



LAGO VISTA ISD  
**DISTRICT OF  
INNOVATION  
PLAN**



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# Introduction

The 84th legislature passed House Bill 1842, which allows traditional independent school districts the ability to access flexibilities which had previously been reserved for Texas' open enrollment charter schools. In order for an independent school district to obtain these flexibilities, Districts must seek designation as a "District of Innovation." By securing local flexibility in the areas included in this plan, Lago Vista ISD will continue to have the self-determination needed to make decisions that will allow us to provide the optimal environment needed for excellent teaching and learning, while carefully considering the unique needs of our District, our students, our staff, and our community.

## District Mission

Lago Vista ISD will equip students for the rigors of the 21st century by preparing them for a global-based digital economy. Lago Vista ISD will be recognized as a leader in educational innovation through technology, facilities, curriculum, volunteerism, and instruction.

## District Vision

Lago Vista Independent School District equips students for the rigors of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by preparing them for a global based digital economy.

## District Commitments

**Commitment #1:** We will deliver engaging, high-quality instruction that promotes deep learning for all students.

**Commitment #2:** We will support the whole child through academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and enrichment programs that foster student growth and success.

**Commitment #3:** We will equip all students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to succeed in college, career, or military pathways.

**Commitment #4:** We will recruit, develop, and retain exceptional staff by offering competitive compensation, professional support, and a collaborative work environment.

**Commitment #5:** We will strengthen partnerships with families and the community through meaningful engagement, open communication, and shared commitment to student success.

**Commitment #6:** We will provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

**Commitment #7:** We will ensure transparent, collaborative planning and decision-making that reflects district priorities and keeps stakeholders informed and involved.

# Amendment Process and Timeline

- August 26, 2025 Lago Vista ISD-level committee established under the Texas Education Code TEC §11.251 holds a public meeting to consider the final version of the proposed plan and approves the plan by a majority vote of the committee members.
- August 28, 2025 The Lago Vista ISD Board of Trustees votes on the proposed local innovation plan, to be passed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Board.
- August 29, 2025 Lago Vista ISD will notify the commissioner of approval of the plan along with a list of approved TEC exemptions by completing the required agency form. Lago Vista ISD will ensure that a copy of the local innovation plan is posted on the District's website in accordance with TEC 12A.0071, for the term of the designation as an innovation district. Not later than the 15th day after the date on which the board of trustees finalizes the local innovation plan renewal, the District shall provide a copy of the Internet link to the current local innovation plan to the Texas Education Agency for posting on the agency website.

## Term of Plan

The term of the District Plan for Innovation, as constituted by the Texas Education Agency, will be five years. This plan was adopted with the 2022-2023 school year and concludes at the end of the 2026-2027 school year, unless terminated earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. This amendment does not change the term of the plan. Lago Vista ISD Educational Improvement Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the Plan.

## Board of Trustees

Laura Vincent	President
Kevin Walker	Vice President
Isai Arredondo	Secretary
Rich Raley	Trustee
Jerrell Roque	Trustee
David Scott	Trustee
Greg Zaleski	Trustee



## Committee Members

Bailey Adkins	Teacher, Lago Vista Elementary School
Stacey Bingham	Teacher, ESL
Courtney Boyles	Teacher, Lago Vista Elementary School (SpED)
Janda Castillo	Principal, Lago Vista High School
Kasey Clanton	Teacher, Lago Vista Elementary School
Katie Coffey	Teacher, Lago Vista Intermediate School
Pete Coldicott	Community Member
Kim Cook	Teacher, Lago Vista Elementary School
Whitney D'Armond	Parent, Lago Vista Elementary School & Lago Vista Intermediate School
Dana Herring	Parent, Lago Vista High School
Eric Holt	Principal, Lago Vista Middle School
Natalie Johnson	Teacher, Lago Vista Elementary School
Amanda Keel	Teacher
Brad Keel	Teacher, Lago Vista Middle School
Toni Larkin	Teacher, Lago Vista Middle School
Dr. Suzy Lofton-Bullis	(Non-Voting) Deputy Superintendent
Lori Longoria	Teacher, Lago Vista Elementary School
Pat Maney	Teacher, Lago Vista High School (SpED)
Donna Mumme	Teacher, Lago Vista High School
Tina Pasak	Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
Karie Rowland	Teacher, Lago Vista Middle School (SpED)
Sheryl Standiford	Teacher, Lago Vista High School
Heather Stoner	Parent - LVHS
Bonnie Sullivan	Principal, Lago Vista Intermediate School
Ginger Tilotta	Teacher, Lago Vista Intermediate School (SpED)
Kerri Walker	Principal, Lago Vista Elementary School
Lisa Whitted	Teacher, Fine Arts
Darren Webb	(Non-Voting) Superintendent
Dr. Tammy Webb	Teacher, Lago Vista High School
Leah Wray	Teacher, Lago Vista High School

# Innovations

## **TEC §11.251, §11.252, §11.253 - Site-Based Decision-Making Committee Membership**

District- and campus-level planning and decision-making committees must include representative professional staff, including, if practicable, at least one representative with the primary responsibility for educating students with disabilities, parents of students enrolled in the District, business representatives, and community members. Professional staff in the District shall nominate and elect the professional staff representatives. The committees shall include a business representative without regard to whether the representative resides in the district or whether the business the person represents is located in the District. Community members must reside in the District and must be at least 18 years of age. A parent who is an employee of the District is not considered a parent representative on the committee. A parent is not considered a representative of community members on the committee. *TEC §11.251, §11.252, §11.253*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD remains committed to valuing all stakeholders in the design of the educational programming and will continue to remain transparent with all campus and District planning and decision-making processes.

The chair of each District- and campus-level planning and decision-making committee will have flexibility in determining the membership of the site-based decision-making team.

The committees shall include representative professional staff and parents of students enrolled in the District.

Membership opportunities will be extended to business representatives and community members each year. The committee chair shall use several methods of communication to ensure that community residents and area businesses are informed of the committees, are provided the opportunity to participate, and shall solicit volunteers.

A majority of the professional staff representatives on each committee must be classroom teachers. In the fall of each year, the committee chair shall solicit professional staff representative volunteers for all committee vacancies.

Each campus committee shall include at least one campus-level non-teaching professional representative. Lago Vista ISD committee shall include at least one campus-level non-teaching professional representative from each campus having three or more non-teaching professional staff members. In the fall of each year, the committee chair shall solicit non-teaching professional staff representative volunteers for all committee vacancies.

Representatives shall serve staggered two-year terms and shall not be limited as to the number of consecutive terms they may serve on the committee.

## **TEC §21.003, §21.0031, §21.051 §21.053 - Teacher Certification**

According to the Texas Education Code, a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B. In order for a teacher to provide instruction for a course that is outside of his/her certified teaching field, the District is required to submit a request to TEA. An educator who does not hold a valid certificate may not be paid for teaching or work done before the effective date of issuance of a valid certificate. A school district that assigns an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year shall provide written notice of the assignment to a parent or guardian of each student in that classroom. *TEC §21.003, §21.0031, §21.051 §21.053*

### ***Innovative Strategy***

In the event that the District does not have is unable to find a certified teacher, the following procedures would be implemented:

1. In exceptional circumstances, when a certified educator is not available, the campus principal may submit a request for a district permit to the superintendent for an educator who meets one of the following locally determined criteria:
  - a. College teaching experience; or
  - b. Industry experience; or
  - c. TEA educator certification to teach a subject in a related field; or
  - d. Any combination of work experience, training, education, or industry-related credentials related to the subject matter he/she will be teaching.

If approved, the educator will be eligible to teach the course(s) through a district permit. All candidates would be carefully considered to ensure the individual has sufficient education and expertise to provide instruction necessary to meet the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the course(s) to be taught. Once suitability for employment has been confirmed, the campus principal will make a request for a district permit to the superintendent and will make all credentials available to the superintendent.

The superintendent will have the authority to recommend the hiring of this individual to the Board of Trustees using a district permit and the employee will be employed on an at-will contract. A teacher certification waiver, state permit application, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency. An educator who is hired under a district permit through the exemption to TEC §21.003 is not subject to TEC §21.0031, §21.051, and §21.053. Furthermore, the District is not released from requirements of TEC §21.057 related to parental notification.

***Note:*** *Lago Vista ISD will continue to be subject to certification requirements and regulations related to federal programs, including IDEA-B and ESSA. All Lago Vista ISD programs will continue to comply with applicable federal regulations that require a teacher*

to obtain full state certification. Furthermore, teachers with less than a Bachelor's degree are not eligible to teach CTE courses that meet graduation requirements under TEC §74.12.

### **TEC §21.102(b) - Probationary Contract Time Period**

For experienced teachers who are new to the District, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. §21.102(b)

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

For experienced teachers who are new to the District that have been employed as in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the first day of employment in Lago Vista ISD.

### **TEC §21.352, §21.353 - Recommended Teacher Appraisal Process & Performance Criteria**

An exemption from state law is not strictly necessary in order to use a local appraisal system. However, local models are required to contain the items described by TEC §21.353 related to the recommended appraisal process and criteria on which to appraise the performance of teachers. The State's recommended appraisal criteria include state standardized test scores as primary evaluation measure for teachers. TEC §21.352, §21.353

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will continue to utilize the locally-developed NexGen Teacher Appraisal System, which is better aligned to the Lago Vista ISD learning model and focus on individual growth. Our locally-developed appraisal model will use the flexibility provided to evaluate various performance measures, including classroom observations, professional goals and tracking, self-evaluations and quarterly feedback, as well as a holistic evaluation of student progress toward identified learning objectives.

### **TEC §21.354 - Appraisal of Certain Administrators**

An exemption from state law is not strictly necessary in order to use a local appraisal system. However, local models are required to conform to the requirements listed in TEC §21.354 related to the recommended appraisal process and criteria on which to appraise the performance of school administrators. TEC §21.354

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will utilize the locally-developed NexGen School Administrator Appraisal System containing school leadership standards and indicators established by the superintendent.

### **TEC §21.3541 - Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals**

An exemption from state law is not strictly necessary in order to use a local appraisal system. However, local models are required to conform to the requirements listed in TEC §21.3541 related to the recommended appraisal process and criteria on which to appraise the performance of principals. *TEC §21.3541*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will utilize the locally-developed NexGen Principal Appraisal System containing school leadership standards and indicators established by the superintendent.

### **TEC §21.401 - Teacher Contract Days**

Current education law in Chapter 21 requires a teacher who is on a 10-month contract to work an equivalent of 187 days. *TEC §21.401*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

In an attempt to align the teacher days to the 75,600 minutes required of students, the District will have the option to reduce the number of contract days with no effect on teacher salaries.

On an annual basis, the Lago Vista ISD superintendent will recommend a teacher contract day calendar to the Board of Trustees for approval, using authority established in DK(LOCAL). The number of teacher contract days must be inclusive of all instructional days, any TEA professional development waiver days, and a minimum of five non-waiver professional development days.

### **TEC §25.036 - Inter-District Transfers**

Currently, under Texas Education Code §25.036, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the District, but TEC §25.036, has been interpreted to require a transfer to be for a period of one school year. *TEC §25.036*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Non-resident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfer students at Lago Vista ISD may have such transfer status revoked by the superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the transfer status.

### **TEC §25.043 - Classroom Placement of Multiple Birth Siblings**

Statute currently allows the parent of multiple birth siblings who are assigned to the same grade level to request in writing, not later than the 14th day after the first day of enrollment, that the school place the siblings in the same classroom. *TEC §25.043*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

The campus principal will recommend the appropriate classroom placement for all students, including multiple birth siblings. Taking the wishes of multiple-sibling parents into account, the school will determine a placement that respects the close nature of the multiple birth bonds while at the same time encouraging individual abilities. This section does not affect a right or obligation under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, or under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq.) regarding the individual placement decisions of the school district admission, review, and dismissal committee or the right of a school district or teacher to remove a student from a classroom under Chapter 37.

### **TEC §25.0811 - First Day of Instruction**

Under current Texas state law, "a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August". *TEC §25.0811*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will determine on an annual basis the local starting date of the first semester, not to precede the second Monday in August of any year. The superintendent will submit the annual calendar to the Board of Trustees for approval. The ability to modify the start date of school allows the District the flexibility to balance semester days, align classes to college courses, and ease transitions by beginning school on a shortened week.

Changing the first day of instruction does not alter the University Interscholastic League (UIL) restrictions for the first day of practice for athletic and fine arts programs. Lago Vista ISD will continue to comply with the UIL calendar for commencement of summer

practices. Lago Vista ISD may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15.

### **TEC §25.083(a) - School Day Interruptions - Announcements**

Statute limits announcements, other than emergency announcements, made by a campus administrator over the public address system to only once during the school day. Many legitimate reasons other than emergencies can arise throughout a school day which necessitate the use of the public address system in order to inform or notify students and/or staff of information in an efficient and effective manner. This law limits campus administration's ability to use the PA system when determined appropriate or necessary. *TEC §25.083(a)*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will eliminate the restriction and allow campus administrators to exercise their professional judgment in the use of public address systems in order to notify or inform students and/or staff of relevant school-related information at any time deemed necessary and appropriate.

### **TEC §25.111, §25.112, §25.113, §25.114 - Student/Teacher Ratios and Submitting Waivers of Class Size**

TEC §25.111 requires districts to employ a sufficient number of certified teachers to maintain an average ratio of not less than 1 teacher for each 20 students in average daily attendance. State law also requires that a K-4 core classroom may not exceed a student to teacher ratio of 22:1. If classes exceed this cap, a waiver is required from the Texas Education Agency. If approved, the District must then notify parents by specifying the class for which an exception from the limit imposed by Section 25.112(a) was granted and state the number of children in the class for which the exception was granted. *TEC §25.111, §25.112, §25.113, §25.114*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will not be required to maintain an average ratio of not less than 1 teacher for each 20 students in average daily attendance. In the event that the 22:1 class ratio is exceeded in grades K-4, the superintendent will report these findings to the Board of Trustees in open session. The administration will have 30 school days from the date on which the 22:1 class ratio is reported to the Board of Trustees to consider:

1. The subject/grade-level;
2. Available space and resources;
3. Time of year; and
4. Other pertinent variables, such as enrollment projections.

Upon consideration of the variables, the administration, including the superintendent, shall select one of the following actions to recommend:

1. Hiring an additional teacher, creating a new classroom for the grade-level; or

2. Keeping the class intact because this option is determined to be more advantageous than separating students, in which case the class size may slightly exceed the 22:1 student to teacher ratio.

Within ten days of the end of the 30 school day period, the superintendent will report to and obtain approval from the Board of Trustees for the recommended action. If the classroom will continue to exceed 22:1, parent notification will be sent no later than the 31st day after the date the exception is approved by the Board of Trustees and will specify the class for which an exception from the limit imposed by Section 25.112(a) was granted. A TEA waiver will no longer be filed when a K-4 classroom exceeds 22:1, in accordance with the District Plan for Innovation. Consistent with TEC §25.112, Lago Vista ISD will not be required to obtain consent from the Board of Trustees if a K-4 homeroom class exceeds 22:1 during the last 12 weeks of the school year.

### **TEC §26.011 - Grievances (Amendment)**

Statute requires that each school district board of trustees must adopt a grievance procedure that complies with Chapter 26A to address complaints involving violations of parent rights, board policy, or provisions of the Education Code.

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will continue to implement Board Policy FNG (LOCAL) and DGBA (LOCAL), which establishes the District's process for addressing complaints and grievances. This policy encourages concerns to first be resolved informally whenever possible, but also provides a structured, three-level formal process for complaints to be submitted, reviewed, and appealed. Complaints must be filed in writing and within specified timelines, beginning with the campus principal (Level One), then the Superintendent or designee (Level Two), and finally the Board of Trustees (Level Three) if necessary. At each stage, timelines, documentation, and responses are clearly defined, and students or parents may be represented during the process.

### **TEC §26.0062 - Required Disclosure Regarding Instructional Plan (Amendment)**

This statute requires each school district to adopt a policy ensuring that, at the beginning of every semester, an instructional plan or course syllabus for every class is posted on the district's website and distributed to each parent, each semester. *TEC §26.0062*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD exempts this statute due to the significant administrative burden it creates. Teachers are already required to provide scope and sequence documents to district administration, ensuring alignment and oversight. For high school courses, syllabi are distributed directly to students and parents through the District's learning management system. Additionally, all instructional documents remain accessible to parents upon request, allowing transparency without duplicating efforts or imposing unnecessary workload on teachers.

## **TEC §28.004(d-1) - Local School Health Advisory Council**

Statute requires that the local school health advisory council meet at least four times per year and, at least 72 hours before the meeting, notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting must be placed on the bulletin board in the central administrative office of each campus and on the District's website. Statute also requires minutes of the meeting to state the subject and content of each deliberation and vote, order, decision, or other action taken and that an audio or video recording of the meeting be placed on the District's website. *TEC §28.004(d-1)*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD remains committed to valuing all stakeholders in the coordination of all school health programming and remains committed to school health advisory committee processes and membership that ensure that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction recommendations.

The SHAC shall meet a minimum of two times per year. Meeting information, agendas, and minutes will be posted on the District's website.

This exemption does not change the process for the adoption of curriculum materials for the District's human sexuality instruction.

### **TEC §28.022 - Notice to Parent of Unsatisfactory Performance**

Statute requires the District, at least once every three weeks, or during the fourth week of each nine-week grading period, to give written notice to a parent or legal guardian of a student's performance in a subject included in the foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) if the student's performance in the subject is consistently unsatisfactory, as determined by the district. Subsection b(1) requires the notice to be signed by the student's parent and subsection b(2) requires it to be returned. *TEC §28.022*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will post interim progress reports and progress reports to our online parent portal through Ascender. Paper copies of grade reports will be provided upon request. Campuses will mail home a final paper copy of the student's report card each year.

### **TEC §28.0212 - Junior High or Middle School Personal Graduation Plan**

Statute requires the principal of a junior high or middle school to designate a counselor, teacher, or other appropriate individual to develop and administer a personal graduation plan for each student enrolled in middle school who does not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under Subchapter B, Chapter 39 or who is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade level nine, as determined by the District. *TEC §28.0212*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will fully exempt the requirements in TEC §28.0212, but will continue to follow the personal graduation plan requirements under TEC §28.02121 for each student who is entering grade nine. Also, the District will continue to implement the requirements of TEC 28.0211, which requires that when a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a) in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, the school district in which the student attends school shall provide to the student accelerated instruction in the applicable subject area during the subsequent summer or school year.

**Note:** *TEC §12A.004(a)(3) specifically limits a district of innovation plan from exempting state curriculum and graduation requirements adopted under Chapter 28. TEC §28.0212 is neither a state curriculum requirement nor is it a requirement for graduation (28.025), and this specific statute is not listed in the prohibited exemptions listed in TAC §102.1309(a). Lago Vista ISD will continue to provide the required instruction in high school outlined in 28.016 including the creation of a high school personal graduation plan under §28.02121.*

### **TEC §28.023 - Credit by Examination**

Statute requires the District to use guidelines established by the State Board of Education in selection and administration of examinations for acceleration. The SBOE guidelines require the District not to charge for an examination for acceleration. *TEC §28.023*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will continue to offer examinations for acceleration per the current procedures outlined in the Lago Vista ISD Grading Guidelines and board policy. Lago Vista ISD will not be required to pay for examinations for acceleration, just as the District is currently not required to pay for examinations for recovery.

**Note:** *TEC §12A.004(a)(3) specifically limits a district of innovation plan from exempting state curriculum and graduation requirements adopted under Chapter 28. TEC §28.023 is neither a state curriculum requirement nor is it a requirement for graduation, and this specific statute is not listed in the prohibited exemptions listed in TAC §102.1309(a).*

### **TEC §29.122 - Educational Programs for Gifted and Talented Students**

Statute requires that each school district, using criteria established by the State Board of Education, adopt a process for identifying and serving gifted and talented students in the district and to establish a program for those students in each grade level. *TEC §29.122*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will continue to ensure that, prior to assignment in the program, teachers who provide instruction and services that are a part of the services for gifted students have a minimum of 30 hours of staff development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students, assessing student needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students. Further, Lago Vista ISD will continue to require that teachers who do not have the required initial training and who provide instruction and services that are part of the gifted and talented program must complete the 30-hour training requirement within one semester. However, Lago Vista ISD will utilize local discretion when determining if a teacher who provides core content instruction must participate in six hours annually of professional development in gifted education.

### **TEC §29.1531 - Tuition-Supported and District-Financed Prekindergarten**

Statute allows a school district to offer on a tuition basis. A district that offers a prekindergarten program on a tuition basis may not adopt a tuition rate for the program that is higher than necessary to cover the added costs of providing the program, including any costs associated with collecting, reporting, and analyzing data under Section 29.1532(c) and required the school district to submit the proposed tuition rate to the commissioner for approval. *TEC §29.1531*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will ensure that the tuition rate for tuition-supported prekindergarten is not higher than necessary to cover the added costs of providing the program. However, the school district will not submit the proposed tuition rate to the commissioner for approval.

**Note:** *TEC §12A.004(a)(3) specifically limits a district of innovation plan from exempting state curriculum and graduation requirements adopted under Chapter 28. TEC §29.1531*

*is located in Chapter 29, Subchapter E. This is neither a state curriculum requirement nor is it a requirement for graduation, and this specific statute is not listed in the prohibited exemptions listed in TAC §102.1309(a).*

### **Home-Schooled Student Merit Scholarship and Advanced Placement Testing**

Statute requires the school district to permit a home-schooled student entitled to attend school in the District to participate in an administration of the PSAT/NMSQT or a college Advanced Placement test offered by the District and to pay the same fee to participate that a student enrolled in the district is required to pay. Furthermore, the District is required to provide notice that the PSAT/NMSQT or the advanced placement test is available for home-schooled students eligible to attend school in the district and describe the procedures for a home-schooled student to register for the test. This information is required to be posted or published at the same time and with the same frequency with which the information is provided to a student who attends a district school. *TEC §29.916(b), §29.916(c)*

#### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will provide PSAT and Advanced Placement opportunities for enrolled students and will continue to pay for PSAT testing for enrolled students, contingent upon available funding. Notifications of these opportunities will be communicated to the parents of enrolled students. Parents of home-schooled students who would like to participate in these opportunities may do so at their own expense and may arrange their child's participation in these opportunities by contacting the campus counselor.

### **TEC §33.026, §33.027 – Acquisition of Library Materials; Challenge or Appeal Regarding Library Materials (Amendment)**

This statute requires school boards to adopt a policy governing how library materials are acquired, whether through purchase or donation. The policy must ensure that the board of trustees approves all proposed library materials—both purchased and donated—based on review and, if applicable, recommendations from a local school library advisory council. Lists of materials must be made publicly accessible for at least 30 days before board action, and final approval or rejection must occur in an open meeting. Board members have the right to review and suggest changes to proposed lists before voting. Donated materials cannot be added to a school's collection without board approval for the intended grade levels. Further, the statute creates a demanding challenge process, allowing parents, employees, or residents to formally contest any library material in the catalog. Challenges must be forwarded to an advisory council (if one exists), which has up to 90 days to respond, and then must be considered by the board in an open meeting. In the meantime, challenged materials must be restricted from student access, and if removed, teachers must also clear the titles from classroom libraries. Even when materials are upheld, the district must maintain records and ensure they are not re-challenged for two years.

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will continue to implement Policy EFB (LOCAL), which governs the selection, access, maintenance, and reconsideration of library materials. The policy ensures that the District provides diverse, high-quality resources that support student achievement, reflect multiple viewpoints, and align with state standards and curriculum. Librarians and professional staff follow clear standards for selecting and evaluating materials, taking into account student interests, age appropriateness, and curricular needs. Parents are provided access to library catalogs and opportunities to give feedback, while also retaining the right to guide their own child's use of materials or request alternatives. The policy prohibits harmful, obscene, or pervasively vulgar content and establishes a structured process for reconsideration if a library material is challenged, including both informal resolution and review by a reconsideration committee. Library collections are regularly maintained, updated, and reviewed, with donations accepted under the same selection criteria. This policy balances transparency, parental involvement, and professional standards to ensure library materials remain a strong support for student learning without excessive administrative burden.

### **TEC §37.008(a)(1), §37.0082 - Disciplinary Alternative Education Program**

Each school district must provide a disciplinary alternative education program that employs only teachers who meet all certification requirements established under Subchapter B, Chapter 21. Each school district must provide a disciplinary alternative education program that provides for the students who are assigned to that program to be separated from students who are not assigned to the program. *TEC §37.008(a)(1), §37.0082*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

The superintendent will ensure that the staff of the DAEP has the support necessary to properly supervise the students assigned to the program. Campus administrators of students assigned to DAEP will ensure that the assistance of teachers with specific certification is provided, as needed. To the extent possible, the superintendent will ensure the physical separation of DAEP and ISS students within the same space.

### **TEC §37.105 - Unauthorized Persons: Refusal of Entry, Ejection, Identification**

In 2017, the Texas Legislature changed the law on how school administrators can eject unruly guests from property under the District's control. This applies to parents and community members, not students. Under the law, the guest must be given a verbal warning before he or she is ejected and the District must keep a record of each verbal warning, including the name of the person to whom the warning was issued and the date of issuance. Upon ejection, the guest must also be given notice of how he can appeal the ejection. *TEC §37.105*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD will allow designated staff members the authority to remove parents or visitors whose behavior is deemed inappropriate without a verbal warning. Upon ejection, the guest may request information on how to appeal the ejection.

## **§45.205, §45.206 - Bank Depository Contract**

Per statute, the District must renew its depository contract every two years, with an option to extend for three additional two-year terms. In accordance with the Texas Education Code, the District must use a uniform bid or proposal blank in the form prescribed by the State Board of Education. *TEC §45.205, §45.206*

### ***Innovation Strategy***

Lago Vista ISD is seeking an exemption to allow the District's banking contract to be extended beyond the allowable contract term, if the District determines contract-pricing remains competitive and there is no operational or financial reason to send the District's banking services out for bid. This exemption lessens the administrative burden related to preparing and reviewing a Request for Proposal (RFP) when there is a limited number of banking institutions available to bid on the District's business. Lago Vista ISD will only go out for bid if it is determined that contract pricing is not competitive and there is an operational or financial reason to send the District's banking services out for bid. Lago Vista ISD will continue with two-year contracts for our banking depository.

## **Summary**

The innovations outlined by this District Plan for Innovation were collaboratively determined by a committed group of Lago Vista ISD community members, parents, teachers, administrators and board members. This committee and stakeholders investigated the needs of our faculty and students and formulated a plan that allows the District to provide a premier education for all students.

Through this District Plan for Innovation, Lago Vista ISD will be positioned to leverage increased flexibility to make the best decisions for our children because we will be able to make them locally. We firmly believe that this plan outlines crucial innovations that will provide an opportunity for the Lago Vista ISD community to make local decisions on the best way to educate our children.

We are grateful for the support of the Lago Vista ISD Board of Trustees, the Lago Vista ISD District Educational Improvement Committee, local and state legislatures, and the Texas Education Agency for making this process possible.



# Lago Vista Independent School District

*Excellence in ALL We Do!*

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*It is the policy of Lago Vista Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in any programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. For information about your rights, or grievance procedures, contact Darren Webb, Superintendent, 8039 Bar-K Ranch Road, Lago Vista, TX 78645, 512-267-8300.*

*Es norma de Lago Vista Distrito Escolar Independiente de no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda. Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con Darren Webb, Superintendente, 8039 Bar-K Ranch Road, Lago Vista, TX 78645, 512-267-8300.*