



# District of Innovation

Public Hearing

Port Neches-Groves ISD

November 14, 2016

# What is a District of Innovation?

HB 1842 was passed during the most recent Legislative session allowing districts to exempt certain education codes in order to

- Pursue innovations in curriculum, instruction, governance, parent or community involvement, school calendar and/or budgeting
- Deliver instructional and support services in novel ways to better serve students

# Change in Practice by TEA – May 2016

TEA is guiding districts to explore becoming a District of Innovation in lieu of the waiver process for areas such as:

- Flexibility in start/end dates
- Length of Instructional Day
- Flexibility in class size and notice of class size
- Flexibility in teacher certification in hard-to-fill areas

# Districts of Innovation

- Allows traditional school districts with acceptable or better ratings, to access most of the flexibilities available to open enrollment charter schools.
- Provides for local control.
- Provides for autonomy (District must submit their plan to the Commissioner but approval is not required).

# District of Innovation FAQs

Will innovation plans have to be approved by the Texas Education Agency?

No, but the TEA has rulemaking authority regarding the implementation of Districts of Innovation. Districts of innovation are only required to notify the TEA and the TEA is required to maintain information about the statutory exemptions adopted by districts.

# District of Innovation FAQs

What impact could innovations have on school funding?

School district funding will remain the same for districts of innovation. This statutory option was not created to provide additional grant funding to participating districts.

# District of Innovation FAQs

What impact could innovations have on school personnel?

Possibly none or potentially significant. Districts do not have to create any innovative options that impact personnel, but the choices a district includes in its innovation plans could have substantial changes to key employment policies related to contracts and benefits of employment.

# District of Innovation FAQs

How long does an innovation plan stay in effect?

A district's plan may have a term of up to five years. It may be amended, rescinded or renewed by a majority vote of the District Level Advisory Committee. A district may lose its Innovation status if it receives unacceptable academic performance ratings for two consecutive years.



# District of Innovation – Process Timeline

- Public Hearing– 11/14/16
- Board Resolution – 11/14/16
- District Advisory Committee – 11/17/16
- Innovation Plan Drafted – 11/17/16
- Campus & CIC review of draft – 11/28/16 through 12/9/16
- District Advisory Committee – 12/12/16
- Possible Board review of draft – 12/12/16 or 1/9/17
- Plan is posted for a minimum of 30 days
- District Advisory Committee Approval – 1/23/17
- Board Approval – 2/13/17
- Commissioner is Notified

# District of Innovation – Committee Recommendations

- DEIC Committee Members
- Teacher Organization Representative(s)
- PTA Area Council Representative(s)
- Principals
- Additional Board Member Recommendations
- District Administrative Team: Dr. Cavness, Dr. Gonzales, Dr. Keith, Dr. Duhon (Non-voting members)

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