Los Fresnos CISD District of Innovation Plan

H.B. 1842 in the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature in part amended Chapter 12 of the Texas Education Code to create Districts of Innovation. School districts are eligible for designation if certain performance requirements are met and the district follows certain procedures for adoption as outlined in Statute. The designation provides that the district will be exempt from certain sections of the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the district as outlined in the locally adopted District of Innovation Plan.

The Los Fresnos CISD Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing to obtain input from the community and District stakeholders. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Trustees instructed administration to convene a meeting of stakeholders to develop a Local Innovative Plan. A special meeting of the District Effectiveness and Improvement Council (DEIC) was held February 18, 2016 to discuss and develop a plan. The Innovative Plan that resulted from the collaborative efforts of the DEIC seeks to improve the delivery of instructional services and college and career readiness experiences.

The DEIC determined that the school start date, as described in the Texas Education Code § 25.0811 (a), inhibits the goals of the Local Innovative Plan because the effectiveness of the program design requires a school start date of August 15, 2016. To implement the Innovation Plan, the Los Fresnos CISD will respectfully request an exemption by the Commissioner of Education, specifically for the school start date provision for five years.

The DEIC identified the following benefits of the locally Developed Innovative Plan:

- An improved balanced instructional calendar – 87 days Fall / 92 days Spring
- Students participating in Dual Enrollment opportunities will work with balanced semesters which align with our local colleges.
- An early start date permits high school students an additional week of instruction for the December End of Course (EOC) assessments.
- High School students will complete semester final exams prior to December holidays and start new classes upon their return in January.
- The date of the last class day May 25, 2017 allows for an additional week of instruction for summer students to successfully master the objectives measured through the third administration of STAAR assessments (5th grade, 8th grade, End of Course)
- The early start date is highly favored and recommended by DEIC representatives, creating a positive climate for both students and teachers.
- Students will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts.
District of Innovation Timeline

January 29, 2016 · District Service Center Portable
Initial consideration for District of Innovation by Superintendent and Executive Cabinet

February 4, 2016 · District Service Center Portable
District Effectiveness and Improvement Council (DEIC) presented the opportunities available with the District of Innovation Plan

February 8, 2016 · Board Room/Training Center
6 p.m. Special Called Board Meeting
· Board of Trustees adopted and approved Board Resolution to initiate designation of Los Fresnos CISD as a District of Innovation
· Board of Trustees appointed Superintendent to select the members to the District of Innovation Committee.

6:30 p.m. Public Hearing
· Public Hearing held to receive stakeholder input and consider whether Los Fresnos CISD should develop a local Innovation Plan for Designation as a District of Innovation.

February 9, 2016
Superintendent appointed the District Effectiveness and Improvement Council (DEIC) as the District of Innovation Committee.

February 18, 2016 · District Service Center Portable
DEIC members appointed meet to develop and provide feedback on the District of Innovation Plan

March 10, 2016 · Board Room/Training Center
District of Innovation Public Meeting held to review the recommendations from the DEIC’s District of Innovation Plan.

March 25-April 25, 2016
District of Innovation plan posted on the district website for 30 days

April 28, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting
· Approved the District of Innovation Plan
· Approved the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar
LOS FRESNOS
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

District of Innovation Team

Chairperson: Ada Amaro-Sibaja

Special Programs Teachers
Saenz, Maria Guadalupe (GT)
Guerra, Elvia (Bilingual)
Maldonado, Edna
LaFollete, Joseph D.
Krebs, Timothy

Regular Program Elementary Teachers
Chavez, Dolores
Moran, Javier
McNabb, Trey
Robles, Leo
Cox, Veronica
Tamayo, Blanca
Garcia, Ida
Rea, Esperanza
Dorado, Nora
Alvarez, Alma
Licea, Gabriela
Duran, Ioanna
Torres, Amanda
Alanis, Ruth
Rivera, Marisela

Regular Program Secondary Teachers
Barker, Denjuami
Vastano, Robert
Keller, Corina
Champion, Linda
Garza, Toni
Cranick, Daniel
Muñoz, Luis

Non-Teaching Professionals
Leal, Rosemary
Saldaña, Cristobal
Garcia, Daniel
Estrada, Ben

Parents
Hinojosa, Maria
Grimaldo, Claudia

Lopez Riggins Elementary
Lopez Riggins Elementary
Palmer Laakso Elementary
Los Cuates Middle School
Los Fresnos High School
Las Yescas Elementary
Las Yescas Elementary
Laureles Elementary
Laureles Elementary
Los Fresnos Elementary
Los Fresnos Elementary
Olmito Elementary
Olmito Elementary
Palmer Laakso Elementary
Rancho Verde Elementary
Rancho Verde Elementary
Dora Romero Elementary
Dora Romero Elementary
Villareal Elementary
Villareal Elementary
Liberty Memorial Middle School
Liberty Memorial Middle School
Los Cuates Middle School
Resaca Middle School
Resaca Middle School
Los Fresnos United
Los Fresnos United
Principal
Assistant Principal
Counselor
Director, Assessment Office