



Coppel  
Independent School District  
**Draft**  
Local Innovation Plan

Drafted October 11, 2016

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# Local Innovation Committee Members

Name	Relationship to CISD
Jennifer Martin	Assistant Principal at Austin Elementary
Beth Cook	Teacher at Austin Elementary
Janell Thach	Teacher at Austin Elementary
Chris Gollner	Assistant Principal at Cottonwood Creek Elementary
Sarah Meador	Teacher at Cottonwood Creek Elementary
Elyse Arrington	Teacher at Cottonwood Creek Elementary
Tammy Mandel	Teacher at Denton Creek Elementary
Maricela Leon	Teacher at Denton Creek Elementary
Tricia Badillo	Assistant Principal at Denton Creek Elementary
Sonya Green	Teacher at Lakeside Elementary
Kirby Leonard	Teacher at Lakeside Elementary
Rachel Hyland	Teacher at Lee Elementary
Bethany Hooper	Teacher at Lee Elementary
Shelley Lincoln	Teacher at Lee Elementary
Kristan Perryman	Assistant Principal at Mockingbird Elementary
Diane Moore	Teacher at Mockingbird Elementary
Katie Nelson	Teacher at Mockingbird Elementary
Rhonda Pickrell	Teacher at Pinkerton Elementary
Lori Irland	Teacher at Pinkerton Elementary
Kristin Huckle	Teacher at Pinkerton Elementary
Angie Applegate	Principal at Town Center Elementary
Kate Seifert	Teacher at Town Center Elementary
Katie Tonemah	Teacher at Town Center Elementary
Mary Myles French	Assistant Principal at Valley Ranch Elementary
Cindy Coggins	Teacher at Valley Ranch Elementary
Tarah Guenther	Teacher at Valley Ranch Elementary
Emilia Hotz	Teacher at Wilson Elementary
Beth Brandenburg	Teacher at Wilson Elementary
Heidi Brown	Teacher at Wilson Elementary
Terry Shin	Teacher at Coppell Middle School North
Davis Scott	Teacher at Coppell Middle School North
Jodie Deinhammer	Teacher at Coppell Middle School East
Leah Gottlich	Teacher at Coppell Middle School East
Eric Parraz	Teacher at Coppell Middle School East
Stephanie Striplin	Teacher at Coppell Middle School West
Pam Crombar	Teacher at Coppell Middle School West
Jaime Duncan	Teacher at Coppell Middle School West
Jeremy Varnell	Assistant Principal Coppell High School
Chase Wofford	Teacher at Coppell High School

Melissa Arnold	Assistant Principal at Coppell High School
Daniel Bess	Teacher at New Tech High School
Anthony Hufford	Teacher at New Tech High School
Kevin Duke	Teacher at Victory Place at Coppell
Dr. Mike Waldrip	Superintendent Coppell ISD
Dr. Penny Tramel	Executive Director Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Marilyn Denison	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
Katherine Lord	Business Representative
Ravi Bajjuri	Business Representative
Kim Mobley	CISD Parent
Blaine Rozas	Community Representative
Thomas Ewald	CISD Parent
Anthony Hill	CISD School Board Trustee
Amy Dungan	CISD School Board Trustee

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## Background

The 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed HB 1842 in the summer of 2015, allowing public school districts to obtain the designation of Districts of Innovation and begin to gain exemption from certain Texas Education Code provisions. On March 28, 2016, the CISD school board unanimously passed a resolution to consider developing a Local Innovation Plan (LIP). On April 25, 2016, a Public Hearing was held at the Vonita White Administration Building. During the School Board Meeting on April 25, the Board tabled Action Item D to discuss District of innovation and appoint a committee. May 16, 2016, another Public Hearing was held regarding the District of Innovation. At the May 16, 2016 School Board Meeting the Coppell ISD School Board discussed developing a plan of innovation and appointed the District Education Improvement Council (DEIC) as the committee to carry out this work. On May 31, 2016, a small group of DEIC members met to discuss the District of Innovation initiative and plan for future planning meetings. During the July 25, 2016 Regular Board Meeting a report was given on the progress and organization for the committee work, as well as, the Board received on potential considerations. Input was welcomed from the Board on the initiative. The first DEIC Committee meeting held after this Board meeting was on September 13, 2016 and the committee began to gather information on becoming a district of innovation and considered areas of needed innovation for the district. Additional information was given to the committee for consideration and committee members were encouraged to solicit input from the campus staff and administrators on possible considerations. At the October 11 DEIC Meeting, the committee discussed potential Texas Education Codes for inclusion in the innovation plan for CISD.

## Areas of Innovation

During the Committee's planning sessions, the items members wished to see reflected in the plan were categorized into five areas:

- Innovative Curriculum
- Instructional Methods
- Governance
- Parental Involvement
- Community Participation

Below is a summary of the goals for each category. A specific explanation of the Texas Education Code components follows the overarching goals.

### **Innovative Curriculum**

Coppell has a very diverse learner population that expands as new immigrants and second language learners move into our district. The needs of all learners are changing and in order to be career and college ready, we would like to establish local qualification procedures to assist our learners getting instruction from others such as industry practitioners and post-secondary instructors.

### **Instructional Methods**

Innovation in this area would assist us in offering flexibility, increased exposure, and greater learner choice in how instruction is delivered. We will also need to provide educator professional learning to effectively support new instructional methods for learners.

### **Governance**

The district would like to expand parental involvement on decision making committees that guide the district in the improvement process.

### **Parental Involvement**

Through expanding instructional opportunities, we seek greater parent involvement, volunteering, and support in the educational career of their children.

### **Community Participation**

The district wishes to grow the involvement of businesses and nonprofit organizations in order to foster greater authentic service opportunities for our learners and instill stronger citizenship and global awareness in our learners.

### **District-Level Planning and Decision Making**

The district would like flexibility in TEC 11.252 as the committee make up limits the degree of parent involvement in the district decision-making process. We would like flexibility in the make-up of the committee for district decision-making to give opportunity for greater parental involvement.

### **Teacher Certification**

Due to learners having the opportunity to personalize their graduation plans and earn endorsements in areas of study such as STEM, business and industry, public services, health sciences, there is a need for educators to have multiple certifications. It particularly becomes difficult to find educators who meet the certification specifications in order to teach classes in the health services area. Texas Education Code, sections 21.003, 21.053, 21.044 21.051, 21.057, that limit the District's ability to hire educators to teach hard-to-fill, high demand career and technical courses when quality certified educators are not available. The inability to find an appropriately certified educator occurred in our district in August 2016 and a course for the health sciences track had to be canceled.

To avoid such an issue in the future, the District is seeking flexibility in hiring professionals in certain vocations such as career and technical courses. The exemption from Texas Education Code 21.055(d.I) will enable the district to establish local criteria for such courses when hiring

quality personnel. With the exemption, the district will not have to cancel classes learners are dependent upon in order to fulfill their certification and graduation requirements.

### Contracts

The district would like to have the flexibility to extend the continuation of probationary contract status at the discretion of administration beyond what is allowed if it is in the best interest of the learners involving innovation with Subchapter A and C, TEC's 21.002 and 21.102. In addition, the district is asking for innovation with TEC 21.353 in order to evaluate employees on all contract responsibilities, including those employees with dual contracts.

### Calendar

With career and college readiness being the goal for our learners when they graduate CISD, the growing ELL population, and learners coming to us with greater needs, Coppell ISD our educator's must be well versed in their craft and have the ability to meet the unique needs of our learners. Code 25.081 regulates the minimum number of instructional minutes required for a school year and the district seeks relief from this section in order to provide increased time for professional learning before the start of instruction, as well as additional days throughout the year in response to data and needs. These non-instructional days will be purposeful and allow for educators to work with data, in addition to engaging in relevant, targeted professional development. TEC code 25.0811 and 25.0812 pertain to the first and last day of instruction. Flexibility in this area will allow for our learners to pursue college courses, enrichment programs, and summer employment. Flexibility will also allow the district to adjust the first semester to equalize the number of days in each semester around winter break.

### Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

TEC 25.092 regulates the seat time for class credit. With innovative ways for learners to learn with virtual classroom learning opportunities, we will need an exemption from the 90% "seat time" attendance rule as set forth in this code. This will lift barriers for learners who wish to engage in service learning opportunities and for learners to have time to pursue potential career passions.