District of Innovation

By Melissa Kates
What is a District of Innovation?

Gives school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas’ open-enrollment charter schools.
How does Duncanville ISD become a District of Innovation (DOI)?

**STEP ONE:**

The Board:

- Passes a Resolution,
- Conducts a public hearing to consider developing an innovation plan,
- Votes to pursue becoming a DOI, and
- Appoints a Committee to develop the DOI Plan.
STEP TWO:
The District of Innovation Committee:
• Develops the DOI Plan,
• Identifies what portions of the Education Code that will be exempted by the plan,
• Brings the DOI Plan to the Board.
STEP THREE:

• DOI Plan posted on the district website for at least 30 days,
• The Board notifies the Commissioner of intent to adopt a plan, and
• The Committee holds a public meeting to consider and approve the final version with a majority vote.
STEP FOUR:

• The Board of Trustees votes on the DOI Plan at a Board meeting,
• The Board must adopt the DOI Plan with two-thirds majority vote, and
• Notify the Commissioner of the Adopted DOI Plan.
What flexibilities are available under an Innovation Plan?
Allowable Exemptions...

- Educator Certification
- Teacher Contracts
- First and Last Day of School
- Length of School Day
- Class Size
- Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements
Prohibited Exemptions...

- District Governance
- Curriculum
- State Assessment System
- State Accountability System
- School Finance
- Federal Requirement
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code
Things to consider...

- More flexibility with blended learning so can utilize more online learning
- With beginning school earlier, will have the opportunity to have more balance in instructional days during both semesters
- With adjusting the teacher certification requirements, can hire teachers for CTE classes that are master plumbers, welders, etc...
Timeline:

February: Begin meeting with various teachers, staff, parents and community member to discuss possible options for the DOI

March 20th: Board will vote on resolution; hold public hearing on a District of Innovation; appoint committee to develop innovation plan

March 23rd: Present DOI to DAP Committee and begin to develop plan

March-April: Continue developing plan with the Committee

April 8th: Post Plan on Duncanville ISD Website

By May 8th: Committee will hold a public meeting and vote on Plan

May 8th: Board will vote on whether to adopt District of Innovation Plan; Plan is effective on date of passage.
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QUESTIONS?