



LESSONS FOR WHEREVER LIFE LEADS

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

Greenville Independent School District

Public Hearing

January 17, 2017

# DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION

- Greenville ISD is not alone!—around 100 districts have begun the process.

*“For years, Texas school board members and administrators have complained about the ever-increasing number of state mandates and prescriptive laws and bemoaned the continual erosion of local control. Now there is a realistic process for districts to do something about this. Take advantage. Investigate the possibilities and potential of becoming a district of innovation”. – Jim Crow, Executive Director, TASB*

# SO WHAT IS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION?

- An adopted DOI plan allows a district to be exempt from requirements in the Education Code.
- It must...
  - Provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, and
  - Identify requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the District should be exempted upon adoption of the plan.



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement
- Modification to the school day or year
- Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding
- Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law, and
- Any other innovations prescribed by the Board of Trustees



# PROHIBITED EXEMPTIONS

- Laws applicable to Open Enrollment Charter Schools
- Laws outside of the Texas Education Code
- Most of Chapter 11 (Governance)
- Specific bond, tax statutes
- State curriculum and graduation credits
- Academic and financial accountability law

# PROHIBITED EXEMPTIONS

- TEC, Chapter 13 (Creation, Consolidation, and abolition of District)
- TEC, Chapter 41 (Equalized Wealth Level)
- TEC, Chapter 42 (Foundation School Program)
- TEC, Chapter 46 (Instructional Facilities Allotment)



# INITIAL STEPS

- The board adopts a resolution
- Within 30 days, the Board conducts a public hearing
- The Board appoints a committee



# DEVELOPING A PLAN

- Appointed committee develops plan
- Plan is presented and voted on at the District Educational Improvement Council (majority vote)
- The Board sends notice at least thirty days prior to anticipated approval to TEA and posts on District website
- The Board approves or rejects the plan (2/3 majority vote)

*That's It! TEA has no approval authority.*





# EXEMPTIONS OTHERS ARE SEEKING

- School calendar and school day
- Teacher certification
- Class size
- Teacher appraisal
- Campus behavior coordinator
- 90 percent attendance rule
- Site based-decision making



# EXEMPTIONS OTHERS ARE SEEKING

- Teacher mentors
- Planning and preparation period
- Length of probationary contract

# LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY?

- The District is responsible for insuring that all aspects of the plan meet the legal requirements of Chapter 12A (Districts of Innovation) of the Texas Education Code and other aspects of the Texas Education Code, Texas and Administrative Code, and other legal boundaries.
- Will work with...
  - TASB Policy Consultant
  - TASB Legal
  - Attorneys from Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo, & Kyle P.C.
  - The District Educational Improvement Council
  - The Board of Trustees

# PROPOSED COMMITTEE

- Barbara Price, Executive Director of Elementary Education
- Wes Underwood, Executive Director of Secondary Education
- Heath Jarvis, GHS Principal
- Chip Gregory, HEC Principal
- Stacey Klutzz, STEM Academy Principal
- Michelle Baird, Carver Principal
- Casey Chaney, Secondary Math Instructional Specialist
- Stephanie Hensley, Elementary Math Instructional Specialist
- Brandi Lopez, Elementary Bilingual Teacher
- Joe Cummings, Secondary Math Teacher
- Joel Pitts, Secondary CTE Teacher
- Colleen McDonald, Executive Director of Special Education