

**ROBSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AGENDA ACTION SHEET**

Date: March 30, 2022

Subject: Consider final approval of District of Innovation Plan 2022-2027

Administrator Responsible: Diana L. Silvas

Position: Deputy Superintendent

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

Information Only

Action Needed

B. Authority for this Action:

Local Policy \_\_\_\_\_

Law or Rule \_\_\_\_\_

C. Strategic Objective, Goal, or Need Addressed:

D. Summary: The District has been operating under the current District of Innovation for the last five years. The District has followed the required timeline to renew its DOI for 2022-2027. The attached letter and finalized plan will be forwarded to the Texas Education Agency.

E. Alternatives Considered:

F. Comments Received:

G. Administrative Recommendation: Final approval of the District of Innovation Plan 2022-2027.

H. Fiscal Impact and Cost:

I. Monitoring and Reporting Time Line:

## Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307(d)

### Innovation District

Please submit, on district letterhead, a letter to the commissioner of education stating the date that the board of trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District.

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- 1) Innovative Curriculum
- 2) Instructional Methods
- 3) Community Participation
- 4) Governance of Campuses
- 5) Parental Involvement
- 6) Modifications to the school day or year
- 7) Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding
- 8) Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
- 9) Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.

A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan. Please use the form below to check the statutes specifically identified in your district's local innovation plan as inhibiting a goal of the plan. Checking a specific statute does not necessarily indicate eligibility for an exemption from all subsections of the statute. The local innovation plan controls with regard to the specific exemptions adopted by a district. The form below provides a reporting mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirements of the statute. Entire sections of code may not be eligible for exemption and each district should consult its legal counsel in developing its innovation plan.

Exemptions claimed for an Innovation District apply only to the specific provision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) cited, which may or may not be governed by a separate legal requirement. The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement. Each district should consult its legal counsel to ensure adoption of necessary local policies to ensure compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of exemptions.

Term of Plan: April 17, 2022 to April 17, 2027

Plan applies to:  Entire District Robstown Independent School District  
 Campus (list) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 11 – School Districts**

**Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts**

- §11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board
- §11.162 School Uniforms

**Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making**

- §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process
- §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making
- §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making
- §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

**Chapter 21 – Educators**

**Subchapter A – General Provisions**

- §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts
- §21.003 Certification Required
- §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

**Subchapter B – Certification of Educators**

- §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.
- §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- §21.057 Parental Notification

**Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts**

**Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts**

**Subchapter E – Term Contracts**

**Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives**

- §21.352 Local Role
- §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance
- §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators
- §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

**Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits**

- §21.401 Minimum Service Required
- §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- §21.4021 Furloughs

- §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
- §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule
- §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
- §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
- §21.415 Employment Contracts
- Subchapter J – Staff Development**
- §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
- §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
- §21.458 Mentors

**Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers**

**Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits**

- §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

**Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance**

**Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance**

- §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- §25.0812 Last Day of School
- §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

**Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size**

- §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- §25.112 Class Size
- §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size

**Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order**

**Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management**

- §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- §37.002 Removal by Teacher

**Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management**

**Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts**

- §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- §44.043 Right To Work
- §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

**Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions**

- §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- §44.903 Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs in Instructional Facilities
- §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

**Chapter 45 – School District Funds**

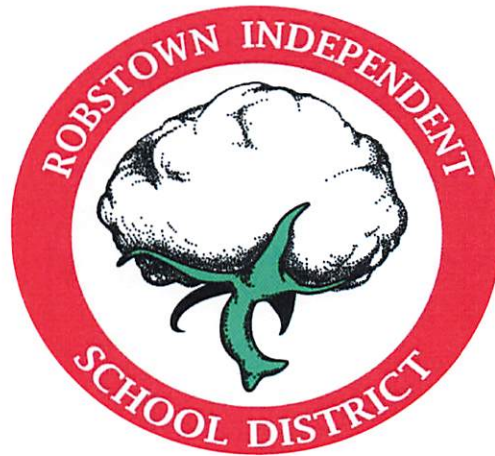
**Subchapter G – School District Depositories**

- §45.205 Term of Contract
- §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- §45.207 Award of Contract
- §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- §45.209 Investment of District Funds

**Other**

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan:

**DISTRICT OF  
INNOVATION PLAN**



**2022-2027**



## Robstown ISD District of Innovation Plan

### Introduction

[House Bill 1842](#), passed in the 84<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature, allows Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation (DOI). This title allows districts to exempt themselves from certain state-level regulations defined in the Texas Education Code.

### Plan Term

The term of the Robstown ISD District of Innovation Plan is for five years, beginning with the 2022 school year until the 2027 school year.

### DEIC/DOI Committee Members 2021-2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Connection to RISD</b>
<b>Dr. José Moreno</b>	<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>
<b>Diana L. Silvas</b>	<b>Deputy Superintendent</b>
<b>Vanessa Riggs</b>	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>
<b>Lorena Ceballos</b>	<b>Exec. Director of Teaching &amp; Learning</b>
<b>Pam Kwiatkowski</b>	<b>Director of Special Education</b>
<b>Eric Gonzalez</b>	<b>Director of Support Services</b>
<b>Benito Portillo</b>	<b>RECHS Assistant Principal</b>
<b>Beatrice Lopez</b>	<b>RECHS Teacher</b>
<b>Robert Silguero</b>	<b>RECHS Teacher</b>
<b>Anisa Chavera</b>	<b>Seale Jr. High Principal</b>

Spencer Wingert	Seale Jr. High Teacher
Erik Gallegos	Seale Jr. High Teacher
Patricia Erebia	San Pedro Elem. Assistant Principal
Ronaldo Escobar	San Pedro Elem. Teacher
Katherine Broomfield	San Pedro Elem. Teacher
Adan Botello	Lotspeich Elem. Assistant Principal
Ruben Sanchez	Lotspeich Elem. Teacher
Cori Jones	Lotspeich Elem. Teacher
Noemi Ortiz	Robert Driscoll Elem. Assistant Principal
Christina Rodriguez	Robert Driscoll Elem. Teacher
Priscilla Benavidez	Robert Driscoll Elem. Teacher
Danny Lozano	Salazar Crossroads Academy Teacher
Paula S. Rodriguez	Community Member
Ninfa Trevino	Business Member
Amie Tamez	Parent
Gabi Valderrama	Parent

## EXEMPTIONS REQUESTED

### 1. TEC §25.0811- First Day of Instruction

#### Statute:

TEC §25.0811 states that: "a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August."

#### Proposed Changes:

Robstown ISD would like the flexibility to change the school start date to better serve the needs of our students. Starting earlier would allow alignment with area college schedules and allow for additional instructional days before state assessments. The earlier start date would result in an earlier end date which would also provide students more days of summer intervention before their state-required retest opportunity. In the past, students may have had less than two weeks of summer accelerated instruction.



## **2. TEC §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade**

### **Statute:**

[TEC §25.092](#) states that: "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."

### **Proposed Changes:**

Many of our students demonstrate mastery of standards, but they lose credit due to attendance requirements under this statute. This rule has a significant impact on our secondary students. To better serve our alter- native campus and our ECHS campus, the district needs flexibility to award credit(s). This will increase student achievement and refocus students to take meaningful coursework instead of retaking courses based on standards they have already mastered. While there are significant concerns about raising student attendance, Robstown ISD believes that campuses need to have flexibility to determine if an exception should be made to the 90% attendance requirement. We propose that a campus based committee would help guide the implementation of this exemption.

## **3. TEC §21.003 Teacher Certification and TEC §21.053 Filing of Teacher Certification**

### **Statute:**

[TEC §21.003](#) states that: "A person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.

[TEC §21.053](#) requires that an individual's teaching certificate must be filed with the hiring district before the individual's contract is binding and prohibits a district from paying a non-certified individual for teaching or work done prior to the effective date of the issuance of a valid certificate.

### **Proposed Changes:**

Robstown ISD would like to have the flexibility to recruit non-certified teachers in strategic areas like Dual Credit Professors, Advanced Career and Technical Education, and other high need areas

where there is a teacher shortage. As we expand course offerings at all levels, we will need staffing with specific credentials to be able to teach classes for certification and college credit. These individuals may have the credentials to award college credit or administer required industry certifications; however, they may not be a certified teacher. Staffing flexibility will benefit our students and aid in the district's efforts to expand postsecondary opportunities for our students.

Robstown ISD would also like the flexibility to recruit teachers for high need areas that may not have the appropriate certifications. For example, if a potential teaching candidate has a degree in physics, but does not have a teaching certificate, we would like the flexibility for that candidate to teach physical science classes.

Robstown ISD seeks to offer many specialized courses to meet the needs and interests of our students. Many times the courses could be offered to interested teachers if they could teach classes outside their certification. This flexibility would allow interested teachers, who have a strong background, to effectively meet the instructional needs of the district. All exceptions would require the superintendent's approval.

Exemption from 21.003 and 21.053 provides maximum flexibility in hiring practices for school districts.

#### **4. Campus Behavior Coordinator TEC §37.0012**

##### **Statute:**

A person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator who is responsible for maintaining student discipline which includes notification to parents of in-school or out-of-school suspension or placement in an alternate education program.

##### **Proposed Changes:**

Exempting from this requirement and allowing shared responsibility of discipline among campus principals and assistant principals will minimize the loss of instructional time and ensure the safety of all students as well as provide increased opportunities to build relational capacity with parents and students. All campus administrators engage in comprehensive professional learning to support the implementation of the Robstown ISD Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct. Assigning existing professionals, the responsibility for maintaining discipline and for notifying parents of disciplinary removal and/or arrests is a much more cost effective means of fulfilling the duties of the campus behavior coordinator; however, the Local Innovation Plan Committee recognizes the importance of discipline oversight to ensure compliance and consistency.