

District of Innovation of Plan

The duration of this plan will be from January 19, 2018 until January 19, 2023. This plan will not be changed without the District Advisory Committee's approval, Board of Managers' approval and review of the entire DOI process.

I. Exemption - First Day of Instruction

- a. Requirement – Texas Education Code Section 25.081 states that a school district may not begin instruction prior to the fourth Monday in August.
- b. Rationale for considering this exemption:
 - i. The flexibility in the start date will allow more instructional days in the fall semester providing for more balanced instructional minutes in each semester.
 - ii. Starting earlier will provide more instructional days to prepare students prior to state and national testing.
 - iii. Consistent with the District Improvement Plan, additional staff development is needed throughout the year to support teacher professional growth and collaborative planning, thereby directly impacting student achievement.
 - iv. Starting earlier will allow for more diagnostic assessment and data analysis prior to the start of the school year.
 - v. Beginning earlier would allow for an earlier release in the summer and alignment of the district's calendar with colleges and universities, dual enrolled students, high school graduates beginning summer school, and summer enrollment opportunities for students.
 - vi. More time would be available for summer programs providing remediation and acceleration.
 - vii. Our region is prone to hurricanes and tropical storms which intensifies the need for an earlier start date.