

District of Innovation Plan Renewal

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House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session (2015), permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC) .

Celina ISD's current plan's term is for no more than five years, beginning January 31, 2022, and ending January 31, 2027, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law.



Renewal Process

- ✓ Final version of the proposed plan available on the district's website for at least 30 days.
(Posted September 15, 2026)
- ✓ The district-level committee established under TEC §11.251 has held a public meeting to consider the final version of the proposed plan and has approved the plan by a majority vote of the committee members.
(Bobcat Council: September 9, 2026)
- ❑ The Board of Trustees adopts the proposed local innovation plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the board.

District of Innovation Exemptions

In August of 2025, the 89th Legislature passed House Bill 6 which limits what can be exempted in a District of Innovation Plan.

- Prior to HB 6, districts were permitted to exempt from certain provisions of Chapter 37 through a DOI plan. This new prohibition impacts our currently adopted DOI plan.

Sec. 12A.004. Limitation of Permissible Exemptions



District of Innovation Exemptions

- Chapter 37
 - Campus Behavior Coordinator
 - Student Discipline
 - Removal for Certain Conducts (e-cigs)
- Local School Health Advisory Council
- Certification Required for Core Content Courses



District of Innovation Exemptions

- Certification Required (CTE)
- Uniform School Calendar
- Probationary Contracts
- Class Size Requirements for Elementary grades
- Peace Officers
- Parental Options for Student Retention



Certification Required

Texas Education Code 21.003:

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

Current Innovation:

Flexibility to establish its own teacher certification requirements affords the District the following advantages:

- Industry certified and/or trade professionals to teach specialized certification courses;
- Greater number of CTE course offerings resulting in more opportunities for students;
- Realistic requirements for professionals transitioning from industry to teaching; and
- Ability to employ part-time professionals to teach specialty courses.



Uniform School Calendar

TEC 25.0811:

A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

TEC 25.0812:

A school district may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15.

Current Innovation:

By providing for local control, the district seeks to:

- Determine annually a school start date that best meets the needs of students, families, staff, and the local community;
- Maximize instructional time and balance the number of instructional days within each semester;
- Support college and career readiness by aligning the district calendar with opportunities for students to participate in college coursework;
- Ease the transition into a new school year through flexibility in structuring the first week of instruction.



Probationary Contracts

TEC 21.102(b):

Except as provided by Subsection (d), a teacher may agree to be returned to probationary contract status only after receiving written notice that the board of trustees of the school district has proposed discharge, termination, or nonrenewal.

Current Innovation:

By providing an additional year of probationary status, the campus and district administration can:

- Better evaluate a teacher's effectiveness;
- Ensure fit for the district and campus culture; and
- Provide an opportunity for teacher growth.



Class Size Requirements for Elementary Grades

TEC 25.111:

Each school district must employ a sufficient number of teachers certified to maintain an average ratio of not less than one teacher for each 20 students in average daily attendance.

TEC 25.112:

A school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth grade class.

Current Innovation:

By providing for local control, the district seeks to:

- Locally monitor and maintain appropriate class size without the necessity of waivers;
- Maintain a class student to teacher ratio of 22:1; and
- Allow for flexibility for hiring personnel as we face exponential growth.



Peace Officers

TEC 25.0344:

Children of peace officers may transfer to the district campus or school district selected by their parent upon request; however, transportation is the responsibility of the family.

Current Innovation:

By providing for local control, the district seeks to:

- Welcome and serve the children of Peace Officers and Servicemembers while effectively managing the needs of a fast-growth district;
- Utilize the district's established student transfer process to determine appropriate campus placement based on enrollment, staffing, and available resources; and
- Apply established Celina ISD student transfer guidelines consistently to all transfer students.



Parental Options for Student Retention

TEC 28.02124:

Parents and guardians have the right to choose for their child to repeat prekindergarten, kindergarten, or the previous grade for students in grades 1–8.

Current Innovation:

By providing for a collaborative review process, the district seeks to:

- Support a parent's right to make decisions regarding their child's grade placement;
- Strengthen partnerships between parents/guardians and campus staff when considering student retention;
- Provide a campus-based Grade Placement Review (GPR) prior to finalizing a retention request, allowing parents and educators to review the student's academic, developmental, and individual needs together; and
- Support parents in making an informed grade-placement decision that best meets the needs of their child.



Renewal Process – Next Steps

- ❑ The Board of Trustees adopts the proposed local innovation plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the board.
- ❑ The district notifies the Commissioner of Education of approval of the plan, along with a list of approved TEC exemptions, by completing the agency form provided in the “Notification” section.
- ❑ The district ensures that a copy of the local innovation plan is posted on the district’s website in accordance with TEC §12A.0071 for the term of the designation as an innovation district.
- ❑ No later than the 15th day after the Board finalizes the renewal, the district provides a copy of or link to the current local innovation plan to TEA for posting on the agency website.