



District of Innovation

**Board of Trustees Public Meeting
January 23, 2017**

What is a “District of Innovation”?

- A concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842
- Provides traditional 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 Texas Education Code Chapter 12A



Which school districts are eligible to be Districts of Innovation?

- A district's most recent academic performance rating and financial accountability rating must be at least acceptable/met standard.



Why would a district choose to be a District of Innovation?

A district may want to pursue specific innovations in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Curriculum | • School Calendar |
| • Instruction | • Budgeting |
| • Parent or community involvement | • Governance |



What legal requirements could a school district avoid by becoming a District of Innovation?

Areas that may be exempt:

- Site-based decision-making
- Uniform school start date
- Minimum minutes of instruction
- Class size ratio
- 90 percent attendance rule
- Student discipline provisions
- Teacher certifications
- Teacher contracts
- Teacher benefits
- Teacher appraisal system



Innovation Plan

The plan must:

- ▶ Provide for a comprehensive educational program which includes innovations
- ▶ Identify the Texas Education Code provisions from which the district could be exempted



What is the process for becoming a District of Innovation?

December 19, 2016	Information regarding becoming a District of Innovation is presented to the Board of Trustees in the Board Workshop
January 23, 2017	Board of Trustees receives petition signed by a majority of the members of the district-level committee at the January Board Workshop
January 23, 2017	6:30 p.m. - Public Hearing to consider developing an Innovation Plan no later than 30 days from date of receiving the petition
January 23, 2017	6:30 p.m. – At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Trustees may pursue or decline the opportunity to become a District of Innovation and appoint an Innovation Plan Committee if pursuing the opportunity
January 24, 2017	The committee develops the District Innovation Plan
January 25, 2017 (January 25 – February 24)	Post proposed Joshua ISD District of Innovation Plan on the district website for thirty days
January 25, 2017	Board of Trustees notifies the Commissioner of Education of intent to vote on the adoption of the proposed District of Innovation Plan
March 2, 2017	District-level committee holds a public meeting to consider the final version of the District Innovation Plan and approves the plan by a majority vote of the committee members
March 27, 2017	Board of Trustees may adopt a proposed local innovation plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the board
March 28, 2017	The district shall notify the Commissioner of approval of the plan along with the list of approved TEC exemptions by completing the TEA form
August 2017 – June 2022	<p>Joshua ISD is designated as a district of innovation for the term specified in the plan but no longer than five calendar years (TEC 12A.006)</p> <p>The district shall begin operation in accordance with the plan</p> <p>The district is exempt from state requirements identified under (TEC 12A.003(b)(2))</p>

Questions?

