

Approval of District of Innovation Policies September 26, 2017

SUMMARY:

In 2015, the Texas Legislature amended the Education Code to empower (a key word in the Denton ISD mission statement) school districts to enjoy some of the same flexibility given to charter schools by allowing the district to be exempt from certain requirements imposed by state law. Essentially, the DOI legislation is about offering districts local control. The District of Innovation Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 17, 2017.

Local policies:

- AF(Local) Innovation Districts
- BQ(Local): Planning & Decision-Making Process
- BQA(Local) Planning & Decision-Making Process District Level
- BQB(Local) Planning & Decision-Making Process: Campus-Level
- EB(Local) School Year

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The Board discussed and reviewed the policies at the September 12, 2017 board meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

N/A

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

The district must have school policies that are consistent with current laws and appropriately communicate local policy issues. Policies are classified as either “Legal” or “Local” in design. A “Legal” policy is a statement of existing law or of binding legal decisions and as such do not require Board approval. Local policies are decisions made at the local level that reflect district decisions and practices and do require approval. Legal policies are always included in updates so local policy development occurs within the context of binding law.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

To allow the Board to evaluate and ensure that these policies reflect the practices of the District.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Because the law requires districts to adopt a local policy so quickly, districts are allowed to implement the process for emergency adoption with one reading.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following options are available to the Board:

- continue to study the policy
- modify the existing language
- approve policies as written and submitted by TASB

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the District of Innovation policies as submitted.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

James K. Wilson III, Superintendent
Randy Stout, DISD Legal Advisor

ATTACHMENT:

Local Policies