



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a  
District of Innovation as Defined by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in House Bill 1842

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Office of the Associate Superintendent for Administration

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** December 14, 2016

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board approve the Resolution in order to begin the process of designating the United ISD as a District of Innovation.

**RATIONALE:**

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION:**

**BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:**

## **Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation**

**WHEREAS**, the United ISD Board of Trustees is committed to our mission of educating all students for success;

**WHEREAS**, Texas Education Code 12A, enacted by HB 1842 of the 84th Legislative Session, provides that a district is eligible for designation as a “District of Innovation” if the district’s most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a District of Innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the District;

**WHEREAS**, the most recent performance rating of United ISD (“the District”) under Texas Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance;

**WHEREAS**, the United ISD Board of Trustees believes we will be able to achieve our mission more quickly by increasing local control over District operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Texas Education Code 12A requires districts seeking to be designated as Districts of Innovation to develop a local Innovation Plan providing for a comprehensive educational program and identifying the requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the local Innovation Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the United ISD Board of Trustees will not seek under District of Innovation exemptions from any existing laws relating to teacher contracts including salary or days of employment; teacher schedules, specifically: planning periods, duty free lunches; employee complaint procedures (grievance policies); or any other existing laws except as proposed below:

- (1) the law prohibiting the District from beginning instruction before the fourth Monday in August;
- (2) the law that requires that minimum attendance (90% rule) for students for class credit or final grade;
- (3) the laws that limit the ability of the District to hire professionals in Dual Credit Programs and certain trades and vocations to teach the crafts of those trades and vocations (i.e. as Agriculture, Building Trades, etc.) in Career and Technical courses when certified teachers are not available;
- (4) the law that limits each campus to designate only one individual to serve as Campus Behavior Coordinator;

(5) the law that authorizes each school district to provide a minimum of 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses for students.

**WHEREAS**, Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 prohibits the District from beginning instruction before the fourth Monday in August;

**WHEREAS**, flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year enabling the District to improve active learning by balancing the amount of instructional time per semester, thus allowing teachers to better pace and deliver instruction before and after the first semester;

**WHEREAS**, flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable the District to create a calendar that is more student and employee centered;

**WHEREAS**, flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable teachers and students to have more instructional time prior to state mandated assessments;

**WHEREAS**, flexibility to start and end the school year earlier, will enable students to enroll in college courses that start in early June, thereby increasing college and career readiness;

**WHEREAS**, flexibility to allow a student to receive class credit or final grade in a class the student is enrolled in and has less than 90% attendance due to extreme circumstances, thereby allowing students to meet promotion and graduation requirements;

**WHEREAS**, Texas Education Code Sections 21.003, 21.053, and 21.044 and 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 231 limit the District's ability to hire teachers to teach hard-to-fill, Dual Credit and Career and Technical Courses when certified teachers are not available;

**WHEREAS**, by obtaining an exemption from existing teacher certification requirements for Dual Credit and Career and Technical teachers, the District would have the flexibility to hire credentialed community college instructors or university professors in specific content areas in order to afford more students the opportunity to take these courses if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses;

**WHEREAS**, an exemption from existing teacher certification requirements for Dual Credit and Career and Technical teachers would afford the District the flexibility to hire experienced professionals in certain trades and vocations to teach the crafts of those trades and vocations (i.e. Agriculture, Building trades, etc.) in Career and Technical courses if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses;

**WHEREAS**, an exemption from the requirement to only have one individual at each campus designated as the Campus Behavior Coordinator would afford the District and campus more

flexibility in assigning designated campus administrators (more than one) the responsibility of behavior and discipline management;

**WHEREAS**, an exemption from the requirements that a District provide for at least a minimum 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses for students for students in half day Pre-Kindergarten Programs or students enrolled in Positive Approach to Student Success—PASS Program, would afford the District the flexibility of providing Pre-Kindergarten services to additional students that meet the criteria and would afford high school students in the PASS Program, students with hardships, the opportunity to meet graduation requirements through flexible scheduling;

**WHEREAS**, the United ISD Board of Trustees believes that any local Innovation Plan, if adopted, should be developed in collaboration with the community and District stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, before considering the creation of a local Innovation Plan, the United ISD Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing to receive feedback from the community and District stakeholders.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the United ISD Board of Trustees on December 14, 2016 initiates the process of exploring and considering designation of the District as a District of Innovation under Texas Education Code Section 12A

**Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016, by the United Independent School District Board of Trustees.**

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Judd Gilpin, Board President

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Aliza Flores Oliveros, Board Secretary