



District of Innovation Plan

PUBLIC MEETING

APRIL 28, 2022, 4 PM

Purpose

- House Bill 1842, 84th Legislative Session
- Permits Texas public school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code
- Increases local control to support district initiatives and operations

Original DOI Plan

- Board of Trustees originally passed the resolution seeking designation in 2017
- The plan is set to expire at the end of May, 2022
- The committee convened to review and renew the DOI plan
 - District leadership
 - Teachers
 - Parents and Community Members
- The committee proposed eight innovations for 2022-2027 that require exemptions from TEC

Public Information on the Website

District of Innovation - Overview



House Bill 1842 (84th Session of the Texas Legislature) in part amended Chapter 12 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) to allow school districts to pursue a designation as a District of Innovation. The designation provides the district with exemptions from certain sections of the TEC as outlined in the locally adopted Innovation Plan. In 2017 the Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution authorizing the creation of a committee to consider pursuing this designation. The Board of Trustees approved the plan, which was submitted to the Texas Education Agency. The term of the designation as a district of innovation may not exceed 5 years.

In 2022, the Sheldon ISD District of Innovation Committee reviewed the plan and recommended several revisions. This page and those linked to it provide information about the initial process, our rationale for pursuing the designation, the current innovation plan and the proposed plan for renewal. To provide feedback or ask questions regarding the proposed plan for renewal, attend the Public Meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 28 at via Zoom. Here is the link: <https://sheldonisd.zoom.us/j/99768467086?pwd=L1RVRmdBZE9pd1NHSDhSY1RtRFRTZz09>

We welcome input from our community as we work to provide the best educational options for the students of Sheldon.

 [DistrictofInnovation_2022ProposedRenewal](#)

District of Innovation - Overview

- Appointed Committee Members
- Board Resolution - District of Innovation
- Board Resolution - Appointment of Committee
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Local Innovation Plan
- Frequently-Asked Questions

Timeline

May 2017	Original DOI Plan approved by Board of Trustees
February 16, 2022	Committee convened to review current plan for renewal
March 23, 2022	Committee convened to revise plan for renewal
March 31, 2022	Draft distributed to committee for feedback
April 5, 2022	Board of Trustees notified of renewal process and proposed innovations
April 14, 2022	Plan available on website for 30 days for public feedback Notify commissioner of intent to vote on renewal
April 19, 2022	Plan presented to Board of Trustees Survey provided to committee members
April 28, 2022	Public meeting to consider the revised version of the proposed plan and to approve by a majority vote of the committee

1. Teacher Evaluation

- Committee of administrators and teachers may develop a teacher evaluation system that would be a combination of T-TESS and other best practices for non-core teachers (CTE, Athletics, SpEd, etc.)
- Updates language to eliminate references to PDAS

2. Teacher Certification

- Principal submits request to superintendent or designee to allow a qualified certified teacher to teach one subject out of their certified field.
- A professional with experience in a CTE or highly specialized field or a professional with industry certification or recognition could teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. Superintendent or designee will approve. Employee will be at-will.
- Teachers providing instruction in Languages Other than English (LOTE) are exempt from state certification requirements. The district will establish a local process for verifying qualifications of these employees.

3. Probationary Contracts

- Extend from one year to two years for experienced teachers new to the district if they have been employed as a teacher in public education for five of the previous eight years
- Supports an extended contract for employees who start work after the school years begins
- Provides more time to evaluate the employee's effectiveness

4. First Day of Instruction

- Permits the district to begin school before the fourth Monday in August
- Supports professional learning for teachers
- Supports dual credit students
- Increases instructional days prior to state and national assessments

5. Minimum Minutes of Instruction

- Adheres to 75,600 minutes
- Flexibility with 420-minute school day (7 hours)
- Supports professional learning communities, parent conferences, creative bell schedules

6. Class Size and Student/Teacher Ratio

- Exemption from 22:1 ratio in PK-4 (core classes)
- Report to Board of Trustees
- Plan for support in classroom for duration of the time the class remains above the ratio
- Contact parent if ratio exceeds 25:1 in PK-4 core classes
- Will not require waiver from TEA

7. Minimum Attendance for Class Credit (90% rule)

- Exemption would permit a committee to permit students with special circumstances to earn credit based on course mastery if they have been in attendance at least 75% of the days and complete a plan approved by the principal.
- Allows for tutoring and enrichment within the school day

8. Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator

- Permits more than one person to serve as the campus behavior coordinator who is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline
- Administrators on each campus take a collaborative approach to discipline with multiple qualified personnel providing emotional and social support to students

Next Steps

May 17, 2022

Board of Trustees can adopt the proposed local innovation plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership

May 20, 2022

Notify the commissioner of approval of the plan along with a list of approved TEC exemptions

May 27, 2022

Post a copy of the local innovation plan on the district website and provide a link to TEA