

Mansfield Independent School District

Local Innovation Plan

May 3, 2016

District of Innovation District Advisory Committee Members:

Name	Appointment
Jason Bair	Board Vice President Raul Gonzalez
Chelsea Baldwin	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
Jennifer Bowland	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
Dr. Kimberley Cantu	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
Regenia Crane	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
Debra Frizzell	Trustee Michelle Newsom
Dr. Maria Gamell	Board President Dr. Michael Evans
Mendy Gregory	Trustee Courtney Wilson
Catherine Hudgins	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
Tracy Johnson	Trustee Beth Light
LeeAnn McKinney	Trustee Daniel Gallagher
VanDella Menifee	Board President Dr. Michael Evans
Warren Norred	Board Vice President Raul Gonzalez
Mikhail Orlov	Trustee Secretary Karen Marcucci
Karen Ray	Trustee Daniel Gallagher
David Rinearson	Trustee Michelle Newsom
Desiree Thomas	Trustee Beth Light
David Trimble	Trustee Courtney Wilson
Karen Wentworth	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
David Wright	Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas
Jason Young	Board Secretary Karen Marcucci
Ad Hoc	
Dr. Sean Scott	Facilitator (Non-Voting)
Lauren Cady	Facilitator (Non-Voting)
Mike Leasor	Legal Representation (Non-Voting)

I. INTRODUCTION

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. On March 29, 2016, the Mansfield Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a Resolution to Adopt a District of Innovation Plan to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives. The adoption of this plan seeks to increase the District's flexibility in order to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community.

On March 29, 2016, the Board appointed a twenty-one member District of Innovation District Advisory Committee ("Committee") comprised of diverse leaders representing a cross-section of the District's stakeholders including teachers, principals, parents, community members, and administrators. The Committee met on April 5, 2016, April 12, 2016, and May 3, 2016 to discuss and draft the Local Innovation Plan ("Plan").

II. TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2021, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If, within the term of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of HB 1842, the Board will nominate a new committee to consider and propose additional exemptions in the form of an amendment. Any amendment adopted by the Board will adhere to the same term as the original plan. The District may not implement two separate plans at any one time.

III. INNOVATIONS

The District proposes flexibility in the following areas:

A. Certification Required (TEC 21.003) (DBA LEGAL) (DBA LOCAL)

TEC 21.003 states that "a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B." The current certification requirements inhibit the District's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career And Technical Education (CATE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics (STEAM) courses. In order to provide more students the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such courses in lieu of the requirements set forth in law. The District does not

wish to be exempted from any existing laws relating to teacher contracts or teacher benefits. Flexibility to establish its own teacher certification requirements affords the District the following advantages:

- Industry certified and/or trade professionals to teach specialized certification courses.
- Greater number of CATE course offerings resulting in more opportunities for students.
- Realistic requirements for professionals transitioning from industry to teaching.
- Ability to employ part-time professionals to teach specialty courses.

B. Uniform School Calendar (TEC 25.0811) (TEC 25.0812) (EB LEGAL) (EB LOCAL)

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin instruction before the fourth Monday in August. Texas Education Code Section 25.0812 states that a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15. Local control of the instructional calendar affords the District the following advantages:

- Elimination of imbalanced 6 weeks and semester schedules while still ending the first semester prior to the holiday break.
- Alignment of calendar with TCC, Advanced Placement Exams, and STAAR/EOC timelines.
- Ensure hour/seat time requirements are met for Certification courses.
- Creates flexibility for the District to pursue year round school of choice for identified populations.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

This Innovation Plan is designed to create parameters within which the District will operate, in order to provide additional student opportunities. Specific implementation plans will be developed by the appropriate campuses and departments. Adjustments to Board Policy will be researched and adopted where appropriate.