

Barbers Hill Independent School District

Local Innovation Plan

January 23, 2017

Local Innovation Committee Members:

Name	Role
April Warren	Community Member
Lauren Smith	Kindergarten Teacher
Lorena Lankford	Elementary Teacher
Selena Ramsey	Middle School Librarian
Jennifer Borrer	High School Teacher
Sarah Otto	Elementary Principal
Dennis Wagner	Middle School Principal
Sandra Duree	Asst. Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction
Barbara Ponder	Asst. Supt. of Personnel
Julie Heffner	Director of Curriculum & Advanced Academics
Linda Gerhart	Coordinator of State & Federal Programs

I. INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. On November 14, 2016, the Barbers Hill Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation in order to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

On November 14, 2016, the Board appointed a local District of Innovation Committee comprised of various stakeholders. The Committee met on November 28, 2016, to discuss and draft this Local Innovation Plan ("Plan"). The Committee sought and considered input on the Plan through the District Education Improvement Council.

II. TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning January, 2017 and ending at the end of January, 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the Plan.

III. A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Plan's comprehensive educational program is guided by and aligned with the Board Goals, District Goals, District Vision & Mission, and Current Challenges.

A . Board Goals

ACADEMICS

- 100% seniors graduate via State Accountability Program.
- Evaluate and implement stated dress code and cell phone policies.
- Show an increase in the state accountability system in regard to the percent of students who “met the standard” and the

percent of students who achieve the “advanced academic level”.

- All eighth grade students will pass the STAAR Reading and STAAR Math tests to advance to ninth grade.

FINANCE

- Diversify revenue.
- Create a strategic plan involving all stakeholders regarding district growth and to prepare Barbers Hill ISD to maintain our standards of excellence through the year 2029 (centennial).
- Explore and develop plan for naming rights of commercial and non-commercial opportunities.

COMMUNITY

- Strengthen and keep relationships with the City of Mont Belvieu and other municipalities, Lee College, Chambers County and legislature.
- Create a strategic plan involving all stakeholders regarding district growth and to prepare Barbers Hill ISD to maintain our standards of excellence through the year 2029 (centennial).
- Explore and develop plan for naming rights of commercial and non-commercial opportunities.

B . District Goals

- Curriculum, instruction, and assessment will facilitate learning for all students to maintain the highest rating in the state accountability system.
- All Barbers Hill ISD students will graduate college or career ready.
- A positive school-community relationship will support student success.
- The district will maintain a safe, disciplined, and healthy environment conducive to student learning/engagement and employee effectiveness.
- A qualified, diverse staff will support district success.
- Funding programs will allow each campus/department to achieve performance objectives.

- A long range facility plan will be implemented and maintained.

C . Vision

The vision of the Barbers Hill ISD is academic excellence characterized by goal-driven, college/career ready graduates who are responsible, accountable, contributing members of society.

D . Mission

The mission of the Barbers Hill ISD is to:

- Provide the highest level quality of instruction and learning opportunities that produce motivated and successful learners;
- Promote excellence, teamwork, and a commitment to continuous improvement; and
- Reinforce the tradition of excellence to enhance unity, strengthen relationships, and foster cooperation among stakeholders.

E . Current Challenges

The District of Innovation Committee met to determine challenges that could impede educational excellence in Barbers Hill ISD. Barbers Hill ISD is focused on quality instruction and maximizing the learning opportunities for all students. To that end, the District of Innovation Committee identified three growth opportunities’.

- Improve the quality of instruction
 - Teacher Support
 - Professional Development
 - Instructional Specialists and Coaches
 - Class Size
 - Peer Observations
 - Logistical/Framework Support
 - Calendar
 - Master Schedule
 - Minutes per day
 - Start/End Time
- Expand Stakeholder understanding of the level of rigor needed to succeed in college and beyond (not impacted by state or local policy)

- Inform parents of learning expectations
- Promote reading at all levels and in all disciplines
- Develop “grit” and persistence. Help students define their future story
- Manage Growth (not impacted by state or local policy)
 - Address academic needs of new students enrolling from other schools
 - Refine/Define affidavit policy

F . Innovations

To achieve the District's Vision and Mission, to align the District's practices and operations with the District's strategic priorities, and current challenges, the District needs the flexibility to exert local control, at both the District and campus levels, to:

- Modify the school year

IV. REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION CODE THAT INHIBIT THE GOALS OF THE PLAN FROM WHICH THE DISTRICT WILL BE EXEMPT UPON ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

A. First Day of Instruction

The Plan emphasizes the importance of quality instruction. Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 inhibits these goals by prohibiting the District from beginning instruction before the fourth Monday in August. Flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable the District to improve quality instruction by balancing the amount of instructional time in the semesters which will allow teachers to better pace and deliver instruction before and after the winter break. This change will also afford more time to teaching semester courses at the secondary level. In addition, by having the flexibility to start and end the school year earlier, students will be able to enroll in college courses that start in early June, thereby increasing college and career readiness. Finally, adjusting the start date will afford additional days prior to:

- State Mandated Testing

- Advance Placement Testing
- Dual Credit Finals

V. ON-GOING CHALLENGES

As a District of Innovation, we will continue our process of on-going evaluation. If other requirements of the Texas Education Code inhibit goal attainment, we will expand this plan. As required, any additions or modifications would follow the same process:

- District of Innovation Committee will shape and approve the plan.
- The plan will be taken to DEIC for approval.
- The plan will be posted for 30 days and the public would have the opportunity to review.
- The plan will be submitted to the board for final approval.
- The revised plan would be submitted to TEA.