



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: Public Hearing to Consider Whether the District Should Develop a Local Innovation Plan

Under 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:

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:



-  DISTRICT OF INNOVATION OVERVIEW
-  REQUIREMENTS
-  PROPOSED EXEMPTIONS
-  BENEFITS

WHAT IS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION?



House Bill 1842 allows Texas public schools who have continuously maintained an acceptable academic rating as defined by the Texas Education Agency to receive **exemptions (flexibilities)** typically reserved for open enrollment charter schools in curriculum, instruction, governance, parent/community involvement, calendar, and budget by becoming a District of Innovation.



A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION ELIGIBILITY



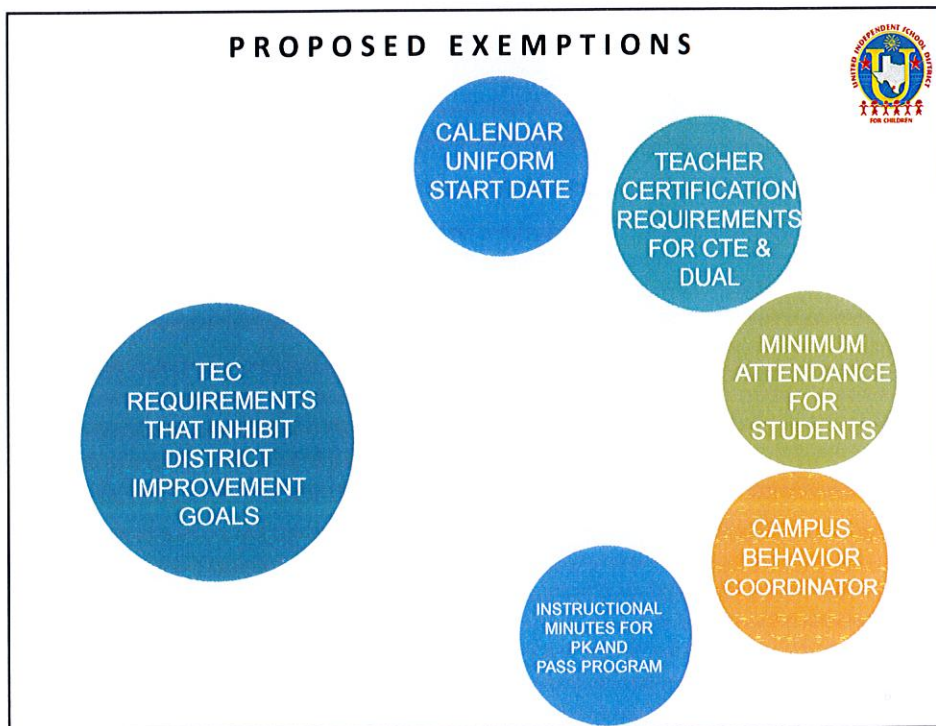
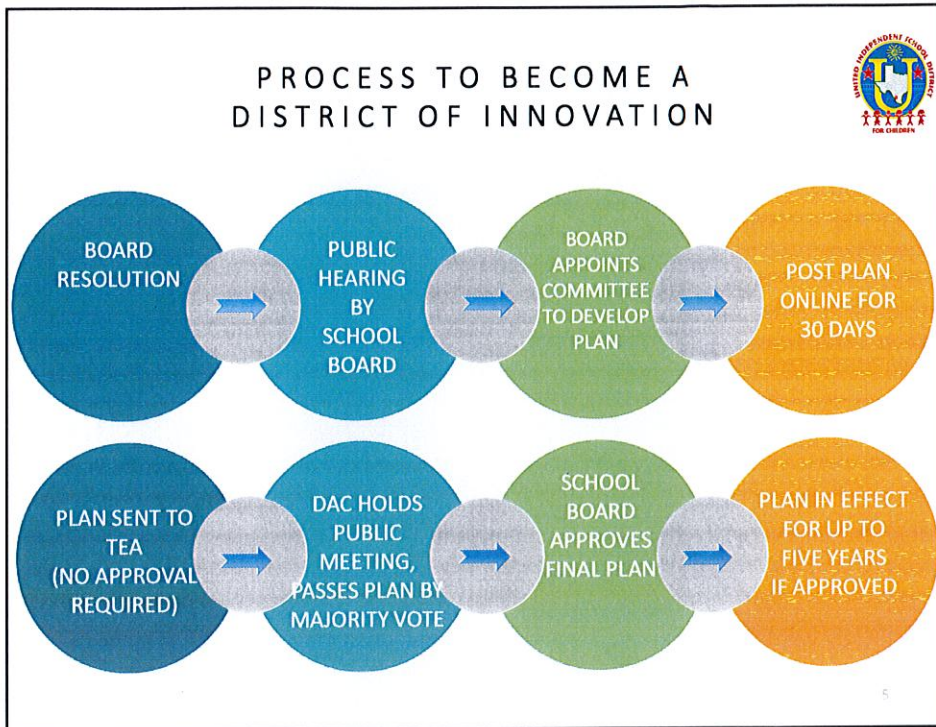
MOST RECENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RATING OF ACCEPTABLE



TO CONTINUE DESIGNATION AS DISTRICT OF INNOVATION:

- ACADEMIC ACCEPTABLE RATING NEEDED TO CONTINUE
- ACCEPTABLE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

When a Texas public school district becomes a District of Innovation they obtain exemptions from provisions of the Texas Education Code Chapter 12A requirements to allow **more flexibility and local control** for innovative programming for **FIVE years provided** they continue to meet the qualifications.



DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

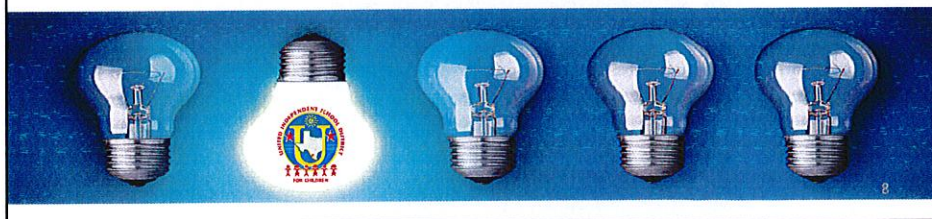
- 11/14/2016 Discuss process of proposing to become a District of Innovation by identifying provisions currently in place that could be exempted on this plan-Review with Leadership Team.
- 12/6/2016 Present information to School Board Instructional Committee regarding the intention to become District of Innovation, present resolution, and announce Public Hearing.
- 12/13/2016 Present District's intent of becoming a District of Innovation to campus and district administrators.
- 12/14/2016 At Regular Board Meeting: Resolution is presented for approval.



DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

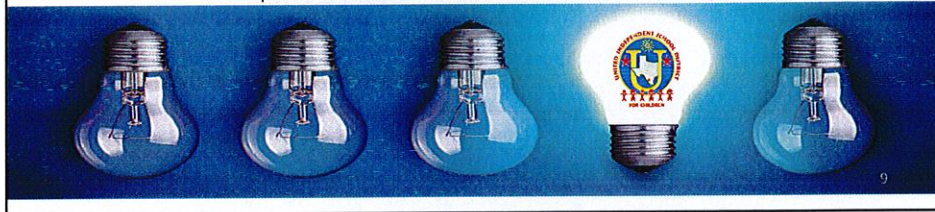
**** Should the board approve the resolution, the following timeline will ensue ****

- 12/14/2016 Hold Public Hearing to determine whether the district should develop an innovation plan. Board appoints District Advisory Committee (DAC) to develop plan with:
 1. Comprehensive educational program with innovations, and
 2. List of Education Code provisions to be exempt
- 1/5/2017 First Meeting with DAC. DAC identifies exemptions to include, reviews local district policies affected, and drafts Innovation Plan to present to the Board of Trustees.
- 1/17/2017 Second Meeting with DAC. DAC continues to identify exemptions to include, reviews local district policies affected, and continues to draft Innovation Plan to present to the Board of Trustees.

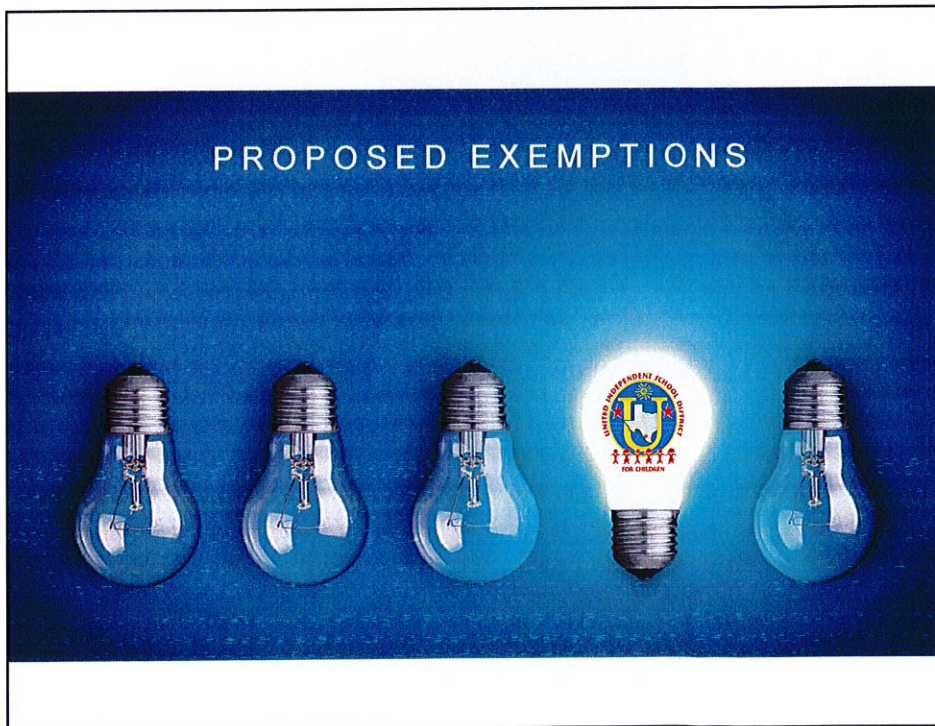


DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TIMELINE

- 1/24/2017 Send DAC the finalized plan for review.
- 1/25/2017 -1/30/2017 DAC Members will present final plan to campus personnel.
- 1/31/2017 Third Meeting with DAC. Present final Innovation Plan to DAC. DAC must vote for plan approval (majority vote needed to pass).
- 2/1/2017 Post Innovation Plan on district website for at least 30 days and notify TEA Commissioner. Post notice for Public Meeting.
- 03/22/2017 Hold Public Hearing & Present to Board for approval.
- 3/23/2017 If approved, District functions in accordance with plan and will be exempt from the Texas Education Code mandates noted in plan.



PROPOSED EXEMPTIONS



DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The District Advisory Committee (DAC) is comprised of:

- 50 Campus Personnel**
- 22 District Level Personnel**
- 6 Parents**
- 3 Community Members**

The DAC will be responsible for the creation, modification, presentation, and submission of the innovation plan for United ISD.

The DAC is responsible for writing a comprehensive plan aligned with district improvement plans and is to include the following elements:

- a) A Comprehensive Education Program**
- b) Texas Education Code provisions from which the district should be exempted from.**

11

EXEMPTION 1- CALENDAR

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 25.0811

A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

BENEFIT:

The earlier start date allows campus personnel and the district the much needed time to prepare for various state mandated events. Allows semesters to be balanced and the semester to conclude prior to Winter Break. In addition, spring semester will end prior to first day of summer school for institutions of higher education.



12

EXEMPTION 2- MINIMUM ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 25.092 MINIMUM ATTENDANCE FOR CLASS CREDIT OR FINAL GRADE

(a) Except as provided by this section, a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 may not be given credit or a final grade for a class unless the student is in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

BENEFIT:

This would allow the district flexibility in focusing efforts towards District/Campus Improvement Plans (i.e. facilitating ample resources to provide our students opportunities to meet graduation requirements).



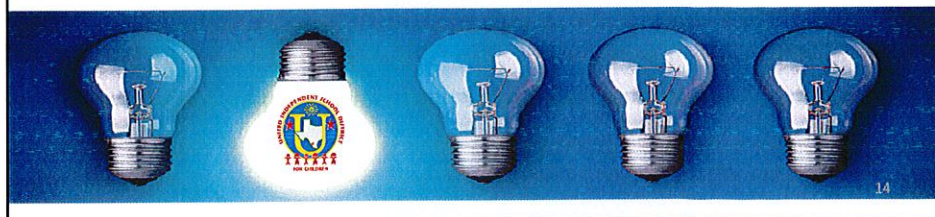
EXEMPTION 3- TEACHER CERTIFICATION FOR CTE & DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 25.003 TEACHER CERTIFICATIONS FOR CTE/DUAL CREDIT

House Bill 5 has added significant support for the need to expand college and career opportunities for students. However, this call for increased opportunities does not adequately accommodate the special challenges faced by school districts as they seek to find individuals with the education or work-related experience needed to teach students in specialized areas of instruction. (i.e. Agriculture, Engineering, Medical & Law Enforcement)

BENEFIT:

This will give us the flexibility of assigning highly qualified and trained personnel to positions that are difficult to staff or to provide additional dual enrollment courses.



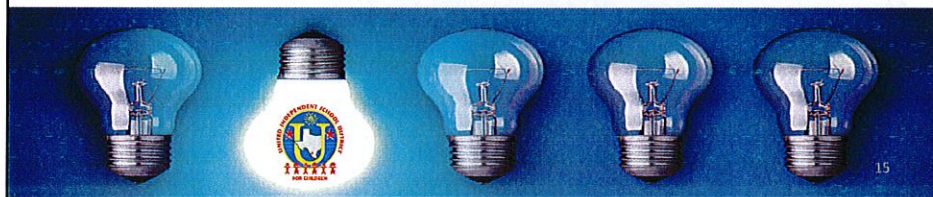
EXEMPTION 4- CAMPUS BEHAVIOR COORDINATOR

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 37.0012

A person at each campus must be designated to serve as the Campus Behavior Coordinator.

BENEFIT:

Campuses need the flexibility to have more than one person serving in this capacity. Assistant Principals at our campuses take on specific grade levels enabling them to develop a rapport with their students. They also assume the responsibility of behavior management.



EXEMPTION 5- INSTRUCTIONAL MINUTES for PK & PASS PROGRAM

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE SECTION 25.081

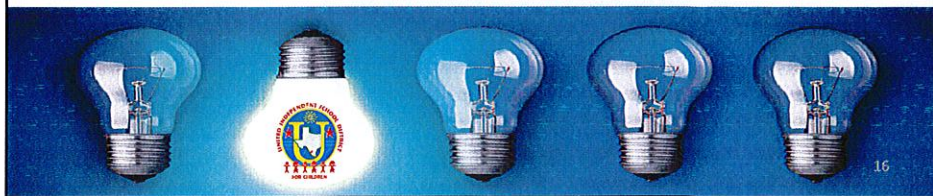
OPERATION OF SCHOOLS.

(a) Except as authorized under Subsection (b) of this section, Section 25.084, or Section 29.0821, for each school year each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes of instruction, including intermissions and recesses, for students.

(e) For purposes of this code, a reference to a day of instruction means 420 minutes of instruction.

BENEFIT:

Allows the District the flexibility to provide PK services to additional students that meet criteria in three hour classroom settings. As for the PASS Program, high school students with hardships will have the opportunity to meet graduation requirements through flexible schedule.



OVERALL BENEFITS FOR THE DISTRICT



Local Control: District determines which exemptions best suit local needs.



Flexibility: District has the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools.



Customization: District plan can be developed for a specific level school (i.e. only high schools).



Possible Funding Impact: Savings to District in the area of Dual Credit tuition.

17

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Once Innovative Plan is approved, any future amendments to the plan must follow the same adoption process.



Currently, over 100 districts have become Districts of Innovation (source TASB).



Additional Information may be found at:
<https://www.tasb.org/Home.aspx>

18