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August 3, 2017

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mike Morath, Commissioner of Education

Texas Education Agency

1701 North Congress Avenue

Austin, Texas 78701

commissioner@tea.texas.gov

RE: Notice to the Commissioner of Education of South Texas Independent School District Board of Directors Approval of Local Innovation Plan

Dear Commissioner Morath,

On August 3, 2017, the Board of Directors of the South Texas Independent School District voted unanimously on the adoption of a proposed Local Innovation Plan in accordance with House Bill 1842 passed during the 84th Legislative Session. The Plan had been posted for the required thirty days on the district website, including some additions suggested by agency staff after the proposed plan had been submitted to the Commissioner on May 24, 2017.

As required by TAC Chapter 102, Subchapter 11, enclosed is the list of approved exemptions on the agency form provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Marla M. Guerra, Superintendent, (956) 514-4216, marla.guerra@stisd.net.

Sincerely,

Joe L. Lopez
STISD Board President

Maria G. Leal
STISD Board Secretary

Cc: Sally Partridge, Associate Commissioner, Accreditation and School Improvement
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
Sally.Partridge@tea.texas.gov

Marla M. Guerra, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jeff Hembree
Deputy Superintendent

Marla R. Knaub
Assistant Superintendent for Finance

Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307(d)

Innovation District

Please submit, on district letterhead, a letter to the commissioner of education stating the date that the board of trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District.

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- 1) Innovative Curriculum
- 2) Instructional Methods
- 3) Community Participation
- 4) Governance of Campuses
- 5) Parental Involvement
- 6) Modifications to the school day or year
- 7) Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding
- 8) Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
- 9) Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.

A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan. Please use the form below to check the statutes specifically identified in your district's local innovation plan as inhibiting a goal of the plan. Checking a specific statute does not necessarily indicate eligibility for an exemption from all subsections of the statute. The local innovation plan controls with regard to the specific exemptions adopted by a district. The form below provides a reporting mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirements of the statute. Entire sections of code may not be eligible for exemption and each district should consult its legal counsel in developing its innovation plan.

Exemptions claimed for an Innovation District apply only to the specific provision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) cited, which may or may not be governed by a separate legal requirement. The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement. Each district should consult its legal counsel to ensure adoption of necessary local policies to ensure compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of exemptions.

Term of Plan: 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 School Year

Plan applies to: Entire District

Campus (list) _____

Other (please describe) _____

Chapter 11 – School Districts

Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts

§11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board

§11.162 School Uniforms

Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making

§11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process

§11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making

§11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making

§11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

Chapter 21 – Educators

Subchapter A – General Provisions

§21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts

§21.003 Certification Required

§21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

Subchapter B – Certification of Educators

§21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.

§21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates

§21.057 Parental Notification

Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts

Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts

Subchapter E – Term Contracts

Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives

§21.352 Local Role

§21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance

§21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators

§21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

§21.401 Minimum Service Required

§21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff

§21.4021 Furloughs

- §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
 - §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule
 - §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
 - §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
 - §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
 - §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
 - §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
 - §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
 - §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
 - §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
 - §21.415 Employment Contracts
- Subchapter J – Staff Development**
- §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
 - §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
 - §21.458 Mentors

Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers

Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits

- §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance

Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance

- §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- §25.0812 Last Day of School
- §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size

- §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- §25.112 Class Size
- §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size

Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order

Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management

- §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- §37.002 Removal by Teacher

Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management

Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts

- §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- §44.043 Right To Work
- §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions

- §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- §44.903 Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs in Instructional Facilities
- §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

Chapter 45 – School District Funds

Subchapter G – School District Depositories

- §45.205 Term of Contract
- §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- §45.207 Award of Contract
- §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- §45.209 Investment of District Funds

Other

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan: