

# District of Innovation BISD

Public Hearing  
November 16, 2017

# What is a District of Innovation?

- **The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas open-enrollment charter schools.**

# Eligibility for Consideration to Become a District of Innovation

- A school district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation only if the district's most recent performance rating under section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.
- Does BISD meet this requirement?
  - Yes. BISD's 2016-2017 district's performance was "met standard".

## Local Innovation Plans May Address the Following:

- **Innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;**
- **Modifications to the school day or year;**
- **Provisions regard the district's budget and sustainable funding;**
- **Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law;**
- **Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees**

# Specific Allowable Exemptions Include

- Educator Certification
- Teacher Contracts
- 90% Attendance Rule
- First and Last Day of School
- Use of Planning and Preparation Periods
- Length of the School Day
- Class Size Ratios
- Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements

# Prohibited Exemptions Include (but not limited to)

- **District Governance**
- **Curriculum**
- **State Assessment System**
- **State Accountability System**
- **School Finance**
- **Federal Requirements**
- **Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code**

# BISD's Intent in Seeking DOI Designation

- Upon the Board's designation of DOI committee, the development of the plan will be limited to the following two exemptions:
  - **the first and last day of school** – the current restriction of not starting school prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of August limits the number of instructional days in the fall semester along with the number of instructional days prior to state testing
  - **length of the school day** – the current law restricts the flexibility of campuses to schedule early release or late arrival days that support teachers in staff development or parent-teacher conferences.
- In the future, approval to pursue other exemptions will come from the board.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Does TEA approve the plan?

- No, the TEA does not have the authority to approve a district's innovation plan. However, the Agency retains the authority to engage in investigative, intervention and enforcement activities if the district is not in compliance with legal requirements for which an exemption cannot be claimed.

## 2. Can a district exempt itself from TEC § 21.401 and modify teacher contract days?

- Yes.

## 3. How long can the district be designated a DOI?

- The term may not exceed five years and must be included in the plan

# Frequently Asked Questions

4. Can a district amend, renew or rescind its plan?
  - Yes, a district may do so at any time.
  
5. Can a district exempt itself from TEC § 25.0811 to start school prior to the fourth Monday of August?
  - Yes, a local district plan may include modifications to the school day or year.
  
6. Can the commissioner terminate a district's designation as a DOI?
  - Yes, after two consecutive years of unacceptable academic and/ or financial ratings, the commissioner may terminate a district's designation as a DOI or require the district to amend the plan.



# Districts of Innovation in the State

- There are 652 DOIs in the state out of approximately 1265 districts total.
- 52% of the districts in the state are designated as DOIs.

# Proposed Timeline

Date	Activity
<b>October 30, 2017</b>	<p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopts a resolution to pursue a District of Innovation</li> </ul>
<b>November 16, 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holds a public hearing</li> <li>Appoints a DOI Committee</li> </ul>
<b>November 17, 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BISD notifies the Commissioner of the Board's intention to develop a DOI plan.</li> </ul>
<b>November 27<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DOI committee develops the plan</li> </ul>
<b>January 8<sup>th</sup> – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan posted for 30 days on the district's website</li> </ul>
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board notifies the commissioner of intent to vote on the DOI plan</li> </ul>
<b>February 15, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public meeting to consider and approve the final version of the plan by majority vote;</li> </ul>
<b>February 15, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board adopts the plan</li> </ul>
<b>February 16, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board notifies the commissioner of approval of the plan along with the list of TEC exemptions</li> </ul>

# Questions