



Board of Trustees Meeting

October 6, 2025



Agenda Item

Alison Sims



District of Innovation

Alison Sims



What is a District of Innovation?

- A designation that provides Texas public school districts flexibility similar to charter schools
- Allows exemptions from certain Texas Education Code requirements
- Enables local control to better serve students and communities

What is the District of Innovation Process?

Board adopts Resolution, holds a public hearing, appoints District of Innovation Committee

October 6

District of Innovation Committee meets to develop and modify plan

**October 14,
November 6,
November 18**

Plan developed by committee is posted on Abilene ISD website for at least 30 days

**November
19 - January
12**

District-wide Consultation Committee votes on plan approval

December 2

Board votes on plan approval

January 12



Examples of Exemptions

- Uniform school start date
- Teacher certification for teachers of elective courses
- Class size waiver submission
- Instructional minutes flexibility for teacher professional development
- Expanding excused absences for junior/senior college visits
- Probationary contract extension
- Teacher appraisal - locally developed
- Bank depository term/bids/awards



Key Prohibitions and Requirements



- Public transparency
- Academic standards
- Financial integrity



- State testing and accountability
- Student and teacher safety requirements
- Special education and bilingual education
- Graduation requirements
- Financial accountability



Plan Implementation Requirements

- Plan must be posted on the Abilene ISD district website
- TEA must be notified within 15 days of plan adoption
- District leadership must regularly review and monitor exemptions
- Abilene ISD must maintain continuous compliance with non-exempted requirements



Questions?

Resolution

Public Hearing