

BELLVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

518 S. Mathews Street | Bellville, TX | 77418 | www.bellvilleisd.org



DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

LEARNERS TODAY. LEADERS TOMORROW.

OVERVIEW

H.B. 1842 (84th Session of the Texas Legislature) in part amended Chapter 12 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) to create Districts of Innovation. Districts are eligible for designation if certain performance requirements are met and the district follows certain procedures for adoption as outlined in Statute. The designation provides the district will be exempt from certain sections of the TEC that inhibit goals of the district as outlined in the locally adopted Innovation Plan.

The term of the designation as a District of Innovation may not exceed 5 years.

The Texas Education Agency does not have the authority to approve a District's Innovation Plan. However, the Agency retains the authority to engage in investigative, intervention, and enforcement activities if the District is not in compliance with legal requirements for which an exemption cannot be claimed.

ELIGIBILITY

Districts with a rating of a "C" Met Standard or better are eligible to become a District of Innovation.

PROCESS

- The process of becoming a District of Innovation begins with either a Board of Trustees resolution or a petition signed by the majority of the District-Level Advisory Committee;
- The Board conducts a public hearing to consider developing an Innovation Plan;
- Within 30 days of the public hearing the Board must formally decided to pursue or decline the opportunity.

INNOVATION PLAN

DEVELOPING A PLAN

If declared to move forward, the Board appoints an Innovation Plan committee to write a plan that provides for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- Innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;
- Modifications to the school day or year;
- Provisions regarding the District budget and sustainable program funding;
- Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
- Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees; and

Identifies requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan.

PROHIBITED EXEMPTIONS

- District Governance;
- Curriculum;
- State Assessment System;
- State Accountability System;
- School Finance;
- Federal Requirements;
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code.

ALLOWABLE EXEMPTIONS

Not limited to:

- Educator Certification;
- Teacher Contracts;
- First and Last Day of School;
- Length of the School Day;
- Class Size;
- Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements;
- Teacher appraisal requirements.

PUBLICATION OF THE PLAN

- The District's Innovation Plan must be posted on the district website for at least 30 days prior to adoption;
- The Board must notify the Commissioner of Education of its intent to adopt a plan;
- The District Advisory Committee must hold a public meeting to consider the final version of the plan and approve it with majority vote;
- The Board of Trustees must adopt the plan with a two-thirds majority vote;
- Once approved by the Board of Trustees, the Commissioner must be notified.

PROPOSED AREAS OF CONSIDERATION

- Ability to begin school as early as the third Monday of the Month of August;
- Development and implementation of a local appraisal system;
- Consideration of local board approval for K-4 grade classes that reach beyond the 22:1 ratio;
- Consideration of locally developed criterion for membership ratios on community-based committees.