

Fort Stockton ISD  
Innovation Plan 2017-2022





## District Mission

The mission of the Fort Stockton Independent School District is to remain totally committed to the development of students as lifelong learners and productive, self-sustaining contributors to society.

# Fort Stockton ISD Board Goals

Fort Stockton ISD is driven by Five Board Goals developed in conjunction with our parents, community, and stakeholders. These goals drive all decisions regarding teaching and learning in FSISD.

## **-Academics-**

The Fort Stockton ISD will engage students in active learning by providing curriculum and instruction to make the classroom environment a safe, positive place where students are supported to achieve.

## **-Career-**

The Fort Stockton ISD will prepare and encourage students to be ready for college or the workplace.

## **-Communication-**

The Fort Stockton ISD will provide effective and efficient communication among board members, administration, teachers, parents, students and the community.

## **-Financial Management-**

The Fort Stockton ISD will monitor and manage finances in order to sustain educational program priorities over the long term.

## **-Participation-**

The Fort Stockton ISD will promote a positive climate for extra-curricular activities resulting in more participation.

## Fort Stockton ISD District of Innovation Timeline 2016-2017

Timeline	Activity/Task	Date Completed/ Due Date
<b>November</b>	Board Meeting- FSISD Board of Trustees discuss rules and process for becoming a District of Innovation	<b>November 21, 2016</b>
<b>December</b>	Board Meeting- FSISD Board of Trustees votes to adopt Resolution to initiate consideration for being designated as a District of Innovation	<b>December 12, 2016</b>
<b>January</b>	Board Meeting- FSISD Board of Trustees holds public hearing, appoints the District Innovation Committee (DIC) to develop a Local Innovation Plan (LIP). The DIC is composed of the members of the district-level committee established under TEC § 11.251	<b>January 23, 2017</b>
<b>February</b>	District Innovation Committee (DIC) meets to discuss innovative ideas for the school district, reviews data, determines focus area, and drafts Local Innovation Plan (LIP)	<b>February 9, 2017</b> <b>February 21, 2017</b>
<b>February</b>	District posts District Local Innovation Plan (LIP) on district website	<b>February 22, 2017</b>
<b>February</b>	FSISD Board of Trustees votes to notify Commissioner of its intention to vote on adopting final Local Innovation Plan (LIP)	<b>February 27, 2017</b>
<b>March</b>	District Innovation Committee (DIC) hosts public meeting to consider final version of FSISD Local Innovation Plan (LIP) and approves it by a majority vote of the District Innovation Committee (DIC)	<b>March 24, 2017</b>
<b>March</b>	District presents the proposed Local Innovation Plan (LIP) to FSISD Board of Trustees for approval with 2/3 vote	<b>March 30, 2017</b>
<b>March</b>	District sends approved Local Innovation Plan (LIP) to Commissioner of Education	<b>March 31, 2017</b>

## District Innovation Committee (DIC)

Name	Position	Name	Position
Brittani Edwards	Teacher, Alamo Elementary	Xochitl De La Cruz	Teacher, Intermediate School
Ruben Gonzales	Teacher, Alamo Elementary	Leslie Fierro	Teacher, Intermediate School
Adrienne Horton	Principal, Alamo Elementary	Veronica Ochoa	Teacher, Intermediate School
Jessica Martinez	Teacher, Alamo Elementary	Roy Alvarado	Principal, Middle School
Melissa Calderon	Teacher, Apache Elementary	Monalisa Gonzales	Teacher, Middle School
Betty McCallister	Principal, Apache Elementary	Dorina Heflin	Teacher, Middle School
Ida Munoz	Teacher, Apache Elementary	Anthony Urias	Teacher, Middle School
Danielle Saler	Teacher, Apache Elementary	Amee Bislar	Parent
Paula Traynham	Assistant Superintendent, District	Jay Garvin	Business
Ralph Traynham	Superintendent, District	Melba Montoya	Community
Elizabeth Lynn	Teacher, High School	Bert Rainwater	Business
Gil-Ray Madrid	Principal, High School	Geneva Ripley	Parent
Michelle Salazar	Teacher, High School	Ethny Valenzuela	Community
Dana Sparks	Teacher, High School	Robyn Derington	District of Innovation Planning Coordinator
Matthew Calkins	Principal, Intermediate School		

## Fort Stockton ISD as a District of Innovation

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, allows Texas public schools with sufficient academic ratings to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC). The allowable exemptions are for those sections of code that do not apply to charter or private schools in an attempt to reduce the extra administrative or operational burdens placed on public schools.

To obtain exemptions, the District must create a Local Innovation Plan (LIP) detailing the code requirements that inhibit the goals of the District and the benefits to the District expected from the exemption. Fort Stockton ISD seeks exemption from the following permissible provisions of the TEC as allowed in the statute:

### **First Day of Instruction/Last Day of Instruction (TEC § 25.0811, TEC § 25.0812)**

Texas Education Code § 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August. Innovation Strategy: Flexible Calendar - Fort Stockton ISD will begin instruction no earlier than August in an effort to create greater flexibility in the school calendar. The flexibility to begin instruction earlier in August that results from exemption from Sec. 25.0811 will enable the district to develop a calendar that best meets the needs of the students in FSISD.

Texas Education Code § 25.0812 states that a school may not schedule the last day of school before May 15. Innovation Strategy: To meet local and community needs, exemption from Sec. 25.0812 will allow a more balanced number of instructional days per semester and more instructional days prior to state assessments given in early May. With minute requirements at 75,600 and the state assessments given in early May, it might be possible to finish the school year prior to May 15.

### **Instructional Minutes and School Day Length (TEC § 25.081, TEC § 25.082)**

Texas Education Code §§ 25.081 and 25.082 define the length of the instructional day as “420 minutes of instruction” or “seven hours each day including intermissions and recesses.” The intent of these provisions is to standardize across all districts the amount of time students are engaged in classroom learning. The provisions also allow school districts and charter schools to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disaster, flood, or extreme weather conditions. Innovation Strategies: A) Fort Stockton ISD will maintain the total of 75,600 minutes of instruction per year, but seeks an exemption from Secs. 25.081 and 25.082, as necessary, so it may approach the 75,600-minute goal in a more creative manner without being confined to either 420 minutes or seven hours of instruction every day. This will offer campuses greater flexibility in creating daily/weekly instructional schedules that better meet the needs of the students we serve. B) This exemption will allow for local control regarding the early dismissal of students for various purposes. Early release days may be used for additional professional development, unique instructional arrangements, teacher collaboration, teacher/parent conferences, releasing prior to a holiday and other special occasions, or other school related activities.

**Appraisal for Teachers & Administrators**  
**(TEC § 21.352, TEC § 21.354, TEC § 21.3541)**

The Texas Education Code §§ 21.352, 21.354, 21.3541 establish the basic standards for teacher and administrator appraisal. Innovation Strategy: Fort Stockton ISD believes it is essential to maintain flexibility in using a variety of measurements, including goal setting, observations, student growth progress toward learning objectives, and other formative assessments in determining the performance of its educators. By claiming exemption from Secs. 21.352, 21.354, and 21.3541, the district can determine locally the most appropriate appraisal instrument to evaluate its educators. Regardless of whether any adjustments or changes are made to the state-mandated appraisal system and laws, Fort Stockton ISD believes this issue should be a local decision as opposed to a state mandate.

**Teacher Certification**  
**(TEC § 21.003, TEC § 21.057)**

Texas Education Code § 21.003 states a person may not be employed as an educator by a school district unless the individual holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. In the event a school district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position, or a teacher is teaching a subject outside her or his certification, the district must request emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and/or the State Board of Educator Certification. This system is burdensome and does not take into account the unique financial and/or instructional needs of the district, especially for innovative classes where certification may not exist or educators with those credentials may not be readily available. In addition, Texas Education Code § 21.057 requires that a district notify parents if an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year. Innovation Strategies: A) In exceptional circumstances, the campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow a non-certified yet highly qualified professional to teach, or a certified educator to teach, a subject in a related field for which she or he is not credentialed by the state. B) The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what qualifications the individual possesses to teach the proposed subject. Emergency or financial situations creating the need for this assignment should also be noted. C) In the event an uncertified yet qualified educator or professional is assigned to a course, the superintendent will inform and obtain consent from the board of trustees and will notify parents of students who benefit from this decision. D) A teacher certification waiver, state permit applications or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency. In these situations the district will not be penalized for failure to notify parents of any certification issues.

**Minimum Attendance for Final Credit (90% Rule)**  
**(TEC § 25.092)**

Currently, Texas Education Code § 25.092 requires students attend class 90 percent of the school days in order to earn credit. Innovation Strategy: The 90 percent rule is an arbitrary percentage, which means school districts award credit based on seat time rather than based on content mastery. Abstaining from the requirement means the district won't have to penalize students who miss class due to extra/co-curricular activities, academic activities, or other extenuating circumstances. This exemption will allow the District to promote student engagement, as well as social and emotional development, by encouraging more students to participate in such activities. It will also allow FSISD administrators to

award credit to students because they can show they understand the concepts, rather than because they've attended a certain number of school days. The proposal would allow counselors and administrators to refocus efforts on students who are truly at risk, while simultaneously providing rigor and relevance in the curriculum. Exemption from this requirement will provide educational advantages to students of the District by promoting learning through innovation in the methods, locations, and times instruction may be delivered to students, thereby accommodating students with legitimate scheduling conflicts, reducing dropouts, and increasing the number of qualifying graduates. The district will also explore other innovative ways to demonstrate mastery, given this exemption. Relief from Section 25.092 does not in any way impact or alter existing compulsory attendance requirements or University Interscholastic League ("UIL") rules. Moreover, opting out of Section 25.092 in no way limits or modifies a teacher's right to determine the finality of a grade in accordance with Texas Education Code § 28.0214, nor does it restrict or alter a teacher's right to assign grades in accordance with Texas Education Code § 28.0216.

**TERM**

The term of the plan will begin with the adoption of the plan by the Board of Trustees on March 27, 2017 and terminate on March 27, 2022, unless amended, rescinded or renewed by the District Innovation Committee (DIC) and the Board of Trustees. The District Innovation Committee (DIC) will review the plan annually to confirm consistent alignment with the needs of the District. Any recommended plan changes will be posted to the District website for 30 days and require the approval of the District Innovation Committee (DIC) and the Board of Trustees.