

# WHITNEY ISD

## District of Innovation Plan



**February 28, 2017 (Date Posted)**

**April 10, 2017 (Proposed Approval Date)**

**RESOLUTION OF THE WHITNEY ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF DESIGNATION OF  
A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION**

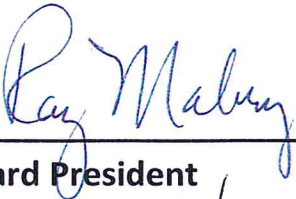
**WHEREAS Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the district; and**

**WHEREAS the Whitney School District's most recent performance rating under Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.**

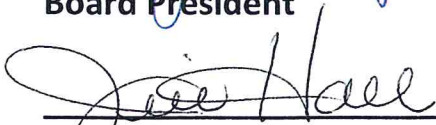
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Whitney School District by adoption of this resolution initiates the process under Education Code Chapter 12A to become a district of innovation.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after this resolution is signed by the board, a public hearing shall be held to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation and that after the public hearing the Board of Trustees of Whitney School District shall appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designation as a district of innovation.**

**Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017, by the Board of Trustees.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board President**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

# WHITNEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gene Solis  
Superintendent

P.O. Box 518  
Whitney, Texas 76692  
(254) 694-2254 Fax (254) 694-4001

Melody Haley  
Assistant Superintendent

Amy Leech – High School Principal  
Russell Gauer – Intermediate Principal  
Melissa Marbut – Curriculum Director  
Kenneth Gilchrist – Athletic Director



Wayne Redding – Middle School Principal  
Chris Hestilow – Elementary Principal  
Judy Bailey – Director of Food Service  
Brian Caperton – Director of Operations

**February 28, 2017**

**Commissioner Mike Morath  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701**

**Commissioner Morath:**

**On February 13, 2017, the Whitney ISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District. The statute from which Whitney ISD is seeking relief is: Chapter 25, Subchapter C, 25.0811 First Day of School. Whitney ISD's form and plan is included with this letter. The plan is posted on the district's website: [www.whitney.k12.tx.us](http://www.whitney.k12.tx.us) as of today, February 28, 2017 and will continue to be posted for 30 days, or more.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Solis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Gene Solis  
Superintendent  
Whitney ISD  
254-694-2254**

**[Gene.Solis@whitneyisd.org](mailto:Gene.Solis@whitneyisd.org)**

## WHITNEY ISD DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN

HB 1842 provides districts with the opportunity to design an innovation plan in relation to the needs and resources of the district while maximizing local control.

Whitney ISD is seeking an exemption from the Uniform School Start Date (TEC 25.0811) EB (LEGAL)

Currently: Students may not begin school before the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of August. Where there were once waivers to enable school districts to begin earlier, now there is no exception to this date, unless a district becomes a District of Innovation.

Advantages to becoming a DOI regarding an earlier school start date:

- Having a flexible start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, the instructional time that meets the needs of its students and community
- Enables us to personalize learning
- Increases college and career readiness time
- Allows for more flexible professional development opportunities
- Ability to frontload our Curriculum and Instruction
- Enables us to end the first semester before the Winter Break
- Ability to have a complete week of high quality Professional Development as well as a week of Campus Team Building and Classroom Preparation
- Gives more time to prepare for testing, especially for those students taking the End of Course tests
- Allows more instructional time before taking end of year exams
- WISD is 62% Economically Disadvantaged and students would gain access to another week of meals after the summer break

Term:

The term for this plan begins on April 10, 2017, after board Approval and is for five years unless terminated or amended by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Texas Law, or terminated by the commissioner pursuant to TEC Ss 12.A.008. The five-year term will end on April 9, 2022.

Term of Plan: 5 years beginning 04/10/2017; ending 04/09/2022

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:

# WHITNEY ISD

## Site Based Decision Making Committee (District of Innovation)

2016-2017

### Central Office Staff

Gene Solis (Superintendent)  
Melody Haley (Assistant Superintendent)  
Melissa Marbut (Curriculum Director)  
Brian Caperton (Director of Operations)  
Cindy Bellah (PEIMS Director)  
Kristy Smith (IT Manager)  
Vicki Satterwhite (Director of Nursing)

### Principals

Chris Hestilow (WES)  
Russell Gauer (WIS)  
Wayne Redding (WMS)  
Amy Leech (WHS)  
Bob Kruse (WAEC)

### Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Jennifer Pair (WHS Assistant Principal)  
Kathy Auten (WES Counselor)  
Angie Rateike (WIS Counselor)  
Jennifer Penney (WMS Counselor)  
Sheri Pelham (WHS Counselor)  
Lynn Hundley (WHS Counselor)  
April McKinney (District Librarian)

### Parent Member

Kam Cook  
Tierni Driessner  
Kara Sneed

### Community Member

Doug Childs  
Randy Hayes  
James Wilson

### Business Member

Debbie Clay  
April Aguirre

### Teaching Staff

#### **WES:**

Christin Birch  
Karen Cagle  
Jennifer Copeland

#### **WIS:**

Billy Barrett  
Kelli Moore  
Sara Ripley

#### **WMS:**

Tammy Childs  
Amber Johnson  
Ronny Wimberly

#### **WHS:**

Justin Jones  
Dianne Luna  
Josh Nowlin  
Sheri Hayes

ESC 12 Facilitator: Stephanie Kucera