

# Board Information Item

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	<div>Information Packet <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Board Agenda Information <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Board Agenda Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Board Agenda Consent <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>08/25/2025</div>
<b>Subject:</b>	Act on District of Innovation Amendment
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Kelly Mires, Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Shiela Shiver, Chief Academic Officer
<b>Policy/Code:</b>	Texas Education Code § 33.025 and § 33.020-33.027 Texas Education Code § 21.003
<b>Priority and Performance Objective:</b>	Priority 1: Student Achievement and Post Secondary Readiness Objective 1.3: Safety and Well-Being Priority 2: Faculty and Staff Recruitment, Retention and Capacity Building Objective 2.1: Recruitment
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>House Bill 1842, passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, provides the opportunity for Texas public schools to pursue the designation of District of Innovation (DOI). This allows school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC) that would allow more flexibility and local control for innovative programming. On February 27, 2017, the Local Innovation Committee presented the plan to the Board, where it was approved and adopted.</p> <p>Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's original DOI plan was a five-year plan from the 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 school year. The DOI plan was amended and approved by the Board at the May 24, 2021, meeting which allowed the District to have local control of group medical benefits. The Board renewed the DOI plan, extending it 5 years, on April 25, 2022.</p> <p>With the realities of the current educational environment related to the state and nationwide teacher shortage the Board of Trustees approved an amendment to the exemption related to</p>

secondary teacher certification on May 20, 2024. The 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative session resulted in further clarification in TEC § 21.0032 prohibiting a district from employing a teacher for a foundation curriculum course if the teacher does not hold an appropriate SBEC certificate or permit beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Foundation curriculum courses include English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The administration is recommending adding clarification to the previous amendment that addresses the updated TEC § 21.0032.

Additionally, the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative session resulted in Senate Bill 13 establishing rules and requirements regarding the acquisition of library materials and a provision for districts to establish a local school advisory council as stated in TEC § 33.025. The administration is recommending adding an area of innovation to the District of Innovation plan that will exempt the District from all requirements of Texas Education Code related to acquisition and forming a School Library Advisory Council. The District already had a robust review and approval system. The District will continue to ensure that the District's procedures for adding or removing library materials from a school library catalog comply with the library standards or TEC § 33.021 and according to EFA(LOCAL) and EFB(LOCAL), and the procedures established to implement the policies.

The amendments were presented to and approved by the District Excellence Committee on August 14, 2025. The next step is to receive Board consideration.

**Attachments:**

District of Innovation Amendment

**Recommendation:**

The recommendation is for the Board of Trustees to approve the amendments to the District of Innovation Plan.

## **District of Innovation Amendment**

### **Teacher certification**

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, provides the opportunity for Texas public schools to pursue the designation of District of Innovation (DOI). This allows school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code that would allow more flexibility and local control for innovative programming. On February 27, 2017, the Local Innovation Committee presented the plan to the Board, where it was approved and adopted. Grapevine-Colleyville's original DOI plan was a five-year plan from the 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 school year. The DOI plan was amended and approved by the Board at the May 24, 2021, meeting which allowed the District to have local control of group medical benefits. The Board renewed the DOI plan on April 25, 2022.

With the realities of the current educational environment related to the state and nationwide teacher shortage the District is recommending an amendment to the current exemption related to secondary teacher certification.

### **Current DOI Exemption**

The District has an exemption through the approved District of Innovation plan to continue to seek certified educators for teaching positions and maintain expectations for employee certification. When efforts have been exhausted the district will have the flexibility to hire individuals for secondary campuses who are knowledgeable in the area and are fully equipped to perform the duties in hard to fill positions such as career and technical education (CTE), languages other than English (LOTE), dual credit classes, advanced core content classes and other hard to fill positions.

### **Challenges**

Laws passed during the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative session prohibit prior District of Innovation exemptions. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, new TEC § 21.0032 prohibits a district from employing a teacher for a foundation curriculum course if the teacher does not hold an appropriate SBEC certificate or permit. Foundation curriculum courses include: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

### **Proposed Amendment**

The District will continue to seek certified educators for teaching positions and maintain expectations for employee certification. When efforts have been exhausted, the district will have the flexibility to hire individuals for secondary campuses who are knowledgeable in the area and are fully equipped to perform the duties in hard to fill positions such as career and technical education (CTE), languages other than English (LOTE), and other hard to fill positions that are not foundation curriculum courses. The DOI certification exemptions will not include the foundation curriculum courses of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

This is not for elementary, special education or bilingual teaching positions.

## **Benefit of Exemption**

Local qualifications will allow the district to:

- Recruit teachers who are experts in the field, including individuals from certain trades and/or vocations with industry knowledge and real-world experience
- Recruit teachers that could allow the district to offer a variety of LOTE options for students

If this amendment is approved, the district would still require any teacher who is hired under the DOI to obtain Texas teacher certification through an alternative certification program. This exemption would allow the district to hire an applicant who has not yet completed all requirements to be accepted into an alternative certification program. The new teacher would have an addendum added to their contract that states the expectation to become a certified teacher.

Approval of the amendment to the DOI plan would allow GCISD to remain competitive when seeking highly qualified applicants for open positions.

## **School Library Advisory Council**

### **Area of Innovation/Exemption:**

Grapevine Colleyville ISD has determined a need to add an exemption to the GCISD District of Innovation Plan to exempt the District from requirements of Texas Education Code § 33.025 and the School Library Advisory Council.

Senate Bill 13, passed during the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session specifies the following:

Sec. 33.025. LOCAL SCHOOL LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL. (a)

Subject to Subsection (b), the board of trustees of each school district may establish a local school library advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in each school library catalog in the district. A school district that does not establish a local school library advisory council must ensure that the district's procedures for adding or removing library materials to or from a school library catalog comply with:

- (1) the library standards approved under Section 33.021; and
- (2) the meeting requirements under Subsections (g) and (h).

### **Current Policy and Procedures**

In August 2022, GCISD adopted policy EFA(LOCAL) and EFB(LOCAL). From August 2022 to February 2023, district librarians and administrators worked to develop procedures to order and remove books from the campus libraries to comply with the new policies. In October of 2023, refinements were made to the procedures to bring additional clarity and to make the process more efficient.

### **Proposed Amendment**

The District of Innovation plan will be amended to include the exemption from all requirements of Texas Education Code § 33.025 and the formation of a School Library Advisory Council. The District will continue to ensure that the District's procedures for adding or removing library materials from a school library catalog comply with: (1) the library standards approved under Section 33.021.

### **Benefit of Exemption**

An exemption from this statute will allow the District to continue the existing process for library materials selection and removal according to EFA(LOCAL) AND EFB(LOCAL). The existing process fully complies with Section 33.021. This will ensure continued efficiency in the process guided by our district professionals.

### **Local Guidelines**

The District will continue to ensure that the District's procedures for adding or removing library materials from a school library catalog comply with: (1) the library standards approved under Section 33.021 according to EFA(LOCAL) AND EFB(LOCAL), and the procedures established to implement the policies.