

**Dew Independent School District**



**District of Innovation Plan**

# DEW Independent School District



## District of Innovation Plan

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### **Calendar Start Date**

**Dew ISD Board Policy: EB (Legal)**

**Current Law: TEC 25.0811:**

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

#### **Proposed**

DISD will start class no earlier than the third Monday in August, and will plan to end earlier in the spring semester in order to better balance the days in the fall and spring semesters, and to provide more educational days prior to scheduled state assessments. The primary goals of this change are to create greater flexibility in the District Calendar and to improve the overall district attendance rate, to improve student success on state and local assessments, and to allow for greater opportunity for meaningful staff development throughout the school year.

### **Length of School Day**

**Dew ISD Board Policy: EC (Legal) (Local)**

**Current Law: TEC 25.081(e)**

State law currently requires that all school days must be 420 minutes long each day in order to count for ADA calculations and funding purposes, and to accumulate instructional minutes towards the 75,600 minutes required annually.

#### **Proposed**

Exemption from the 420-minute day requirement would allow DISD the flexibility needed to alter the school day schedule on selected days whenever it was locally determined as necessary or beneficial to the district and its stakeholders. While there is already a waiver process available to request exemption from this

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requirement, the waiver is limited to a 6-day maximum number for the school year. Exempting completely from the 420-minute requirement would give the district a significant amount of local control over scheduling (above and beyond the 6- day maximum as needed) without the fear of diminishing state funding or losing credit for instructional time that might cause the district to fall out of compliance with annual minute requirements.

DISD does not intend to shorten the school day on a regular basis, or without specific purpose. To the greatest extent possible, “early release” days would be planned ahead of time and noted in the district calendar, which is approved by the Board of Trustees and published/distributed to district stakeholders in advance of the school year.

The district would not schedule early release days under this exemption that were shorter than 240 minutes (4 hours).

### **Teacher Contract Days**

#### **Dew ISD Board Policy: DC (Legal)**

Current Law: TEC 21.401

Current education law in Chapter 21 defines a teacher contract as a 10 month contract equivalent to 187 days.

#### **Proposed:**

Proposal would reduce teacher contract days from 187 to a decreased length with no effect on teacher salaries. This would attempt to better align the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required for students. This would increase teachers’ daily rate while not adversely affecting the budget.

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### **Teacher Certification**

#### **Dew ISD Board Policy: DBA (Legal)**

**TEC Code Requiring Exemption:** TEC 21.003 requires that a person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

#### **Proposed:**

Proposal would allow a teacher to teach one section of classes out of his/her field. For example if a teacher was certified to teach seventh and eighth grade math, they would also be able to teach fifth grade math under this proposal.