



**Jarrell Independent School  
District District of Innovation Plan  
2022-2023 through 2026-2027 School Years**

Jarrell ISD is utilizing HB 1842 of the 84th Legislative Session to have more local control in certain areas. HB 1842 allows a traditional public school to be named 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 2022-2023 school year through the 2026-2027 school year. The District of Innovation Committee may amend this plan at any time with the approval of the Jarrell ISD Board of Trustees.

### **District of Innovation Process and Timeline**

- March - April 2022: Review the final draft of DOI Renewal
- May 4 - June 4, 2022: The DOI plan is posted for public review.
- June 9, 2022: DEIC meets to finalize DOI Renewal
- August 3, 2022: Board of Trustees adopts DOI Renewal plan.

### **Jarrell ISD District of Innovation Committee:**

Dr. Toni Hicks	Superintendent
Pennee Hall	Assistant Superintendent
Bruce Epstein	School Board Member
Dr. Heather Bortz	Executive Director of Teaching & Learning
Laura Buckley	Director of State & Federal Programs
Tara Erickson	Coordinator, Special Education
Lara Hutchinson	Principal, Jarrell Elementary School
Kelly Blair	Principal, Jarrell Middle School
Rachel Foreman	Assistant Principal, Igo Elementary School
Jennifer Buckley	Instructional Coach, Igo Elementary School
Carla Clegg	Instructional Coach, Jarrell Middle School
Maggie Araujo	Instructional Coach, Jarrell High School
Brooke Barrios	Teacher, Jarrell Elementary School
Lupe Luna	Teacher, Jarrell Elementary School
Lillary Staley	Teacher, Igo Elementary School
Maddison Brewster	Teacher, Igo Elementary School
Sarah Garcia	Teacher, Igo Elementary School
Lizette Longoria	Teacher, Jarrell Middle School
Holly O'Hara	Teacher, Jarrell Middle School
Carter Bowe	Teacher, Jarrell Middle School
Traci Tomlinson	Teacher, Jarrell Middle School
Megan Murphy	Teacher, Jarrell High School
Erica Sersansie	Teacher, Jarrell High School
Stephanie Garcia	Parent
Camy Reynolds	Parent
Victor Banderia	Parent
Sandra Siemens	Parent
Lara Ingalsbe	Community Membe

First Day of Instruction	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texas Education Code §25.0811 First Day of Instruction, §25.0812 Last Day of School</li> </ul>	<b>Corresponding Board Policy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EB (Local)</li> </ul>
<b>Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:</b> TEC §25.0811, §25.0812	
<b>Rationale:</b> <p>By obtaining an exemption from TEC §25.0811 &amp; §25.0812, the District will be better able to create balanced grading periods while still ending the first semester before the mid-year break. Additionally, the District can align with the local college semester dates. The District will be able to start school mid-week, allowing for a smoother transition at the beginning of school.</p>	

Maximum Class Size	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texas Education Code §25.112 Class Size; §25.113 Notice of Class Size</li> </ul>	<b>Corresponding Board Policy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BF (Legal) Waivers</li> <li>EEB (Legal) Kindergarten-Grade 4: Exception to Class Size Limits 1 and 2; Notice to Parents 1, 2, and 3</li> </ul>
<b>Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:</b> The class size exception innovation seeks exemptions from the requirements of Texas Education Code §25.112 and 113 of a class size exception waiver and notification to parents when K-4 classes exceed a 22 to 1 ratio.	
<b>Rationale:</b> <p>Schools begin the school year with staff based on student enrollment projections, so often, enrollment will exceed projections. As a result, teachers and/or students must be moved from one campus and/or classroom to another to meet the 22 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio limit for grades K-4. This action causes students to separate from friends and teachers with whom they have already established relationships. Being exempt from the 22 to 1 ratio requirement will allow students to remain with the teacher and classmates with whom they began the year, which provides continuity and stability and will support increased student achievement and emotional well-being. With the exemption, JISD would continue to strive 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.</p>	

Teacher Certification	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texas Education Code §21.003 Certification Required; §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates</li> </ul>	<b>Corresponding Board Policy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DBA(LEGAL)</li> <li>DBA(LOCAL)</li> <li>DK(LEGAL)</li> <li>DK(LOCAL)</li> </ul>
<b>Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:</b> 21.003 Certification Required; §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates; 21.057 Parental Notification	
<b>Rationale:</b> <p>The current certification requirements inhibit the District’s ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. To provide more students with the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such individuals in lieu of the requirements set forth in law.</p> <p>Currently, a certified teacher cannot be hired for a position or assigned to a subject outside his/her certification, limiting the District’s ability to effectively utilize personnel to ensure quality instruction. Thus, an individual has to take and pass all bilingual exams in order to be in a bilingual classroom, limiting the District’s ability to find qualified, certified applicants.</p>	

Teacher Contracts	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texas Education Code §21.002, Teacher Employment Contracts; §21.102(b) Term of Probationary Contract; §21.202(a) Probationary contract required prior to issuing a term contract</li> </ul>	<b>Corresponding Board Policy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DC(LOCAL)</li> <li>DCA(LOCAL)</li> <li>DCB(LOCAL)</li> </ul>
<b>Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:</b> Texas Education Code §21.002; §21.002(b); §21.202(a)	
<b>Rationale:</b> <p>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. In some cases, this limited time period is insufficient 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.</p>	

### Minimum Attendance for Class Credit

**Texas Education Code Chapters:**

- Texas Education Code §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

**Corresponding Board Policy:**

- FEC (Local) Attendance for Credit

**Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:** The Minimum Attendance for Credit or Final Grade innovation seeks exemption from the requirements of Texas Education Code §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) regarding the percentage of “days in class” attendance required for awarding credit or final grade.

**Rationale:**

According to the statute, a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 shall not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance 90 percent of the days the class is offered. The 90 percent minimum and the 75 percent floor are arbitrary percentages that are based on “days in class” and not mastery of content matter. Jarrell ISD has implemented a blended learning technology initiative that provides students greater flexibility in making up assignments or completing classwork. Students in grades 9-12 receive a Chromebook that allows them to communicate electronically with their teacher and complete assignments outside of the traditional classroom setting. Exemption from §25.092 will provide educational advantages by promoting active learning through innovative methods, locations, and times instruction may be delivered and accommodating students with legitimate scheduling conflicts or absences.

Relief from §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) will not impact or alter existing compulsory attendance requirements or University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules. Opting out of §25.092(a)(1) and §25.092(b) in no way limits or modifies a teacher’s right to determine the final 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.

### Minimum Service Required

**Texas Education Code Chapters:**

- Texas Education Code §21.401 10-Month Contract

**Corresponding Board Policy:**

- DCA (Legal)

**Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:** The 187 minimum days of service per TEC §21.401 for a 10-month contract.

**Rationale:**

Texas Education Code mandates that a teacher be employed on a 10-month contract that requires at least 187 days of service. Jarrell ISD utilizes its District of Innovation Plan to provide flexibility in our school calendar regarding days attended. It makes sense to apply this to teachers as well. Modifying the minimum days required would serve as an incentive for teacher retention and increase their daily pay rate. We will still have enough days to provide quality staff development for JISD staff.

## Minimum Duration for Transfer Student

**Texas Education Code Chapter:**

- TEC §25.036

**Corresponding Board Policy:**

- FDA (Local)

**Required Exemption from Texas Education Code:**

The district seeks an amendment to provide for an exemption from the law (TEC 25.036) that requires that once granted, a transfer must be for a minimum of one school year.

**Rationale:**

This exemption allows the district to revoke transfer status if a student fails to meet expectations for behavior and attendance.

Note: The determination to pursue a recommendation to revoke a transfer will be made by the campus principal and the decision to revoke the transfer will be made by the assistant superintendent.