

2018-2022 District of Innovation Plan

Tom Bean ISD

Achieving Excellence...Together!



DRAFT

To be voted on by the DOI Committee on Jan 3, 2018

INTRODUCTION

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas legislative Session in Spring 2015, and provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as a District of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

- Districts of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state statutes and will have:
- Greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students:
- Increased freedom and flexibility, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and
- Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes including curriculum and graduation requirements and academic and financial accountability.

PROCESS

On Monday, October 16, 2017 the Tom Bean Independent School District's Board of Trustees initiated the process by passing a Resolution to Adopt a District of Innovation in order to support innovation and local initiatives to improve student learning.

On Monday, November 13, 2017, the Tom Bean ISD Board of Trustees held a public hearing for public discussion on whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a District of Innovation. With there being no objection from the hearing, the Board of Trustees appointed the District of Innovation Committee (DOIC) to discuss and draft this Local Innovation Plan. This committee represented various stakeholders across the district, including teachers, parents, campus administration, district administration and local business owners. The committee met initially on Wednesday, November 15 2017, to discuss and develop the plan. A follow up meeting to finalize the plan was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

The plan was posted on the District website for 30 days before being presented to the DOIC on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. Tom Bean ISD notified the Texas Commissioner of Education of the District's final District of Innovation Plan on January 4, 2018 and the plan will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval on January 15, 2018.

TERM

The District of Innovation Plan will become effective January 16, 2018 and will remain in effect for five years, through January 2022, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The DOIC will monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and recommend to the Board of Trustees any suggested modifications to the Plan.

TIMELINE

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Initial Meeting with Administrative staff to discuss District of Innovation.

Monday, October 16, 2017

7:00 pm, Regular Board Meeting

*Board of Trustees approve resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to become a District of Innovation

Monday, November 13, 2017

7:00 pm, Regular Board Meeting

*Public Hearing to explain and discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation.
*Approve a motion to pursue developing a District of Innovation plan, parameters, and members for the District of Innovation committee.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Public meeting of the District of Innovation committee meeting to discuss a plan.

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Public meeting of the District of Innovation committee meeting to develop/finalize a plan.

Friday, December 1, 2017

Post Proposed District of Innovation Plan on website for 30 days

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Public Meeting of the District of Innovation committee to vote on committee approval of proposed Innovation Plan

Thursday, January 4, 2018

Notify Commissioner of Education of the Board's intention to vote on adoption of proposed plan.

Monday, January 15, 2018

7:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

*Approve District of Innovation Plan

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Notify Commissioner of Education of District of Innovation Plan approval.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Last Name	First Name	Member Category
Brummett	Jeff	SPED Teacher/Bus Driver
Chapman	Scott	Parent
Clark	Christy	Elementary Teacher
Highlander	Vicki	Elementary Teacher/Bus Driver
Hollaway	Amy	Parent
Lacy	Penny	Elementary Teacher
LeDane	Jeannie	MS Teacher
Lusk	Kelly	Administration
Merriman	Shauna	Parent
Noga	Shauna	HS Teacher
Salinas	Betty	Community Member
Townsend	Becky	Community Member

EXEMPTIONS

§25.0811 Uniform School Start Date

A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system. A district may not receive a waiver for this requirement.

Benefits of Exemption

This flexibility of start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. It also offers the below opportunities:

- A balanced instructional calendar. Being allowed to start school earlier would allow that number of days in the fall semester and spring semester to be more balanced while still finishing the first semester before the December Christmas break.
- A better opportunity to align the start date of school with our local college for those students participating in Dual Enrollment.
- An early start date permits students an additional week of instruction prior to state assessments.
- High school graduates will be afforded opportunities to enroll in summer college sessions with finalized official transcripts and staff will be able to attend summer school classes as well.
- Creates Flexibility for District to pursue other calendar options for classroom preparation time and inclement weather days.

Local Guidelines Adopted

The district will determine, on an annual basis, when each school year will begin.

§25.081 and 25.0812, Length of School Day

Texas Education Code requires that all school days must be 420 minutes long each day (including intermissions, lunch and recess) to count for ADA (average daily attendance) calculations and funding purposes, and to accumulate instructional minutes towards the 75,600 minutes required annually. Districts must submit any request for a waiver for an early -release day at least 31 days in advance of the target date for the early release. The request for a waiver must go through the online TEAL secure environment and if the waiver is approved, the early release day must be at least 4 hours.

Benefits of Exemption

Flexibility needed to alter the school day schedule on selected days whenever it is locally determined as necessary or beneficial to the district and its stakeholders.

The current waiver process is limited to a 6-day maximum number of early release days for the school year. Exempting the district from the 420 minute requirement would give the district a significant amount of local control over scheduling (above and beyond the 6-day maximum as needed) without the fear of

diminishing state funding or losing credit for instructional time that might cause the district to fall out of compliance with annual minute requirements.

Would allow the district to engage in targeted, relevant professional development, including PLC's (Professional Learning Communities)

Would allow the district to build in time for student-parent conferences.

Local Guideline Adopted

Exempt Tom Bean completely from the 420-minute per day requirement.

§25.001 Inter-district Transfers

Under Texas Education Code 25.001, a district may choose to accept, as transfers, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district. Under TEC 25.036, a transfer is interpreted to be for a period of one school year.

Benefits of Exemption

Tom Bean ISD maintains a transfer policy under FDA (Local) requiring nonresident students wishing to transfer to file a transfer application each school year. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history records, work habits, and attendance records are also evaluated. Transfer students are expected to follow the attendance requirements, rules and regulations of the District. TEC 25.036 has been interpreted to establish the acceptance of a transfer as a one-year commitment by the District. The District is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. On rare occasions, student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall below the TEA truancy standard. In these rare cases, Tom Bean ISD seeks exemption from the one-year transfer commitment.

Local Guidelines

Nonresident students who have been accepted as inter-district transfer may have such transfer status revoked by the Superintendent at any time during the year if the student is assigned discipline consequences of suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, students not meeting the State's 90% attendance standard may also be subject to immediate revocation of the transfer status.

§21.002 Employment Contracts

Currently, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years.

Benefits of Exemption

Under current guidelines, probationary periods for newly hired teachers and counselors who have been in public education for at least five of the previous eight years cannot exceed one year. This limited time

period is insufficient in some cases to fully determine the staff member's effectiveness. Relief from Texas Education Code 21.102 will permit the district the option to issue a probationary contract for a period of up to two years for experienced teachers and counselors newly hired in Tom Bean ISD.

Local Guidelines

At the time of contract recommendation consideration, newly hired teachers and counselors with the district, who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years and have completed their first probationary year with the district, may receive a probationary contract for the second year in order to continue to evaluate the staff member's effectiveness.

COMMENTS

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the Tom Bean ISD District of Innovation Plan, we want to hear from you. Please contact the campus principal or superintendent.

Thank you.