administrative Code requires the district to place students in classrooms in which the instructor holds a Texas Teacher Certification. In addition, teachers in CTE programs are required to be certified in that specific area in order to receive CTE funding. This creates an issue in some hard to locate CTE areas. JISD wants the ability to hire qualified individuals in their aligned CTE field to be an instructor in that program for JHS CTE students.

3. Uniform School Start Date

(JISD Policy EB Legal and TEC 25.0811)

Currently, the Texas Education Code does not allow schools to begin class before the fourth Monday in August. The plan states that this exemption would give JISD the flexibility to determine its start date on an annual basis, as long as class did not begin before the second Monday in August.

4. Probationary Contracts

(JISD Policy DCA Legal and TEC 21.102)

The Texas Education Code provides a three-year probationary period for newly hired teachers and only a one-year probationary period for teachers who have been in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. This limited time period is insufficient in some cases to fully determine the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom. Relief from Texas Education Code 21.102 will permit JISD the option to issue a probationary contract for a period of up to three years for experienced teachers, counselors or nurses newly hired in JISD

5. Campus Behavior Committee

(JISD Policy FO Legal and Local and TEC 37.0012)

Current Texas Education Code requires districts name one individual per campus to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. This restricts JISD campuses from addressing the needs of each individual student. These needs often extend to social or emotional issues. By utilizing existing behavior and disciplinary committees in lieu of a single coordinator JISD can create plans that allow students to grow socially, emotionally, and create positive interactions in school.

6. Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

(JISD Policy DCA Legal and TEC 25.092)

Texas Education Code mandates that JISD not issue class credit for a class if a student is not in attendance an arbitrary percentage of the time that a class is offered. In other words, the law currently requires the District to award class credit to students based on "seat time" rather than based on content mastery. Exemption from this requirement will provide educational advantages to students of JISD by accommodating students with legitimate scheduling conflicts, reducing dropouts, and increasing the number of qualifying graduates.