

District of Innovation Plan

January 17, 2017

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the District of Innovation (DOI) Plan posted online at <http://www.dentonisd.org/doi>.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The District of Innovation Plan was presented at the December 12, 2016 school board meeting during a public hearing. The plan, approved unanimously by the District of Innovation Committee, has been posted 30 days as required by the

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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. (See <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.12A.htm>.) With legislation such as No Child Left Behind and the ever-expanding Texas Education Code, districts have had little decision-making authority at the local level to reflect the uniqueness of each community. To some extent, DOI legislation offers a window of opportunity for districts to take back some local decision-making. As much as anything, many districts are seeking the DOI designation to demonstrate the desire for local control free of overarching federal and state mandates.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

By approving the DOI Plan, Denton ISD can locally determine what is best for its students in the areas identified in the plan.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

By approving the DOI Plan, Denton ISD can locally determine what is best for its students in the areas identified in the plan.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Current board policies in the areas identified in the plan may need to be reviewed, revised, and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

A public hearing was held prior to the school board meeting on December 12, 2016. No public input was offered.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

OTHER COMMENTS:

Approving the DOI Plan will enable Denton ISD to locally determine what is best for its students in the areas identified in the DOI Plan.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

Superintendent recommends adopting the District of Innovation (DOI) plan as presented and posted online.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Chris Shade, Coordinator of District Improvement & Innovation

ATTACHMENT:

<http://www.dentonisd.org/doi>

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____