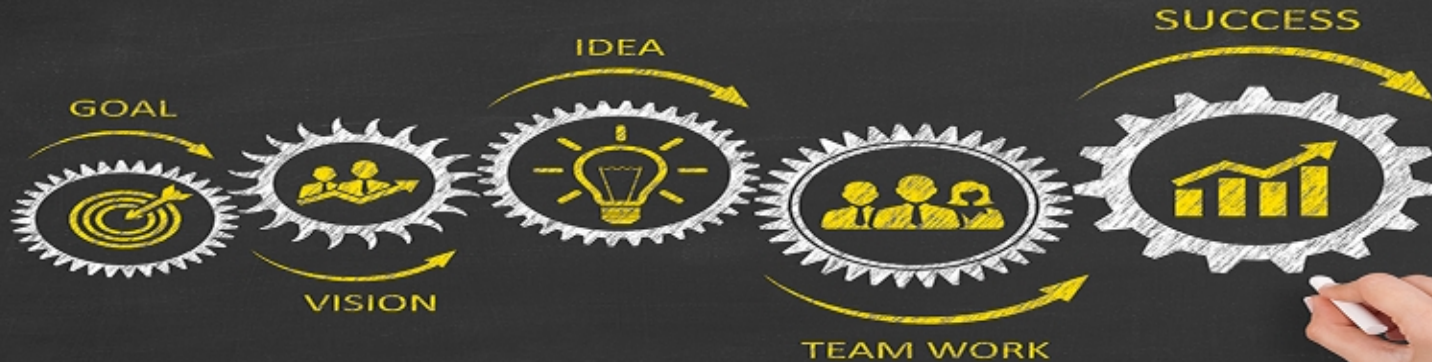


## Consideration to Develop Plan for the Designation of SISD as a District of Innovation

PUBLIC HEARING  
TEC 12A.002(a)  
February 12, 2018



# WHAT IS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

A **District of Innovation** is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842 that gives traditional school districts most of the *flexibilities* available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools.

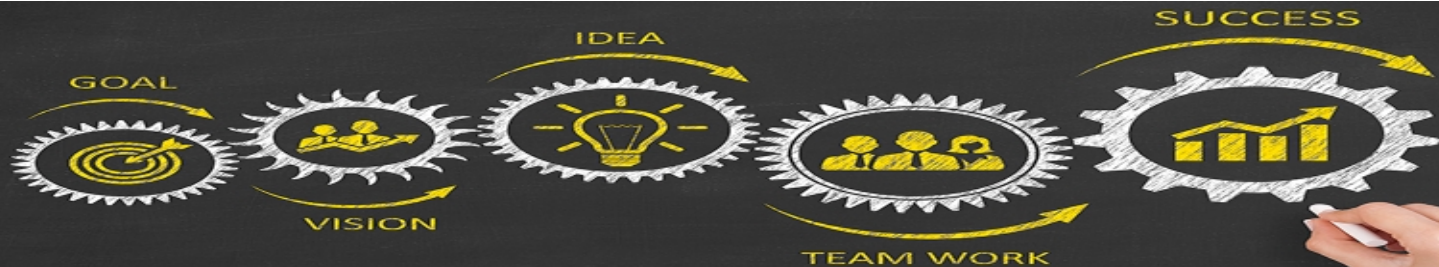
To access these *flexibilities*, a school district must adopt an innovation plan as set forth in Texas Education Code chapter 12A which constitutes the state's regulatory framework and statutory safety net for public schools.

# WHAT IS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

The *flexibility* derives from the district's ability to exempt itself from state mandates that may limit its ability to implement innovative ideas. The potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include increased local control to decide which flexibilities best suit local needs, freedom in customizing an innovation plan, and autonomy in that the innovation plan does not require state approval.

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

- ELIGIBILITY / REQUIREMENTS
- STRATEGIC PLAN / INNOVATION
- POTENTIAL EXEMPTIONS
- PROCESS TIMELINE



# A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION ELIGIBILITY / REQUIREMENTS

- MOST RECENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RATING OF ACCEPTABLE
- TO CONTINUE DESIGNATION AS DISTRICT OF INNOVATION
  - ACADEMIC ACCEPTABLE RATING NEEDED TO CONTINUE
  - ACCEPTABLE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

If a district of innovation receives unacceptable academic and/ or financial performance ratings for two consecutive years, the commissioner may terminate the innovation plan or require the district to amend its plan.

# A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION ELIGIBILITY / REQUIREMENTS

## Five Year Plan

- The SISD Plan has a term of up to five years. The plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed by the district advisory committee (DAC) and the Board of Trustees in the same manner required for initial adoption.
- For example, if the district approves District of Innovation Plan, this plan would be in effect from March 27, 2018 to March 27, 2023

# A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION STRATEGIC PLAN / INNOVATION

- What “*innovation*” is SISD looking to implement that calls for exemption(s)?

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district **before** the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

1. Innovative curriculum and instructional methods;
2. Provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;
3. Modifications to the school day or year;
4. Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding;
5. Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
6. Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.

# A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION STRATEGIC PLAN / INNOVATION

- By its nature, writing an innovation plan is a goal-setting process.
- Developing an innovation plan is a complex process, and the final board-adopted plan will have significant legal effect for several years.
- Each aspect of the plan should articulate the innovative purpose and strategic goals related to the plan.



# A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION STRATEGIC PLAN / INNOVATION

- A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan.
- The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement.
- The district's innovation plan is a legally binding document. Therefore, the plan must describe the intentions of the board-appointed advisory committee with specificity to avoid any confusion or ambiguity regarding the district's legal duties.

# POSSIBLE BENEFITS

- Allows districts to plan to improve students' educational outcomes with local input and less regulatory control from Austin.
- Can serve as a way to market district schools to parents and students that is competitive with private and charter schools.
- Could be a mechanism for districts to access some programmatic and administrative freedoms that charters currently have.
- May facilitate and support efforts to reform some of the lowest performing campuses in school districts.

# ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY

Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates such as :

- School start date
- 90% attendance rule
- Class-size ratios
- Site-based decision-making processes
- Certain student discipline provisions
- Teacher probationary contracts
- Teacher appraisal requirements
- Teacher certification requirements

**NOTE: This is a partial list of exemptions.**

# LIMITED FLEXIBILITY

Prohibited exemptions include (but are not limited to)...

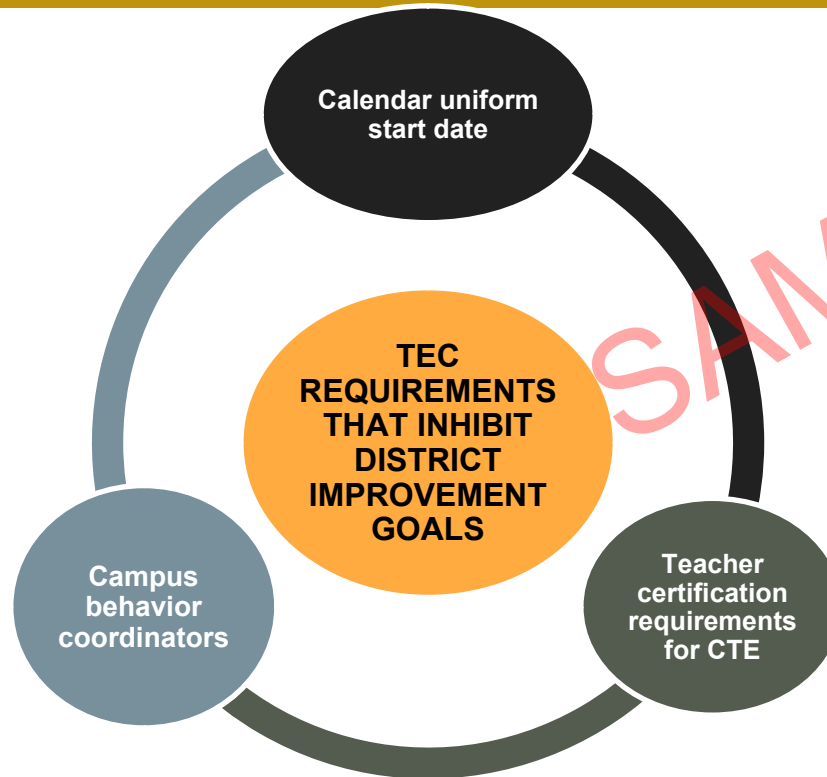
1. District Governance
2. Curriculum
3. State Assessment System
4. State Accountability System
5. School Finance
6. Federal Requirements
7. PEIMS
8. Open Meetings
9. Bilingual Education
10. Special Education
11. Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code

# A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION STRATEGIC PLAN / INNOVATION

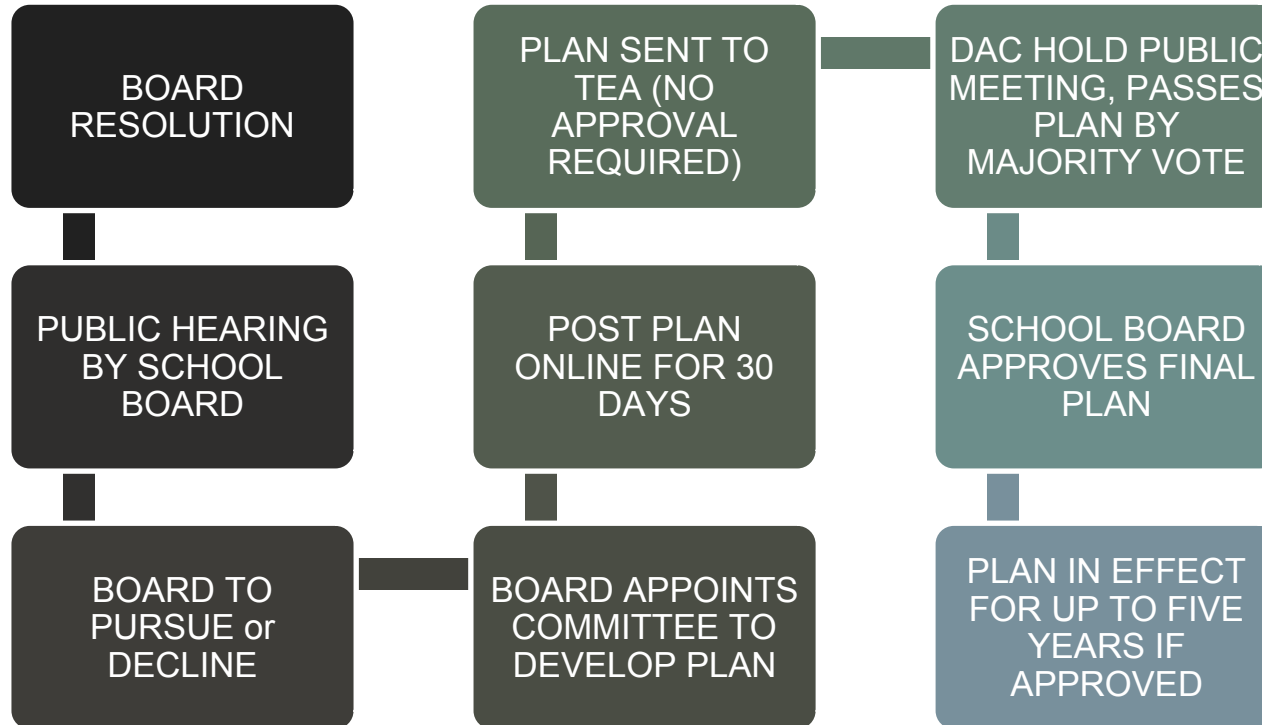
## **Non-Traditional Calendar, Schedule, and Certification Options**

- The flexibility of start date to allow the district to determine on an annual basis what best meets the needs of the students, teachers, and local community.
- The flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction and hours within a school day to support personalizing student learning in order to better meet individual student needs. The district would be able to consider possibilities such as altered length of a school day and later start/early release time.
- Allowing for early release days creates time for teacher professional learning and collaborative planning that directly support first line instruction.
- Teacher certification - for example, Career and Technical Education (CTE)

# POSSIBLE EXEMPTIONS



# PROCESS TO BECOME A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION



# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

## Initiate the Process

January 22, 2018	Present District’s intent of becoming a District of Innovation to Teacher Communication Council (TCC)
January 23, 2018	<p>The Seguin ISD School Board unanimously approved a resolution to initiate the process of becoming a District of Innovation.</p> <p>Board Resolution  <u>TEC 12A.001(c)(1)</u>  (c) Consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by:  (1) a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the district</p>
January 24, 2018	Share District’s resolution of becoming a District of Innovation to campus administrators.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “a public hearing shall be held <u>within 30 days</u> to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation”</li> <li>• “...and that <u>within 30 days</u> of the public hearing the Board of Trustees of Seguin School District shall appoint an innovation plan committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designation as a district of innovation.”</li> </ul>



# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

## Continue the Process

February 12, 2018	<p>Public hearing by school board <u>TEC 12A.002(a)</u> Promptly after adopting a resolution under Section 12A.001(c)(1) or receiving a petition under Section 12A.001(c) (2) the board of trustees shall hold a public hearing to consider whether the district should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as a district of innovation.</p>
	<p><u>TEC 12A.002(b)(1); TEC 12A.002(b)(2)</u> (b) At the conclusion of the public hearing, or within 30 days after conclusion of the public hearing, the board may: (1) decline to pursue designation of the district as a district of innovation; or (2) appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan</p>

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

## Develop the plan

February 13, 2018	Meeting with DAC. Purpose: Identify innovations and/or exemptions to include, review local district policies affected, and draft Innovation Plan to present to the Board.
February 15, 2018 (TBD)	Meeting with DAC. Purpose: Continue to identify innovations and/ or exemptions to include, review local district policies affected, and continue to draft innovation plan to present to the Board.
February 16, 2018	DAC receives the <i>finalized</i> plan for review.
February 20 - 21, 2018	DAC members present final plan to campus staff.
February 22, 2018	Meeting with DAC. Present final Innovation Plan to DAC. DAC must vote for plan approval (2/3 to pass and continue). Time: 4:30 – 5:30

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

## 30 Day Post & Adoption

February 23, 2018	Plan posted online for 30 days <u>TEC 12A.005(a)(1)</u> (a)The board of trustees may not vote on adoption of a proposed local innovation plan unless: (1) the final version of the proposed plan has been available on the district’s Internet website for at least 30 days
	Board notifies commissioner of intention to vote on proposed plan <u>TEC 12A.005(a)(2)</u> (a) The board of trustees may not vote on adoption of a proposed local innovation plan unless: (2) the board of trustees has notified the commissioner of the board’s intention to vote on adoption of the proposed plan
March 26, 2018	District Advisory Committee holds meeting to discuss public comments and feedback of the plan.

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

## 30 Day Post & Adoption

March 27, 2018	<p>District Advisory Committee holds public meeting, passes plan by majority vote <u>TEC 12A.005(a)(3)</u> (a) The board of trustees may not vote on adoption of a proposed local innovation plan unless: (3) the district-level committee established under Section 11.251 has held a public meeting to consider the final version of the proposed plan and has approved the plan by a majority vote of the committee members, provided that the meeting required by this subdivision may occur immediately before and on the same date as the meeting at which the board intends to vote on adoption of the proposed plan.</p>
	<p>Upon completion of above, school board approves final plan by 2/3 majority <u>TEC 12A 005(b)</u> (b) A board of trustees may adopt a proposed local innovation plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the board.</p>

# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

## Post/ Maintain Plan & TEA Notification

<p>March 28, 2018</p>	<p>District notifies commissioner of approval of the plan along with a list of approved TEC exemptions by completing TEA's <a href="#">form</a>.          19 TAC 102.1307(d)          (d) The district shall notify the commissioner of approval of the plan along with a list of approved TEC exemptions by completing the agency form provided in the figure in this subsection.</p>
	<p>District posts and maintains plan online in prominent location.  <u>TEC 12A.0071(a)</u>          (a) A school district designated as a district of innovation shall ensure that a copy of the district's current local innovation plan is available to the public by posting and maintaining the plan in a prominent location on the district's Internet website.</p>
	<p>District sends plan to the Agency within 15 days of adoption  <u>TEC 12A.0071(b)</u>          (b) Not later than the 15th day after the date on which the board of trustees adopts a proposed local innovation plan, adopts a proposed amendment of a local innovation plan, or renews a local innovation plan, the district shall provide a copy of the current local innovation plan to the agency. The agency shall promptly post the current local innovation plan on the agency's Internet website.</p>
<p>April 2018</p>	<p>Structure of the Policy Manual; board agenda – action item</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclaimer in (LEGAL) Policies</li> <li>• Exemption from policy or statute</li> <li>• Update (LOCAL) Policies aligned to DOI</li> <li>• Note SISD innovation in policy manual</li> </ul>

# Questions

