



LAUREN LOYLESS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Phone: (903) 881-4001 ext. 1015
Fax: (903) 881-4004
loylesslh@lisdeagles.net
www.lindaleeagles.org

THE LINDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATING EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY

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PRESS RELEASE

LISD School Board Adopts District of Innovation Resolution

The LISD school board adopted the District of Innovation Resolution earlier this week, taking the first step towards making Lindale a District of Innovation. As the process continues, the school board will appoint and approve a committee that will bring back recommendations for further action.

In order to become a District of Innovation, school boards must first pass a resolution, form a committee of local school and community members, and then vote on the committee's recommendations. As Lindale is now in the beginning stages of the innovation process, once the board approves the district's status as a District of Innovation, TEA and the Texas Commissioner of Education will be notified.

"District of Innovation is a new concept," Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt said. "It is new legislation that was passed in the last legislative session. It gives the opportunity for a school district to have some of the flexibility regarding certain laws and rules that were given to charter schools."

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation will give Lindale the opportunity to have more local control in certain areas like teacher contracts, curriculum and specifically when concerning the flexibility of the current school calendar.

There is currently in place a state-wide rule that mandates a district cannot have a start before the 4th Monday in August. For the 2017-2018 school year, that date falls on the 28th of August, giving students a very late start. The Lindale District of Innovation committee will look at the calendar to see if there is an opportunity to start earlier for students and staff returning next August.

According to the Texas Association of School Boards, additional areas where school districts have flexibility are becoming exempt from certain mandates, such as school start dates, attendance rules, class size ratios, student discipline, planning and preparation periods, teacher contracts and protections, and teacher appraisals.

“I have a great feeling about the Lindale District of Innovation,” Surratt said. “I made the recommendation for the board to approve the resolution, as I believe it gives us more flexibility as well as more local control . . . because we know what is best for our district.”

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