



Changing School Start Dates for 2020-2021

School Districts may start school prior to the fourth Monday in August (TEC, Sec. 25.0811) through a District of Innovation plan or a Year-Round System designation. TEA has outlined the following options for districts interested in changing school start dates for the 2020-2021 school year.

District of Innovation (DOI) Plan:

Districts may change their start date by using the District of Innovation plan (TEC, Chapter 12A) in the scenarios below.

Is District a DOI?	Is Start Date Flexibility Included in DOI Plan?	Actions Required	Estimated Timeline
Yes	Yes	1. Obtain board approval of calendar with new start date. (No other action required.)	Short
Yes	No	1. Draft amendment to add/adjust start date exemption. 2. Obtain approval of amendment by majority vote of district committee established under TEC, Sec. 11.251, at a public meeting addressing the revision. 3. Obtain board approval of amendment from two-thirds majority. 4. Notify TEA with updated list of exemptions via email at commissioner@tea.texas.gov and copy accred@tea.texas.gov . (Do not submit the updated calendar.) 5. Obtain board approval of calendar with new start date.	Medium
No	NA	1. Engage in DOI planning process (outlined here) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notifying TEA of intent to become a DOI b. Drafting of Plan c. Posting publicly for 30 days d. Obtaining committee and board approval e. Notifying TEA of plan via email at commissioner@tea.texas.gov and copy accred@tea.texas.gov (but not of updated calendar) 2. Obtain board approval of calendar with new start date	Long

Year-Round Designation:

Districts may move up the school start date with Year-Round System designation (TEC, Sec. 25.084) in the scenarios below and must operate during a portion of, at a minimum, 11 to 12 months, per the *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* (SAAH).



Is District Designated as Year Round?	Action Required	Estimated Timeline
Yes	1. Obtain board approval of calendar with new start date	Short
No	1. Obtain board approval for designation as Year-Round System 2. Obtain board approval of academic calendar with new start date 3. Notify TEA of intent to become Year-Round System	Medium

Charter Schools:

An open-enrollment charter school may change its school start dates by submitting a copy of its school calendar to the TEA Charter School Division prior to August.