



*Success for ALL*

## **District of Innovation**

May 1, 2018

2:00pm

Board Room

## **AGENDA**

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, effective immediately, that gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in the Texas Education Code chapter 12A.

### **I. District of Innovation Overview**

- ☞ School districts in Texas may seek designation as a District of Innovation (TEC 12A).
- ☞ Such a designation allows the district to access exemption from certain requirements of state law. Essentially, innovation plans are about local control.
- ☞ A District of Innovation can be exempt from certain requirements imposed by state law.
- ☞ These exemptions MAY include: uniform start date; minimum minutes of instruction; the 90% attendance rule; teacher contracts, benefits, and appraisals; campus decision-making restrictions; certain budgeting requirements; and some student discipline laws.
- ☞ A District of Innovation cannot seek exemption from the following (not a complete list): elected boards of trustees; powers and duties of school boards, superintendents, and principals; PEIMS; curriculum and graduation requirements; academic accountability and student assessments; financial accountability and related reporting; open meetings; and public purchasing laws.
- ☞ School districts are eligible for designation as a District of Innovation if the district's most recent academic performance rating was at least acceptable.

### **II. Timeline Presentation**

- ☞ The process to adopt an innovation plan is initiated by either a resolution of the trustees or a petition signed by a majority of the members of the district-level advisory committee.
- ☞ A resolution for adoption is attached as an actionable item.

***Mission** - Fort Hancock Independent School District, in collaboration with parents and the community, will provide its students a safe and effective learning environment with opportunities to develop into responsible and successful citizens.*

***Vision** - Fort Hancock Independent School District is committed to building critical thinkers and life-long learners of good character, confidence, and leadership who will become productive members of society.*

# Fort Hancock Independent School District



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- ☞ Promptly after adoption of the resolution, the board must hold a hearing to consider whether the district should develop a local innovation plan for designation as a District of Innovation.
- ☞ At the conclusion of that hearing, or as soon as possible, thereafter, the board can either decline to pursue designation as a District of Innovation or appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan that complies with the relevant state law.
- ☞ Once the committee develops a local innovation plan, it must be posted online for 30 days, sent to the commissioner, and a public hearing held by the District Leadership Team (and approve the plan by majority vote).
- ☞ The board may then vote on the final proposed innovation plan. Approval requires a two-thirds majority (at least 5-2 vote). The statute does not authorize the board to modify the final version of the proposed plan.
- ☞ Upon board approval, the district becomes a District of Innovation and may begin operating in accordance with the local innovation plan, exempt from the identified provisions of the Education Code.
- ☞ Currently, nothing in the law requires the Commissioner to approve a district's local innovation plan.
- ☞ The plan would be in effect for up to 5 years. However, revisions may be made to the plan by following the same public hearing and vote processes.

### III. Explore Districts of Innovation Plans

- ☞ Tornillo ISD
- ☞ Anthony ISD
- ☞ El Paso ISD
- ☞ Fabens ISD
- ☞ Clint ISD

### IV. Beginning the Work

- ☞ Brainstorming Discussion of Potential Innovations to Improve Educational Outcomes

### V. Resources

- ☞ TEA FAQ
- ☞ TASB Process
- ☞ TEC Chapter 12A

### VI. Next Meeting

### VII. Adjournment

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