

Prairie Valley Independent School District

“An Exemplary School District” 1998-2002, 2006-2011

“Post-Secondary Readiness Distinction” Earned 2016

“Academic Distinctions” Earned 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

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#pvfamily

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN (HB 1842) 2022-2027

During the 84th Legislative Session, HB 1842 was passed in order to provide more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to utilize the exemptions in Education Law that charter schools are currently entitled to. We feel this is a great opportunity for Prairie Valley ISD to create a plan based on the needs of our students and district for the next five years (2022-2027).

Prairie Valley ISD's Innovation Plan will begin in June 2022 and conclude in June 2027 school year unless the plan is terminated or amended by the Prairie Valley ISD Board in accordance with HB1842. If at any time within this 5- year plan, other areas of exemptions are to be considered, the Board will nominate a new committee to consider new exemptions. Any future amendments will adhere to the same term of the original plan.

Goal #1 School start date

(TEC 25.0811a) (EB LEGAL)

Statutes that relate to this goal.

TEC 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August.

The current process allows no flexibility in the design of annual calendars to fit the needs of the community or the wishes of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

Innovation Strategies:

1. Prairie Valley ISD students will begin instruction no earlier than the 2nd week of August. This change will create better flexibility in the creation of the district calendar as well as allowing more opportunities in scheduling meaningful and relevant staff development days.
2. The earlier start date will allow the district to move instructional days that occur after state mandated testing dates to the front of the school year and thus increase instruction time prior to STAAR/EOC testing.
3. The earlier start date will provide more balance to the first 3 six weeks grading periods during the first semester.

Goal #2 Certification – General

(TEC 21.003a) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA Local)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

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.

Innovation Strategies:

1. For grades 6-12, in all subjects except Special Education and ESL/Bilingual, the campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for a local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach one subject in a related field for which he/she is not certified. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses that would qualify the individual to teach the proposed subject.
2. The current certification requirement severely limits the districts options to hire professionals with work related experience or degrees to teach a variety of courses from CATE and STEM related courses along with other required courses needed throughout the district. In order to maximum the opportunities for students to take such courses, the district will consider the qualifications necessary to create a local requirement for these course instead of the requirements set forth in TEC 21.033(a). This exemption will allow the district to:
 - a. Consider part time professionals to teach courses
 - b. Opportunity for professionals to transition from other work related jobs to the teaching profession.
 - c. Increase the number of CATE and STEM type courses available.
 - d. Trade related professionals the ability to teach related courses.
3. The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following these assignments.
4. A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency.

Goal #3 Teacher Contract Days

(DC Legal) (Ed. Code 21.401)

Statutes that relate to this goal

Current education law defines a teacher contract as a ten- month contract equivalent to 187 days.

Innovation Strategies:

1. TEC 25.081 changed student instructional days to minutes. However, TEC 21.401 has not been adjusted to change teacher contracts from days to minutes. Changes in the number of days required to fulfill the contract will not alter the teacher pay scale. Teacher daily rate will be adjusted to maintain current salary.
2. This proposal reduces teacher contract days from 187 with no effect on teacher salaries. This stems from an attempt to provide flexibility to better align teacher service days to instructional days.
 - This proposal will increase the daily rate the district pays teachers.
 - This proposal should enhance teacher recruitment, therefore putting the district on a more level playing field with larger districts.
 - This proposal will improve teacher morale.
 - This proposal will provide teachers more opportunities during the year to seek out beneficial staff development that relates to their field.

Goal #4 Transfer Students

(FDA Local) (Ed. Code 25.036)

Statutes that relate to this goal

State law allows a student to transfer annually from the child's school district of residence to another district in the state if both the receiving district and the applicant parent or guardian jointly approve and timely agree in writing to the transfer. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history, academic performance, and attendance records are also evaluated. Under Texas Education Code 25.036, a transfer is interpreted to be for a period of one school year.

Innovation Strategies:

1. The district is seeking exemption from the one- year commitment in accepting a transfer student allowing the district to rescind a transfer at any time during the school year if the student violates district expectations of attendance, discipline, academic achievement, and/or falsifying documentation.
2. This flexibility would allow the district to have the option of immediate revocation of a student's transfer status by the Superintendent or designee at any time during the school year.

