

# District of Innovation BISD

Public Hearing  
October 30, 2017



## What is a District of Innovation?

- The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas open-enrollment charter schools.



## Eligibility for Consideration to Become a District of Innovation

- A school district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation only if the district's most recent performance rating under section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.
- Does BISD meet this requirement?
  - Yes. BISD's 2016-2017 district's performance was "met standard".



## Local Innovation Plans May Address the Following:

- Innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;
- Modifications to the school day or year;
- Provisions regard the district's budget and sustainable funding;
- Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law;
- Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees



## Specific Allowable Exemptions Include

- Educator Certification
- Teacher Contracts
- 90% Attendance Rule
- First and Last Day of School
- Use of Planning and Preparation Periods
- Length of the School Day
- Class Size Ratios
- Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements



## Prohibited Exemptions Include (but not limited to)

- District Governance
- Curriculum
- State Assessment System
- State Accountability System
- School Finance
- Federal Requirements
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code

# Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does TEA approve the plan?
  - No, the TEA does not have the authority to approve a district's innovation plan. However, the Agency retains the authority to engage in investigative, intervention and enforcement activities if the district is not in compliance with legal requirements for which an exemption cannot be claimed.
2. Can a district exempt itself from TEC § 21.401 and modify teacher contract days?
  - Yes.
3. How long can the district be designated a DOI?
  - The term may not exceed five years and must be included in the plan

## Frequently Asked Questions

4. Can a district amend, renew or rescind its plan?
  - Yes, a district may do so at any time.
  
5. Can a district exempt itself from TEC § 25.0811 to start school prior to the fourth Monday of August?
  - Yes, a local district plan may include modifications to the school day or year.
  
6. Can the commissioner terminate a district's designation as a DOI?
  - Yes, after two consecutive years of unacceptable academic and/ or financial ratings, the commissioner may terminate a district's designation as a DOI or require the district to amend the plan.





## What Happens Next

1. Within 30 days of a public hearing, the Board must formally decide to develop an innovation plan.
2. If the board decides to develop an innovation plan, then a committee must be appointed to develop the innovation plan.
3. After the plan is developed, it must then be posted on the website for 30 days.
4. The Board must notify the Commissioner of the intent to adopt a plan
5. A public meeting to consider and approve the final version of the plan with a majority vote is conducted.
6. The Board must then adopt the plan with a two-thirds majority vote.