

BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

ARGYLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



BOARD MEETING DATE:	Monday, May 18, 2026
AGENDA ITEM:	District of Innovation Renewal
AGENDA LOCATION:	Information Only ▾
PRESENTER TITLE & NAME:	Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Dawn Jordan
DEPARTMENT:	Learner Services
PRIORITY FOCUS AREA:	Student Experience ▾

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A Texas District of Innovation (DOI) is a designation under [Texas Education Code Chapter 12A](#) that allows traditional school districts to access flexibility similar to open-enrollment charter schools, providing greater local control. Districts may adopt local plans that exempt them from specific state mandates. The Argyle ISD DOI plan is being proposed for a five-year renewal. The District Leadership Team (DLT) began the renewal process in September 2025. The proposed exemptions are related to School Start Date, Teacher Certifications & Contracts, Student Transfers, and Library Material Acquisitions. The exemptions removed were related to the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC); this exemption is no longer allowed, and Mandatory DAEP Placement; this requirement was removed from the law. The DLT approved the proposed plan by a majority vote on May 1, 2026.

BUDGETARY IMPACT & FUNDING SOURCE

NA

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

(Only complete if it is a consent or action item)

NA

MOTION

(Only complete if it is a consent or action item)

NA

Argyle ISD

District of Innovation Plan

2026-2031



Argyle ISD is a District of Innovation 2026-2031

Districts of Innovation and Exemptions from Provisions of the Texas Education Code under House Bill 1842. ADD

I. Introduction

The 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1842 in the summer of 2015, allowing public school districts to obtain the designation of a District of Innovation and to gain exemptions from certain Texas Education Code provisions. This designation allows independent school districts to have the flexibilities currently available to open enrollment charter schools. Argyle ISD, having met the state's eligibility requirements, pursued developing an innovation plan that was adopted for the next five school years. In the fall of 2025, the District began the process of renewing the District of Innovation plan, which, if adopted, will reflect the district's unique needs and allow it to assume greater local control.

Argyle ISD will continue to follow the Texas Education Code in all other areas except for the specific exemptions outlined in this plan. If at some point it is decided that changes or additional exemptions should be considered, as per the Districts of Innovation process, the district will reconvene the District Leadership Team (DLT) to explore the request. The DLT meets four times per year, with additional meetings scheduled if required.

II. District Guiding Principles

a. Mission & Vision

Mission: Argyle ISD, a district built on tradition and values, is committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for each student through meaningful opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Vision: To inspire students to reach their full potential as leaders, prepared to meet future challenges.

b. Core Values

Trust, Respect, Integrity

Faith, Wellness, Kindness

Pride, Tradition, Excellence

Community, Relationships, Engagement

c. Profile of a graduate

Grit & Resilience

Integrity

Collaboration & Teamwork

Community Engagement & Civic Responsibility

Effective Communication

Accountability & Ownership

III. Process

a. District Leadership Team Members

2025-2026 DLT Members	Role	Term: Year 1 or Year 2
Dr. Dawn Jordan	Assistant Superintendent	Ongoing
Amanda Blenden	Teacher	1
Hilary Loupot	Teacher	1
Krissy Stoner	Teacher	1
Jennifer Carter	Teacher	2
Elizabeth Bingham	Teacher	2
Bridget Barnes	Teacher	2
Ella Rios	Teacher	1
April Dominguez	Teacher	2
Cathy Baker	Teacher	2
Britney Reese	Teacher	2
Evan Fletcher	Band Director	2
Alicia Greenwood	CTE Teacher	2
Emily Thomas	Teacher	2
Sarah Albert	Teacher	1
Rachel Peterson	Teacher	2
Chelsea Saylor	Teacher	2
Amelia Torres	Counselor	1
Holly Burleson	Counselor	2
Brooke Nickelson	Special Education Department	2

Laura Kuykendall	Interventionist	2
Kristina Boyle	GT Teacher	1
Hafiza Khan	DyslexiaTeacher	2
Paige Krause	Campus Administrator	2
Izzy Fowler	Campus Administrator	2
Tyler Sullivan	Parent ES/ Community Member	1
Shelby Skaggs	Parent ES/ Business Representative	1
Sara Hubbard	Parent SS/ Community Member	1
Shelley Farr - AMS	Parent SS/ Community Member	1
Cara Armstrong - AEF	Community Member	2
Lanni Romney	Parent SS/ Business Representative	1

b. District of Innovation Timeline

Date	Action
September 2025	Renewal of the plan with additions is discussed with the DLT
October 2025	Renewal of the plan with additions is discussed at a school board meeting
April 2026	DLT develops the plan, District leadership reviews plan and gives input
April 2026	Plan is reviewed by legal counsel
May 2026	Plan is presented at the May School Board Meeting for information
June 2026	Plan is presented at the June School Board Meeting for action
June 2026	District formally notifies Texas Commissioner of Education of plan's adoption

June 2026	District posts and maintains plan online in a prominent location
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IV. Innovation Plan Exemptions

Our strategic plan requires AISD to evolve and consider critical systemic components, including how we are organized, how we deliver instruction, how we recruit and retain top talent, how we engage and support our families, what instructional and extracurricular experiences we provide, and how we continually grow as a learning organization. Leveraging the limited freedom and flexibility afforded by the Districts of Innovation designation will ensure we are empowered to do so.

Under HB 1842, districts may identify certain requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code (TEC) “that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on the adoption of the plan...” Because AISD’s strategic plan and its local innovation plan are comprehensive and touch numerous areas in the TEC, and because AISD seeks to maximize local control of educational decisions for students, AISD seeks exemption from the following permissible provisions of the TEC as allowed in the statute:

**Uniform School Start Date
(EB LEGAL) (TEC 25.0811)**

This flexibility of the start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. This empowers AISD to personalize learning, increase college and career readiness, and balance the amount of instructional time per semester. In addition, by having flexibility with the start and end of the school year, students will be able to enroll in college courses that start in early June, thereby increasing college and career readiness. Removing the uniform start date could also let the AISD start classes as a short week, easing the transition for students entering kindergarten, middle school, and high school. This will also allow for more flexible professional development opportunities for staff members.

**Teacher Certification
(DK Legal, DK LOCAL, DK EXHIBIT) (TEC 21.003)**

AISD is committed to placing a dynamic instructional leader in every classroom. To best serve AISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. The current state teacher certification requirements inhibit the District’s ability to hire teachers to teach hard-to-fill, high-demand dual credit and career and technical/STEAM (Applied Science, Technology, Engineering, and Arts and Mathematics) courses. To enable more students to benefit from these course offerings, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements and training requirements for professionals and experts to teach these courses, in lieu of the requirements set forth in law. This exemption directly supports the move from highly qualified requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

By obtaining an exemption from existing teacher certification requirements, the District will have the flexibility to hire applicants with a minimum of a bachelor's degree, such as community college instructors, university professors, or internal applicants seeking assignments outside of their traditional certification area. This will enrich applicant pools in specific content areas and afford more students the opportunity to take dual credit courses if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses. In addition, this exemption will afford the District the flexibility to hire professionals in certain trades or vocations to teach the crafts of those trades or vocations (such as welding, fine arts, health sciences, law, sign language, etc.) if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses. This exemption would not apply to special education, ESL, prekindergarten, or core subject teachers (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies).

Probationary Contracts (DCA LEGAL) (TEC 21.102)

For experienced teachers, counselors, or nurses new to the District who have been employed as teachers in public education for at least 5 of the 8 previous years, a probationary contract will be issued for the first 2 years of employment with the District. Argyle ISD is committed to hiring highly effective teachers and staff members in every area. By extending the probationary contract by one additional year, Argyle ISD can ensure only the highest-quality instructors and staff members are on our campuses.

Transfer of students who are children of Peace Officers Transfer of students who are children of Service Members

FDA (LEGAL) [TEC 25.0344]

Texas Education Code TEC 25.0344 requires that school districts transfer children of Peace Officers and Service Members who live in an adjoining district to the district and school of their choice.

Argyle ISD seeks exemption from the automatic transfer of the children of Peace Officers and Service Members, and will require them to follow the transfer policy as stated in Argyle ISD Board Policy FDA (LOCAL) Admissions and Interdistrict Transfer.

"In approving transfers, the Superintendent or designee shall consider availability of space and instructional staff, and the student's disciplinary history and attendance records." This will allow Argyle ISD to best serve all students in a high-growth, destination district.

Acquisition of Library Materials

EFB (LEGAL) [TEC §33.026.]

Texas Education Code, §33.026, The Acquisition of Library Materials, requires that the Board of Trustees personally approve library materials. The Board of Trustees has adopted a local policy, EFB(LOCAL), for the acquisition of library materials, which states that the District shall ensure librarians, professional library staff, and other designated professional staff trained on the proper collection development standards select and acquire library materials in accordance with state law and rules, this collection development policy, and

administrative procedures. Argyle ISD seeks an exemption from the requirement that all library materials be approved or rejected by the board of trustees and that this occur in an open meeting, and that public review for 30 days must occur before approval. We believe that parents and guardians are the primary decision-makers regarding their students' access to library materials. Parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate with the campus librarian and their child's teacher about special considerations for library materials selected by their student, or to select alternate library materials for their student.

This exemption allows the district to focus on maximizing transparency with parents while meeting student needs and providing enrichment opportunities with library materials. Parental involvement in library acquisition, maintenance, and campus activities is encouraged.

Challenge or Appeal Regarding Library Materials

EFB (LEGAL) [TEC §33.027.]

Texas Education Code 33.027 requires specific timelines and personnel when library materials are challenged or appealed. The Argyle ISD Board of Trustees has approved a local policy, EFB (LOCAL), that specifies timelines and personnel that better meet the needs of our community and school district. Argyle ISD is seeking an exemption from TEC §33.027 regarding timelines and personnel requirements. This exemption allows librarians and district and campus administrators, parents, and students (when appropriate) to be directly involved in the process. It also shortens the timeline for final decisions on challenges from 90 days to 60 days.

Planning and Preparation Time

DL (LEGAL) [TEC §21.404]

According to Texas Education Code §21.404, teachers are entitled to 450 minutes per two-week period, with no single session less than 45 minutes. Argyle ISD is seeking an exemption from this code to allow teachers to serve as substitutes during their planning period and receive payment from the district. This is strictly a voluntary option for staff members. This allows staff members to earn extra income and solves the problem of classroom supervision when a traditional substitute teacher is unavailable. This also prevents the campus from combining classes and placing additional burdens on staff members regarding classroom management and space restrictions when classes are combined. This is particularly helpful at secondary campuses when many coaches are attending athletic competitions.

V. Summary:

The direction provided by the District of Innovation Plan is an important step forward to ensure AISD develops and supports our students, employees, and families in a more personalized, more effective, and strategically aligned way. Moving our system toward the more personalized environment our students deserve will enable us to better prepare them for their individualized needs and unique passions, gifts, and talents. Through HB 1842, AISD will be positioned to leverage increased flexibility to make the best decisions for our children, as we will be able to do so locally.

In most cases, activating exemptions from the TEC will require revising AISD policies. AISD will implement an enhanced local policy development process that is rigorous, transparent, and inclusive of stakeholder input through the District Leadership Team. The district is developing and communicating a detailed Strategic Plan for implementation for the time period July 1, 2025- June 30, 2030. This District of Innovation Plan will be seamlessly implemented along with and as part of the Strategic Plan.

AISD personnel and the community are grateful to the legislators who championed Districts of Innovation through HB 1842, and to Commissioner Morath and his team for expediting the rules to support implementation. AISD is committed to the children of the community and pledges to implement this plan with their best interests in mind.

VI. Term:

The Argyle ISD Local District of Innovation Plan has a five-year term, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and concluding at the end of the 2030-2031 school year. The Board of Trustees has the right to amend or terminate the plan at any time and will review the plan annually. If additions or revisions are recommended, the review process will resume with the District Leadership Team (DLT), move through the required web posting and notification to the Commissioner, and continue with a majority vote by the DLT. Finally, a two-thirds majority vote of the Board will be required for final approval of the revision. Through this increased autonomy and greater local control, AISD hopes to better meet the needs of its students and community.