Troup ISD

Mission Statement
As the heart of the community, Troup Independent School District is dedicated to education for achievement in a changing world.
2016-2017
Troup ISD District of Innovation Plan

Board Goals

The Troup ISD Board of Trustees has selected five areas on which to focus during the 2016-2017 school year: curriculum and instruction, student academic performance, school safety and climate, communication and community relations and personnel. In order to achieve successful outcomes, the District and campuses will base all decisions and strategies on the goals developed for each area. Listed below are the goals selected for the 2016-2017 school year:

Curriculum & Instruction

1. Troup ISD will exceed the state average by at least five percentage points in every tested area.
2. Troup ISD will work toward getting more teachers CTE certified in order to increase funding and course offerings. The feasibility of expanding the Ag Department and adding an Ag Mechanics teacher will also be researched.
3. Troup ISD will work to develop programs that will encourage and afford students the opportunity to earn certifications in areas of student interest.

Student Academic Performance

1. Troup ISD will provide an appropriate viable aligned curriculum that enables all students to be encouraged and challenged to meet their full educational potential.
2. Troup ISD will encourage and facilitate promising practices, which allow all teachers to prepare all students to reach their maximum potential through innovative teaching methods.
3. Troup ISD will continue to close and eliminate achievement gaps among all student groups.
4. Troup ISD will continue to develop and implement an educational achievement plan that offers students multiple pathways to earn post-secondary education opportunities including but not limited to dual credit and/or technical training.
5. Troup ISD will concentrate efforts to maximize success in all advanced academic courses including Pre-AP, dual credit and college level coursework. TISD will maximize opportunities for students to be college and career ready.

School Safety and School Climate

1. Troup ISD will ensure a safe and attractive environment for students and staff that will facilitate learning.
2. Troup ISD will sustain safe and supportive schools that provide secure, nurturing, non-threatening, respectful and disciplined learning environments where all members excel and exhibit moral excellence.

Communication & Community Relations

1. Troup ISD will work to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing strategy in conjunction with a professional marketing/advertising firm, to tout its academic and extracurricular successes, improve its public image and, inform parents, community members and the greater east Texas region of the positive aspects that reflect the
District’s vision that “Troup ISD will be the district of choice as we pursue educational excellence”.

2. Troup ISD will be proactive in communication with the community, city, area businesses, parents and students in matters that impact the overall well-being of the community and school.

3. Troup ISD will strive to forge positive relationships with stakeholders to enhance support of families, community members and the business community.

**Personnel**

1. Troup ISD will foster a professional environment to attract and retain high performance administration, faculty and staff who reflect the values of the community in order to serve as positive role models, exhibit moral excellence and are committed to achieving excellence for all students.
Legal Information

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 January 10, 2017, the Troup ISD Board of Trustees 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 January 23, 2017, the Board approved a Local Innovation Committee comprised of district administrators, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents and community members. Subsequent meetings will occur in the next two months to discuss the draft of the Local Innovation Plan. Based on the input from the board, District stakeholders and committee member comments, a rough draft was created for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Term

The term of this plan is five years, beginning with the start of the 2017-2018 school year and ending at the 2021-2022 school year, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with current law. The Local Innovation Committee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Innovation Plan and recommend any needed modifications to the plan to the Board of Trustees.
Areas of Innovation

In order to best serve the students in Troup ISD and align instruction to the board goals, a District of Innovation Plan has been developed to benefit the diverse needs of the student body. Giving the Board local control over each of these decisions will positively impact the students, parents and community of Troup ISD. The district would like to address two areas in the plan.

1. First Day of Instruction

Innovation area #1 aligns with both the Curriculum & Instruction and Student Academic Performance board goals. These two board goals support improvement in test scores and academic achievement. As a district, the board wants scores to exceed the state average by at least five percentage points in every tested area. The Student Academic Performance board goal underscores the importance of creating an innovative curriculum in order to help students become college and career ready and to challenge them for the future. Beginning the school year a week earlier will allow the campuses more instruction time prior to the STAAR test. Troup ISD is a district with a relatively high At-Risk population. The best way to serve these students is to spend more time in one-on-one or small group tutoring, which requires time. The district has been successful with most students, but it may be necessary to try some creative alternative teaching and learning methods with At-Risk students. Except as provided by Texas Education Code 25.0811, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August. Designation as a District of Innovation would give the district the flexibility to start earlier.

Another issue with the current calendar is that in order to ensure that the semester lengths are the same, the district must finish the first semester after the Christmas break. An earlier start date would allow Troup High School to end the first semester before the Christmas break. This would align with the local junior college calendar and would benefit our students enrolled in the college’s dual credit courses.

2. Probationary Contracts for Experienced Teachers

Innovation area #2 aligns with the board goal concerning personnel. The intent of this goal is to foster a professional environment so as to attract and retain high performance faculty who serve as positive role models, exhibit moral excellence and are committed to achieving excellence for all students. We want the best possible teacher working with our students, but it is also important that when the district hires teachers, that they are a good fit for the district. It sometimes takes more than a year to determine if a teacher is the best fit for our students. Under the current Texas Education Code 21.102, a probationary contract may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment with a district. This period of time may not be sufficient to evaluate the teacher’s effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to the availability of end-of-year classroom and student data. Extending the length of a probationary contract to a maximum of three years for experienced teachers would allow the district more time to fairly and thoroughly assess a teacher’s performance. This would be at the principal’s discretion.
District of Innovation Timeline

Tuesday, January 3rd – 9:00 a.m., Board Room
- Initial meeting to discuss preliminary thoughts about bringing the idea of a District of Innovation to the board

Tuesday, January 10th – 6:35 p.m., Board Room
- Board of Trustees approve resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation

Tuesday, January 24th – 12:00 p.m., Board Room
- Public hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation
- Board of Trustees approves the members of the District of Innovation Committee

February 14, 2017
- Post the District of Innovation plan on the district website for 30 days

March, March 1, 2017 – 3:40 p.m., Board Room
- District Advisory Committee Meeting

March, March 2, 2017
- Board notifies the commissioner of intention to vote on District of Innovation plan

Monday, March 20th – 6:30 p.m., Board Room
- Approve the District of Innovation plan
- Approve the 2017-2018 school calendar
District of Innovation Committee

Central Office
Stuart Bird – Superintendent
Katie Preast – Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Cindy Wilson – Superintendent’s Administrative Assistant

Elementary School
Melanie Johnson – Elementary School Principal
Amy Ledford – Assistant Elementary School Principal
Kristi Adams – Teacher
Sophia Bright – Teacher
Melissa Howell – Teacher
Chassity Whitehead – Paraprofessional

Middle School
Ava Johnson – Middle School Principal
Chelsey Drummond – Teacher
Melissa Eastman – Teacher

High School
David Smith – High School Principal
Bobby Dyess – Assistant High School Principal
Jones Ard – Teacher
Janna Lacy – Teacher
Jonna Rust – Teacher

Parent/Community Members
Sharon Adams – Parent & Paraprofessional
Gene Cottle – Community member
Amanda Griffin – Parent
Cindy Steele – Business member
# 2017-2018 School Calendar

## Staff Development/Preparation Days
- August 2-3: New Teacher Orientation
- *3 total days of summer staff development are required by August 4, 2017*
- August 7-11
- August 14-18
- November 20-22 (comp days for the *3 days of summer staff development*)
- December 21
- May 24

## Total Minutes This School Year: 77,280
- 1st 9 weeks: 19,320 minutes
- 2nd 9 weeks: 17,070 minutes
- 3rd 9 weeks: 19,770 minutes
- 4th 9 weeks: 21,120 minutes

## First Day of School: August 21

## Holidays
- July 4: Independence Day
- September 4: Labor Day
- October 9: Columbus Day
- November 23-24: Thanksgiving
- Dec 22-28: Christmas
- January 15: MLK Day (for students & teachers on 187)
- March 12-16: Spring Break
- March 30: Good Friday
- May 28: Memorial Day

## Bad Weather Days
- May 24 & 25

## [Grading Periods]
- **Progress Reports**
  - Sept 13, Oct 4
  - Nov 15, Dec 13
  - Jan 31, Feb 21
  - Apr 11, May 2

- **Report Cards**
  - Oct 25
  - Jan 30th
  - Mar 21st
  - May 30th

## Early Release Days
- Oct 20, Nov 17, Mar 9, May 23 (Last Student Day)

## High School Graduation
- May 25, 2018

## State Assessments
- December 4-8: STAAR EOC Retest
- April 3-6: STAAR Test & EOC
- May 7-11: STAAR EOC Test, STAAR 3-8, 5 & 8 Retest
- June 25-29: STAAR 5, 8, EOC Retest

### Troup Independent School District
- PO Box 578, Troup, TX 78789
- 903-842-3067

Approved by the TISD Board of Trustees: