



# MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## DOI Amendment

Originally Approved by Board, October 2017

### **MANNER IN WHICH STATUTE INHIBITS THE PLAN:**

TEC §22.004 (I) states that a school district may not make group health coverage available to its employees pursuant to TEC 22.004(b) after the date a District implements the program of coverages provided under Chapter 1579 of the Texas Insurance Code.

The current process allows no flexibility in the design of group health insurance benefits to fit the needs of all Mesquite ISD employees. This provision also prohibits the District from procuring group health insurance benefits that may provide better coverages for its employees and at a lower cost. This provision is in direct contradiction to the wishes of the Mesquite ISD Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

Texas Education Code 22.004 is not in any of the prohibited exemptions that can be included in a District's local innovation plan pursuant to Texas Education Code 12A.004 and the list of the Commissioner's prohibited exemptions in Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Chapter 102, subchapter JJ, Section 102.1309.

### **LOCAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES:**

Increase local control of the group health benefits plan to allow the Mesquite Independent School District to be responsive to employee and community needs. Mesquite ISD has determined a need to apply for an amendment to our District of Innovation Plan during our renewal process to allow exemptions that permit us extended flexibility under Texas Education Code: §22.004(1) Preclusion from providing alternative Uniform Group Coverage Program once the program of coverages under Charter 1579, Insurance Code is implemented.

### **TIMELINE OF EVENTS:**

During the spring of 2021, the DOI committee, as well as members of cabinet, personnel services, business services, and professional learning met to discuss healthcare options.

During the March 2021 regular school board meeting, the Mesquite ISD Board of Trustees approved the resolution to begin the District of Innovation Renewal Plan Amendment process and work. The resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0.