

**RIVER ROAD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMARILLO, TEXAS**

Subject: Resolution to Initiate
Designation as a District
Of Innovation

Date: Monday, December 12, 2016

Presented By: Richard Kelley,
Superintendent

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ACTION

Background Information:

The 84th Legislative Session, through House Bill 1842, created "Districts of Innovation" in Chapter 12A of the Texas Education Code. This new law allows school districts to access many of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To take advantage of the new opportunities, a school district's board of trustees must adopt an innovation plan.

A district's plan may address a variety of areas, including, but not limited to:

- School start date
- Class size ratio
- 90 percent attendance rule
- Certain student discipline provisions
- Teacher certification

A list of "prohibited exemptions" is also set forth in law. For example, a district cannot be exempt from laws regarding state curriculum, graduation requirements, academic and financial accountability, and various board duties.

Under State law, consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by: (1) a resolution adopted by the Board; or (2) a petition signed by a majority of the members of the District's district-level committee. A recommended resolution is enclosed. Second, the board must conduct a public hearing and third, the board must appoint a committee to develop the local innovation plan. Boards can set parameters within which the committee will do its work. For example, the board can instruct the committee to only consider certain innovation areas and not consider others.

The enclosed document, "RRISD District of Innovation Supt. Recommendation," outlines the recommended parameters and the proposed timeline.

Administrative Recommendation:

The Administration recommends the Board adopt the enclosed resolution, initiating the process for River Road ISD to be designated as a District of Innovation.

Board Action Required:

I make the motion the Board adopt the enclosed resolution, initiating the process for River Road ISD to be designated as a District of Innovation.