



**Brenham Independent School District  
Local Innovation Plan  
2017 - 2018**

**One Brenham, Better Together!**

## Local Innovation Committee Members

- Dr. Walter Jackson Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Jamey R. Johnson Assistant Superintendent of C&I
- Paul Aschenbeck Assistant Superintendent of Operations
- Bonnie Brinkmeyer Director of Accountability, Assessment & PD
- Leslie Broesche Director of Special Education
- Janet George Director of Special Programs
- Jessica Johnston Director of Communications & Special Projects
- Christie Olivarez Director of Human Resources
- Cody Stelter Director of Career Technical Education
- Kim Strauss Director of Technology
- Kim Weatherby Director of Business & Finance
- Bryan Bryant Principal
- Joseph Chandler Principal
- Rob Fleming Principal
- Michael Ogg Principal
- Kay Domel Assistant Principal
- Larry Hughes Assistant Principal
- Steven Siemsglusz Assistant Principal
- Stacey Johnson Teacher & Parent
- Vicki Dannhaus Teacher
- Johnnie Ryan Cook Teacher
- Sara Beth Bohl Parent
- Carol Holloway Parent
- Donnie Lowes Community Business Member
- John Wick Community Business Member

### **District Level Committee - TEC 12A.005(a)(3)**

- Paul Aschenbeck Assistant Superintendent of Operations (non-voting)
- Dr. Jamey R. Johnson Assistant Superintendent of C&I (non-voting)
- Bonnie Brinkmeyer Director of Accountability, Assessment & PD
- Janet George Director of Special Programs
- Allan Colvin Assistant Principal
- Dr. Herbert Schoener Assistant Principal
- Monte Shields Assistant Principal
- April Albrecht-Allen Teacher
- Lisa Clark Teacher
- Julie Hinds Teacher
- Amy Hirtz Teacher
- Christina Johnson Teacher
- Kathleen Jones Teacher
- Vicki Jordan Teacher
- Lyndsey Kubos Teacher
- Becky Larson Teacher
- Kaci Patranella Teacher
- Lori Pittmann Teacher
- Melonie Rau Teacher
- Kim Rooker Teacher
- Kayla Swonke Teacher
- Erin Thibodeaux Teacher
- Kathy Voshalike Teacher
- Kristie Wolf Teacher
- Dr. Ron Bartay Parent & Community Member
- Carol Holloway Parent
- Ahsley Lonsert Parent
- Christy Moran Parent
- Suzette Moser Parent
- Jennifer Eckermann Business Member
- Lynn Krueger Business Member
- Elizabeth Lehrmann Business Member
- Vicki Hanak Community Member
- Berneake Gant Community Member
- Angela Hahn Community Member
- Jackie Mays Community Member
- Harriet McElreath Community Member
- Jacqueline Parker Community Member

## Brenham ISD District of Innovation Timeline

<b>November 2016</b>	<p>District of Innovation Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On November 14, a presentation was made to the Brenham ISD Board of Trustees to introduce the concept and exploration of District of Innovation process.</li> </ul>
<b>December 2016</b>	<p>Adopt Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On December 12, the Brenham ISD Board of Trustees presented a resolution to investigate the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation.</li> </ul> <p>Hold Public Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immediately after adopting the resolution, the Board held a public hearing concerning Districts of Innovation.</li> </ul> <p>Appoint Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Board of Trustees appointed a committee to develop an Innovation Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>January 2017</b>	<p>Plan Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Brenham ISD District of Innovation Committee and Focus Groups met to discuss:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Educational programs for innovation.</li> <li>● Education Code provisions to be exempted.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>February 2017</b>	<p>Provide Plan for Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Brenham ISD Innovation Plan will be posted on the district website for 30 days.</li> <li>● The Texas Education Commissioner will be notified of the Brenham ISD Innovation Plan.</li> <li>● The District Educational Improvement Committee will hold a public meeting and must pass the Brenham ISD Innovation Plan by a majority vote.</li> </ul> <p>Plan Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Brenham ISD Board of Trustees must approve the final Innovation Plan by a 2/3 majority vote.</li> </ul>

## **I. Introduction**

The 84th Legislative Session passed House Bill 1842, allowing Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and thus permitting exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. In an effort to transform systematic improvement to allow for more local control, Brenham ISD seeks to become a District of Innovation.

District committees and focus groups met in the months of January and February of 2017. These groups were comprised of various district and campus leaders, teachers, parents and community members. Based on the input from these individuals and direction provided by the Board of Trustees, the committee proposes the following plan.

## **II. Term**

This plan will be in effect for the 2017-2018 school year through the 2021-2022 school year. This plan may be amended or terminated at any time by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Texas Education Code.

## **III. Exemptions Requested in Texas Education Code**

### **A. First Day of Instruction (TEC Section 25.0811)**

Under current education code, districts may not begin school before the 4th Monday of August. Flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable the district to:

- balance the amount of instructional time in the fall and spring semesters.
- allow students to enroll in college courses that begin in early June.
- provide additional opportunities to schedule timely and meaningful staff development throughout the calendar year.
- enable teachers to better pace and deliver instruction.

**B. Teacher Certification for Dual Credit and Career and Technical Education Instructors (TEC Sections 21.003 and 21.053)**

Under current education code, teachers must be certified in specific subject areas in order to teach. By obtaining exemption from existing teacher Certification requirements for dual credit and Career Technical Educators, the District will have flexibility to:

- hire credentialed community college instructors/professors to teach dual credit courses which will allow more dual credit courses.
- hire professionals in certain trade and vocational areas to teach CTE courses (such as health science, HVAC, etc.) and expand our current CTE offerings.

**C. Teacher Employment Contracts for New Hires (TEC Section 21.102)**

Under current education code, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. This does not allow enough time to evaluate a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom. Flexibility in employment contract will allow the District to:

- issue a probationary contract for two years to teachers that have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the district.
- evaluate the effectiveness of the teacher over the course of multiple school years.