

# District of Innovation

## Public Hearing

February 13, 2017



*“Everyone that has ever done anything significant first found themselves in the place where the status quo no longer was enough.”*

TemitOpe Ibrahim



# What is “District of Innovation?”

- The District of Innovation concept was passed into law by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, which created the Texas Education Code chapter 12A.
- The law allows traditional independent school districts to access most flexibilities available to Texas’ open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan.



# Why would CHISD pursue this option?

- CHISD wants to pursue specific innovations in curriculum, instruction, governance, parent or community involvement, school calendar, budgeting, and other possible ideas.
- An innovation plan also allows exemption from some Texas Education Code requirements.



# Exemptions from Legal Requirements?

- Site-based decision making processes
- Uniform school start date
- Minimum minutes of instruction
- Class size & student/teacher ratio
- 90% attendance rule (compulsory attendance still applies)
- Student discipline provisions
- Teacher certification (except as required by federal law)
- Teacher contracts
- Teacher benefits, including state minimum salary schedule, duty-free lunch, and planning periods
- Teacher appraisal system



- **Greater local control** as the decision makers over the educational & instructional model for students;
- **Increased freedom** and **flexibility**, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and
- Empowerment to **innovate** and **think differently**.



# What process is required?

- The CHISD process was initiated on January 9, 2017 by a resolution of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees reaffirmed the resolution on February 13, 2017.
- The Board must hold a public hearing to consider whether or not the District should develop a local innovation plan.
- An innovation committee begins work to develop an innovation plan. The plan must:
  - Provide for a comprehensive educational program which may include innovations in curriculum, instructional methods, community & parent involvement, campus governance, modifications to the school day or year, budgeting & sustainable funding, local accountability, & other innovations prescribed by the Board; and within these parameters
  - Identify the TEC provisions from which the District should be exempted.



# Comments





- Decline to pursue the designation as a District of Innovation; or
- Appoint the District Advisory Committee to develop a plan.

