

EMS ISD

District of Innovation

Points of the Plan

2016-2017

Basis of Plan

- The Exploratory Committee researched all the aspects allowed by the Commissioner of Education District of Innovation Plan.
- It was determined that the focus would only be on what would benefit our students.
- There are some allowable items, such as class size, teacher contracts, and planning periods, but the committee felt strongly that we did not want to change anything from the current law.

So, what is the basis of the plan?

There are five items that the committee felt would benefit our students:

- Educator Certification for specialized CTE courses
- First and Last Day of School
- Minimum Minutes of Instruction
- 90% Attendance Rule for Students (Flexibility with Blended (online/in class) Learning)
- Student Discipline Coordinator with Shared Responsibility

Educator Certification for Specialized Courses

- Industry certified and/or trade professionals to teach specialized certification courses.
- Greater number of CTE course offerings resulting in more opportunities for students.
- Realistic requirements for professionals transitioning from industry to teaching.
- Ability to employ part-time professionals to teach specialty courses.

First and Last Day of School

- Alignment of calendar with college/university semesters for Dual Credit, Advanced Placement Exams, and STAAR/EOC timelines.
- Ensure hour/seat time requirements are met for Certification courses.
- Calendar will align with college semesters, allowing more opportunities for summer school, internships, and industrial certification opportunities.
- Starting one week earlier will also accommodate new and innovative educational models such as longer and more effective summer programming.
- This would also allow us in the future, if needed, to end semester prior to break.

Minimum Minutes of Instruction

Pre-Kindergarten Exemption

- The state requires 75,600 minutes for full day programming.
- For half-day programs such as Pre-Kindergarten, the required minimum minutes of instruction would be 37,800 minutes. There is not enough time in the day to be able to accommodate 37,800 minutes for both a morning and an afternoon group of students.
- This exemption will allow for a 180-minute school day for half-day programs, ensuring that each teacher will receive a conference period and duty free lunch within the regular school day.

Minimum Minutes of Instruction

Alternative Education Setting Exemption

- Alternative campuses offer an education program designed to meet the needs of non-traditional students. This program offers an opportunity for students to acquire credits at a faster rate and mitigate credit deficiencies.
- This provides an alternate route to graduation for students who require a more flexible educational setting.
- Being exempt from the minimum minutes requirement will permit the District to offer alternative programming with fewer minutes that focuses on quality programming and cost savings that is to fit the needs of these students.

Minimum Minutes of Instruction

General School Day Exemption

- Options for individualized plans for students who have a life circumstance that prevent them from attending a standard school day (e.g. full time work, pregnancy/parenting, etc.).
- Allow for flexibility in minutes when impacted by severe weather or campus emergencies

90% Attendance Rule

- The 90% rule is an arbitrary percentage, which means school districts award credit based on seat time rather than on content mastery. Abstaining from the requirement means the District will not be forced to penalize students who miss class due to extra/co-curricular activities, academic activities, or other extenuating circumstances. This exemption will allow the District to promote student engagement, as well as social and emotional development, by encouraging more students to participate in such activities.
- Allow the District to provide educational advantages to students by promoting learning through innovation in the methods, locations, and times instruction may be delivered to students, thereby accommodating students with legitimate scheduling conflicts, reducing dropouts, and increasing the number of qualifying graduates.

Student Discipline Provision

- EMS ISD's approach to discipline is collaborative, with multiple administrators sharing responsibilities for providing emotional and social support to students, rather than one individual.
- Exemption from this requirement will allow the option of increasing collaboration in regard to student discipline, as outlined in the EMS ISD Student Code of Conduct.

How Long is this Plan Allowed to be Used?

- The District of Innovation is good for 5 years.
- This is the reason why we want to put the main topics in the plan to allow for future flexibility.
- Some of the topics may not be used at all, or may only be used in the future.
- The sole purpose of the DOI plan is to bring local control back to the district level.

So Now What?

- You may find all the information concerning District of Innovation on our district website.
- You can provide feedback to your campus principal or through Lets Talk.
- The DPAC will meet in January to review any feedback, make adjustments, and vote to approve the plan.
- Once approved, it will be presented to the school board for approval.

Thank you for Your Support!

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD

Community