

ALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE OF MEETING: June 6, 2016

DOCUMENT TITLE: Appointment of District of Innovation Committee

ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBLE:

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

LEGAL REVIEW:

Authority for this Action:

Summary / Background Information:

School districts in Texas may now seek designation as a District of Innovation (TEC 12A). Such a designation allows the district to access exemption from certain requirements of state law. Essentially, innovation plans are about local control.

– District of Innovation can be exempt from certain requirements imposed by state law. These exemptions MAY include the following: uniform start date; minimum minutes of instruction; the 90% attendance rule; teacher contracts, benefits, and appraisals; campus decision-making restrictions; certain budgeting requirements; and some student discipline laws.

– A District of Innovation cannot seek exemption from the following (not a complete list): elected boards of trustees; powers and duties of school boards, superintendents, and principals; PEIMS; curriculum and graduation requirements; academic accountability and student assessments; financial accountability and related reporting; open meetings; and public purchasing laws.

– School districts are eligible for designation as a District of Innovation if the district's most recent academic performance rating was at least acceptable.

Administrative Consideration:

– The process to adopt an innovation plan is initiated by either a resolution of the trustees or a petition signed by a majority of the members of the district-level advisory committee. The AISD resolution was passed on May 16, 2016.

– Promptly after adoption of the resolution, the board must hold a hearing to consider whether the district should develop a local innovation plan for designation as a District of Innovation. The AISD hearing was held May 16, 2016.

– At the conclusion of that hearing, or as soon as possible, thereafter, the board can either decline to pursue designation as a District of Innovation or appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan that complies with the relevant state law. The proposed AISD committee includes the following membership categories:

Once the committee develops a local innovation plan, it must be posted online for 30 days, sent to the commissioner, and a public hearing held by the District Leadership Team (and approve the plan by majority vote).

- The board may then vote on the final proposed innovation plan. Approval requires a twothirdsmajority (at least 5-2 vote). The statute does not authorize the board to modify the final version of the proposed plan.

- Upon board approval, the district becomes a District of Innovation and may begin operating in accordance with the local innovation plan, exempt from the identified provisions of the Education Code.

- Currently, nothing in the law requires the Commissioner to approve a district's local innovation plan.

- The plan would be in effect for up to 5 years. However, revisions may be made to the plan by following the same public hearing and vote processes

Administrative Recommendation: