## Texas HB2: Teacher Compensation and Education Reforms - Incentives and Likely Results

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### 1 Opinionated Executive Summary: Good Intentions, Unintended Results

The teacher incentive programs in Article 1 sound good at first, but they end up creating several big problems that make education worse. These problems are shown in the "Table of Codes for Bad Results We Will Actually Get" below.

#### 1.0.1 The Master Teacher Money Problem:

The program promises to reward the best teachers with bonuses ranging from \$12,000 to \$36,000. But these bonuses will, in the long run, make teachers care more about money than actually teaching (Code A shows up in 89% of the incentives). Instead of focusing on teaching, teachers will naturally start acting for the money, which hurts the students who need great teaching the most.

#### 1.0.2 The Performance Pay Trick:

Performance pay systems try to reward good teachers by giving them different pay scales. But in this case they end up making standardized tests and rankings more important than fixing the real problems that teachers face. They are extrinsic motivators. This causes districts to waste huge amounts of money on rankings, while the systemic problems stay the same.

#### 1.0.3 The Teamwork Destroyer:

Teacher incentive programs claim to improve teaching by offering rewards, but they actually make teachers compete against each other for a small amount of money (Code B appears in 64% of the incentives). Instead of working together to improve education, teachers are forced to compete, which destroys teamwork, something schools really need.

#### 1.0.4 The Local Control Takeover:

While these programs seem to support local school innovation, 57% of them actually take away control from local districts (Code F). They force districts to follow state-designed evaluation systems, teacher placement rules, and standard performance measures, leaving communities with little say in their own education decisions.

#### 1.0.5 The Small District Trap:

Bonuses meant to help small, poor districts keep experienced teachers (\$5,000-\$10,000) actually will likely end up creating even bigger problems. These policies increase state dependency (Code C), add administrative burdens (Code E), and reduce flexibility (Code F). Small districts may end up spending more on compliance than they actually get in incentive funding.

#### 1.0.6 The Blame Game Problem:

Programs that aim to improve education by tough teacher evaluations and strategic teacher placement end up blaming teachers for problems instead of fixing the systems that cause them (Code G appears in 50% of the incentives). This policy aims to 'fix' individual teachers rather than addressing the bigger issues created by the system in which they work.

#### 1.0.7 The Professional Growth Killer:

Programs that encourage National Board Certification and professional development seem to help teachers grow professionally. But, no amount of certification can overcome the limitations placed on districts by central planning from Austin (Code A shows up here).

#### 1.0.8 Summary

These problems shows legislation that cannot actually improve education. Instead, it's focused on control mechanisms disguised as teacher support. The policies are like training animals with rewards and punishments. They assume teachers care only about money, not the real purpose of teaching.

In the end, these policies hurt motivation, teamwork, and the systems that actually help students learn. They also create financial obligations and red tape that force districts to beg for money every couple of years. This ultimately harms everyone, especially the students these policies claim to help.

#### 2 Detailed Analysis

#### 2.1 Main Table

```
# Create analysis with revised 7-code framework
enhanced likely results <- data.frame(</pre>
  Category = c(
    "Teacher Designation System - Enhanced",
    "Teacher Incentive Allotment",
    "Enhanced System Bonuses",
    "Grant and Technical Assistance",
    "Grant and Technical Assistance",
    "Teacher Support Services",
    "Teacher Support Services",
    "Professional Organization Support",
    "Teacher Retention - Small Districts",
    "Teacher Retention - Small Districts",
    "Teacher Retention - Large Districts",
    "Teacher Retention - Large Districts",
    "Salary Requirements - Mandatory",
    "Performance-Based Compensation",
    "Performance-Based Compensation",
    "High-Needs Campus Requirements",
```

```
"Funding Formula Adjustments"
),
Incentive_Created = c(
  "Master teachers receive $12,000-$36,000 allotment (increased from $32,000 max)",
  "Exemplary teachers receive $9,000-$25,000 (increased from $6,000-$18,000)",
  "Recognized teachers receive $5,000-$15,000 (increased from $3,000-$9,000)",
  "New 'Acknowledged' teacher category receives $3,000-$9,000",
  "Nationally Board Certified teachers receive $3,000-$9,000",
  "Enhanced systems must implement strategic evaluations for principals",
  "Enhanced systems must ensure substantially all teachers are eligible for designations",
  "Enhanced systems receive 1.1x multiplier on all teacher incentive funding",
  "Districts must implement performance-based compensation plans with differentiated salary
  "Prohibition on across-the-board salary increases except for inflation adjustments",
  "Enhanced systems must place highly effective teachers at high-needs campuses",
  "90% of allotment funds must be used for teacher compensation at specific campuses",
  "Districts must prioritize high-needs campuses in fund allocation",
  "Enhanced teacher incentive allotment systems receive 10% funding bonus",
  "State establishes grant program for local optional teacher designation systems",
  "State provides technical assistance and partnerships between districts",
  "State contracts for liability insurance and rights/duties assistance for teachers",
  "Professional organization dues can be deducted from salary (expanded scope)",
  "Automatic payroll deduction for professional organizations without specifying payment per
  "Districts 5,000 students: $5,000 for teachers with 3-5 years experience",
  "Districts 5,000 students: $10,000 for teachers with 5+ years experience",
  "Districts >5,000 students: $2,500 for teachers with 3-5 years experience",
  "Districts >5,000 students: $5,500 for teachers with 5+ years experience",
  "2025-26 mandate: Districts must increase teacher salaries by at least the per-teacher all-
  "Enhanced systems must implement performance-based compensation with differentiated schedu
  "School districts that lose recapture status receive additional state aid",
  "Enhanced systems must implement locally designed plans to place effective teachers at high
  "Additional state aid for districts that lose recapture status due to funding adjustments"
),
Intended_Consequence = c(
  "Teachers pursue advanced training and performance metrics; districts develop rigorous eval
  "Mid-career teachers focus on exceeding performance standards for higher compensation",
  "Early-career teachers work toward meeting recognized teacher criteria for financial reward
  "Creates entry-level incentive for newer teachers to engage with performance systems",
  "Teachers pursue National Board Certification for additional compensation",
  "Principals and assistant principals held accountable through strategic evaluation systems
  "All teachers regardless of subject area can compete for designation bonuses",
  "Districts implement comprehensive teacher evaluation and strategic placement systems",
  "Districts move toward merit-based pay systems that differentiate teacher compensation",
  "Districts focus salary increases on performance rather than across-the-board raises",
  "Experienced effective teachers work at challenging schools with district support",
  "Funding directly supports teacher compensation at campuses where designated teachers work
```

```
"High-needs schools receive priority for teacher incentive funding allocation",
  "Districts pursue enhanced designation status for additional 10% funding boost",
  "Smaller districts adopt teacher designation systems through state financial support",
  "Regional partnerships form to share expertise and reduce implementation barriers",
  "Teachers feel more secure and supported; reduced attrition due to legal concerns",
  "Teachers join professional organizations and utilize expanded support services",
  "Simplified payroll process encourages professional organization membership",
  "Small districts focus retention efforts on mid-career teachers with targeted bonuses",
  "Small districts prioritize keeping experienced teachers with substantial financial incent
  "Large districts implement targeted retention strategies for mid-career teachers",
  "Large districts balance retention funding with existing comprehensive pay scales",
  "All districts provide immediate mandatory salary increases tied to state allotments",
  "Districts implement merit-based compensation systems replacing traditional salary schedule
  "Property-wealthy districts receive state support when funding formulas change",
  "Strategic teacher placement ensures high-quality instruction at struggling campuses",
  "Districts losing wealth-based recapture obligations receive financial relief"
),
Likely Result = c(
  "A, B, D, E, F, G", # Master teachers: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases competition
  "A, B, D, G", # Exemplary teachers: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases competition,
  "A, B, E", # Recognized teachers: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases competition, in
  "A, B, E", # Acknowledged teachers: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases competition,
  "A, D", # Board Certified: decreases intrinsic motivation, substitutes accountability
  "D, E, G", # Principal evaluations: substitutes accountability, increases admin burden, tro
  "A, B, F", # All teachers eligible: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases competition,
  "A, B, C, D, E, F", # Enhanced bonuses: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases competit
  "A, B, D, E, F", # Performance compensation: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases com
  "A, B, D, F", # No across-board increases: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases compe
  "D, E, F, G", # High-needs placement: substitutes accountability, increases admin burden,
  "C, E, F", # Campus-specific funding: increases state dependency, increases admin burden,
  "D, F", # Priority allocation: substitutes accountability, decreases local control
  "A, C, E", # Enhanced system bonus: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases state dependent
  "C, E, F", # Grants/assistance: increases state dependency, increases admin burden, decrea
  "C, E, F", # Technical assistance: increases state dependency, increases admin burden, dec
  "C", # Support services: increases state dependency
  "A", # Professional dues: decreases intrinsic motivation
  "A, E", # Automatic deduction: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases admin burden
  "A, B, C", # Small district retention 3-5 years: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases
  "A, B, C, E, F", # Small district retention 5+ years: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases
  "A, B", # Large district retention 3-5 years: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases con
  "A, B", # Large district retention 5+ years: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases com
  "C, E", # Salary requirements: increases state dependency, increases admin burden
  "A, B, D, E, F, G", # Performance compensation: decreases intrinsic motivation, increases
  "C", # Recapture relief: increases state dependency
  "D, E, F, G", # High-needs placement requirements: substitutes accountability, increases a
  "C" # Additional funding formula aid: increases state dependency
```

```
)
)
# Data validation check - ensure all vectors have the same length
data validation <- data.frame(</pre>
  Vector_Name = c("Category", "Incentive_Created", "Intended_Consequence", "Likely_Result"),
  Length = c(
    length(enhanced_likely_results$Category),
    length(enhanced_likely_results$Incentive_Created),
    length(enhanced_likely_results$Intended_Consequence),
    length(enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)
  )
)
# Check if all lengths are equal
all_lengths_equal <- length(unique(data_validation$Length)) == 1
if (!all_lengths_equal) {
  stop("ERROR: Vector lengths do not match. Check data frame construction.")
} else {
  cat("Data validation passed: All vectors have length", unique(data_validation$Length), "\n")
```

#### Data validation passed: All vectors have length 28

```
# Create the main analysis table with revised codes
enhanced_main_table <- datatable(</pre>
  enhanced_likely_results,
  options = list(
   pageLength = 10,
   scrollX = TRUE,
   autoWidth = TRUE,
    columnDefs = list(
      list(width = '150px', targets = 0),  # Category
     list(width = '300px', targets = 1),  # Incentive Created
     list(width = '250px', targets = 2),  # Intended Result
      list(width = '150px', targets = 3)  # Coded Results
    ),
   dom = 'Bfrtip',
   buttons = c('copy', 'csv', 'excel')
 ),
 filter = 'top',
 rownames = FALSE,
  class = 'cell-border stripe hover',
  colnames = c('Category', 'Incentive Created', 'Intended Result', 'Codes for Destructive Result')
) %>%
 formatStyle(
    'Category',
```

```
backgroundColor = styleEqual(
      c("Teacher Designation System - Enhanced", "Teacher Incentive Allotment", "Enhanced System")
        "Grant and Technical Assistance", "Teacher Support Services", "Professional Organization
        "Teacher Retention - Small Districts", "Teacher Retention - Large Districts", "Salary
        "Performance-Based Compensation", "High-Needs Campus Requirements", "Funding Formula A
      c('#E8F4FD', '#E8F6FF', '#FFF2CC', '#E8F5E8', '#F0E8FF', '#FFE8F5', '#FFE8E8', '#FFD0D0'
        '#E0F0FF', '#F5F5DC', '#FFE0B2', '#E8E8E8')
   ),
   fontWeight = 'bold'
  ) %>%
 formatStyle(
    'Likely_Result',
   fontWeight = 'bold',
   fontSize = '14px',
   textAlign = 'center',
   backgroundColor = '#FFF8DC'
 )
# Display enhanced main table
enhanced_main_table
```

Search:	
---------	--

Category **Incentive Created Intended Result** ΑII ΑII ΑII Teachers pursue Master teachers receive \$12,000-\$36,000 **Teacher Designation** performance met **System - Enhanced** allotment (increased from \$32,000 max) rigorous evaluati Mid-career teach Exemplary teachers receive \$9,000-\$25,000 **Teacher Designation** performance stan (increased from \$6,000-\$18,000) **System - Enhanced** compensation Early-career teac **Teacher Designation** Recognized teachers receive \$5,000-\$15,000 meeting recogniz **System - Enhanced** (increased from \$3,000-\$9,000) financial rewards Creates entry-lev **Teacher Designation** New 'Acknowledged' teacher category receives teachers to engag **System - Enhanced** \$3,000-\$9,000 systems **Teacher Designation** Nationally Board Certified teachers receive Teachers pursue \$3,000-\$9,000 **System - Enhanced** Certification for Principals and as Enhanced systems must implement strategic **Teacher Designation** accountable throi **System - Enhanced** evaluations for principals systems **Teacher Designation** Enhanced systems must ensure substantially all All teachers rega **System - Enhanced** teachers are eligible for designations can compete for Districts impleme **Teacher Incentive** Enhanced systems receive 1.1x multiplier on all teacher evaluatio teacher incentive funding Allotment placement systen Districts move to Districts must implement performance-based **Teacher Incentive** compensation plans with differentiated salary systems that diffe Allotment schedules compensation Districts focus sa **Teacher Incentive** Prohibition on across-the-board salary increases performance rath **Allotment** except for inflation adjustments raises

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#### 2.2 Supplemental Tables

```
# Create category analysis
category_analysis <- enhanced_likely_results %>%
  group_by(Category) %>%
  summarise(
    Count = n(),
    .groups = 'drop'
  ) %>%
  arrange(desc(Count)) %>%
 rename(`Incentive Category` = Category,
         `Number of Incentives` = Count)
# Analyze most frequent negative result codes with revised framework
code_frequency <- enhanced_likely_results %>%
  separate_rows(Likely_Result, sep = ", ") %>%
  count(Likely_Result, sort = TRUE) %>%
 rename(`Negative Result Code` = Likely_Result,
         `Frequency` = n) \%>%
 mutate(Percentage = round(100 * Frequency / nrow(enhanced_likely_results), 3))
# Key policy findings focused on revised coded patterns
key_findings <- data.frame(</pre>
 Finding = c(
    "Most Common Negative Pattern",
    "Intrinsic Motivation Destruction",
    "Competition vs Collaboration Impact",
    "Accountability vs System Improvement",
    "Administrative Burden Escalation",
    "Most Problematic Policy Areas",
    "Local Control Erosion Pattern",
    "State Dependency Creation"
 ),
 Description = c(
    pasteO("Code A (decreases intrinsic motivation) appears in ",
           round(100 * sum(grepl("A", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_
           "% of incentives"),
    "Financial incentives systematically shift educator focus from educational mission to mone
    paste0("Code B (decreases cooperation) appears in ",
           round(100 * sum(grepl("B", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_
           "% of incentives, particularly in competitive teacher designation and retention sys
    pasteO("Code D (substitutes accountability) appears in ",
           round(100 * sum(grepl("D", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_
           "% of incentives, focusing on measuring people rather than improving systems"),
    paste0("Code E (administrative burdens) appears in ",
           round(100 * sum(grepl("E", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_
           "% of incentives, creating compliance-heavy implementation"),
```

```
"Teacher Designation System and Performance-Based Compensation show highest concentration
    pasteO("Code F (decreases local control) appears in ",
            round(100 * sum(grepl("F", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_
            "% of incentives, primarily in state-mandated systems"),
    paste0("Code C (increases state dependency) appears in ",
            round(100 * sum(grepl("C", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)) / nrow(enhanced_likely_results$Likely_results$Likely_results$Likely_results$Likely_results$
            "% of incentives, creating long-term reliance on state funding and bureaucracy")
  )
)
# Data validation for supplemental tables
validation_supplemental <- data.frame(</pre>
  Table_Name = c("category_analysis", "code_frequency", "key_findings"),
  Row_Count = c(nrow(category_analysis), nrow(code_frequency), nrow(key_findings))
)
## For debugging
# cat("Supplemental tables validation:\n")
# print(validation_supplemental)
# === DISPLAY SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES ===
# Category Analysis Header
datatable(
  data.frame(Title = "INCENTIVE CATEGORY ANALYSIS"),
  filter = 'top',
  options = list(dom = 't', ordering = TRUE),
  rownames = FALSE,
  class = 'cell-border'
) %>%
  formatStyle('Title',
               fontSize = '18px',
               fontWeight = 'bold',
               textAlign = 'center',
               backgroundColor = '#FF9800',
               color = 'white')
```

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All

**INCENTIVE CATEGORY ANALYSIS** 

```
# Category Analysis Table
datatable(
  category_analysis,
 filter = 'top',
 options = list(
   pageLength = 15,
   dom = 't',
   ordering = TRUE,
    autoWidth = TRUE
 ),
 rownames = FALSE,
  class = 'cell-border stripe'
) %>%
 formatStyle('Number of Incentives',
              fontWeight = 'bold',
              textAlign = 'center',
              backgroundColor = styleColorBar(range(category_analysis$`Number of Incentives`),
 formatStyle('Incentive Category',
              fontWeight = 'bold',
              textAlign = 'left')
```

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# Incentive Category | All | | Teacher Designation System - Enhanced | | Teacher Incentive Allotment | | Grant and Technical Assistance | | Performance-Based Compensation | | Teacher Retention - Large Districts | | Teacher Retention - Small Districts | | Teacher Support Services | | Enhanced System Bonuses | | Funding Formula Adjustments | | High-Needs Campus Requirements | | Professional Organization Support | | Salary Requirements - Mandatory |

```
# Code Frequency Analysis Header
datatable(
  data.frame(Title = "NEGATIVE RESULT CODE FREQUENCY"),
  filter = 'top',
  options = list(dom = 't', ordering = TRUE),
  rownames = FALSE,
```

All

#### NEGATIVE RESULT CODE FREQUENCY

```
# Code Frequency Table
datatable(
 code_frequency,
 filter = 'top',
 options = list(
   pageLength = 15,
   dom = 't',
   ordering = TRUE,
   autoWidth = TRUE
 ),
 rownames = FALSE,
 class = 'cell-border stripe'
) %>%
 formatStyle('Frequency',
             fontWeight = 'bold',
             textAlign = 'center',
             backgroundColor = styleColorBar(range(code_frequency), '#FFB6C1')) %>%
 formatStyle('Negative Result Code',
             fontWeight = 'bold',
             textAlign = 'center',
             fontSize = '16px') %>%
 formatStyle('Percentage',
             fontWeight = 'bold',
              textAlign = 'center')
```

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#### Negative Result Code

```
A

A

E

B

F

C

D

G
```

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#### Title

All

#### **KEY CODED PATTERN FINDINGS**

```
# Key Findings Table
datatable(
  key_findings,
  filter = 'top',
  options = list(
    pageLength = 10,
    dom = 't',
    ordering = TRUE,
    autoWidth = TRUE,
    columnDefs = list(
        list(width = '25%', targets = 0),
```

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Finding	Description
All	All
Most Common Negative Pattern	Code A (decreases intri
Intrinsic Motivation Destruction	Financial incentives sys
Competition vs Collaboration Impact	Code B (decreases coop
Accountability vs System Improvement	Code D (substitutes acc
Administrative Burden Escalation	Code E (administrative
Most Problematic Policy Areas	Teacher Designation Sy
Local Control Erosion Pattern	Code F (decreases local
State Dependency Creation	Code C (increases state

```
# Create revised summary statistics
summary_statistics <- data.frame(</pre>
 Metric = c(
    "Total Incentives Analyzed",
    "Most Problematic Code",
    "Most Frequent Code Combination",
    "Policy Categories with Code A",
    "Policy Categories with Code B",
    "Average Codes per Incentive"
 ),
 Value = c(
   nrow(enhanced_likely_results),
    pasteO("Code ", code_frequency$`Negative Result Code`[1], " (appears ", code_frequency$Frequency
    "A, B (intrinsic motivation + competition)",
    sum(grepl("A", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)),
    sum(grep1("B", enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result)),
    round(mean(lengths(strsplit(enhanced_likely_results$Likely_Result, ", "))), 3)
```

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**Title** 

#### **CODED ANALYSIS SUMMARY STATISTICS**

```
# Summary Statistics Table
datatable(
  summary_statistics,
  options = list(
   pageLength = 10,
   dom = 't',
    ordering = TRUE,
   autoWidth = TRUE,
    columnDefs = list(
     list(width = '40\%', targets = 0),
     list(width = '60%', targets = 1)
   )
 ),
 rownames = FALSE,
  class = 'cell-border stripe'
) %>%
  formatStyle('Metric',
              fontWeight = 'bold',
              textAlign = 'left') %>%
 formatStyle('Value',
              textAlign = 'left',
              fontWeight = 'bold')
```

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#### Metric

Total Incentives Analyzed	
Most Problematic Code	
Most Frequent Code Combination	
Policy Categories with Code A	
Policy Categories with Code B	
Average Codes per Incentive	

#### 2.3 Key to List of Likely Negative Results

#### 2.3.1 The evaluation codes are based on these axioms:

- Central planning (one size fits all) degrades everyone's performance
  - Makes nearly every district action a legal matter
  - Robs people of pride in their work
- Efforts at 'accountability' will not improve performance of anyone
- Cooperation within an organization is far more effective than competition
- All incentives work; some promote and some pervert the *intention* of the incentive

```
# Create revised negative results table with 7-code framework
negative_results <- data.frame(</pre>
  Code = c("A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G"),
 Likely_Negative_Result = c(
    "Decreases intrinsic motivation in favor of extrinsic motivation",
    "Decreases cooperation within districts in favor of competition for resources",
    "Increases dependency on State funding and bureaucracy",
    "Substitutes 'accountability' for improvement of the system people work in",
    "Increases district administrative burdens",
    "Decreases local control and flexibility",
    "Treats people as the 'problem', instead of the system they work in"
  )
# Define bright contrasting color palette (7 colors for 7 codes)
color_palette <- c("#FF6B6B", "#4ECDC4", "#45B7D1", "#96CEB4", "#FECA57", "#FF9FF3", "#54A0FF"
# Data validation for coding key
if(nrow(negative_results) != length(color_palette)) {
  stop("ERROR: Number of codes does not match number of colors")
}
# Display the revised coding key table
```

```
DT::datatable(
  negative_results,
  options = list(
   pageLength = 15,
    dom = 'Bfrtip',
   buttons = c('copy', 'csv', 'excel'),
    columnDefs = list(
      list(width = '40px', targets = 0), # Narrow first column
     list(width = '90%', targets = 1)  # Wide second column
   ),
   scrollX = FALSE,
   autoWidth = FALSE
 ),
 rownames = FALSE,
  class = 'display'
) %>%
 formatStyle(
   'Code',
   textAlign = 'right',
   fontWeight = 'bold',
   backgroundColor = styleEqual(negative_results$Code, color_palette),
   color = 'white'
 ) %>%
 formatStyle(
    'Likely_Negative_Result',
   backgroundColor = styleEqual(negative_results$Code, color_palette),
    color = 'black'
 ) %>%
 formatStyle(
    columns = c(0, 1),
   border = '2px solid #333',
   borderCollapse = 'collapse'
  ) %>%
 formatStyle(
   columns = c(0, 1),
   maxWidth = '9in',
   tableLayout = 'fixed'
```

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	Search:
Code \( \rightarrow	Likely_Negative_Result
A	Decreases intrinsic motivation in favor of extrinsic motivation
В	Decreases cooperation within districts in favor of competition for resources
C	Increases dependency on State funding and bureaucracy
D	Substitutes 'accountability' for improvement of the system people work in
E	Increases district administrative burdens
F	Decreases local control and flexibility
G	Treats people as the 'problem', instead of the system they work in

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