

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

September 26, 2023

Discussion and Review: Denton ISD District of Innovation Amendment

Purpose of Report

On September 20, 2023, a proposal for an Amendment to the current local innovation plan, which would allow exemption to Texas Education Code: §37.006, was presented by Deron Robinson, General Counsel, and Dr. Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent, to the Denton ISD Educational Improvement Council (EIC). Texas Education Code §37.006 applies to the placement of a student in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) if the student is found to possess, use, sell, give, or deliver to another person an e-cigarette device regardless of whether the e-cigarette contains a controlled substance. This change to the Texas Education Code is in response to the passage of HB 114 in the 88th Texas Legislative Session and goes into effect September 1, 2023.

Prior to the passage of House Bill 114, a school administrator could assign a student found with a vape or e-cigarette device that did not contain a controlled substance 1-3 days of in-school suspension, assignment to a program to address addiction issues, and/or recommend the student for DAEP placement. This amendment will exempt Denton ISD from the requirements of HB 114 as it applies to e-cigarette offenses that do not involve prohibited drugs. The use of e-cigarettes or vaping that are not controlled substances will receive consequences as outlined in the Code of Conduct. All violations involving controlled substances will receive a DAEP placement as is required by law.

Operational Impact

The District of Innovation Plan offers flexibility and local control which in turn, benefits students, personnel, and overall instruction. It is important to review and revise this designation as the need arises.

Results

Upon approval of this amendment of the District of Innovation Plan, Denton ISD will continue to pursue local control as it benefits curriculum, instruction, governance, parent and community involvement, budgeting, and any other areas deemed necessary to maintain our commitment to the success of every child and to preserve flexibility within our District.