Innovation Districts
Overview

- Am I eligible?
- How do I become an Innovation District?
- Who should be involved?
- What flexibilities are available?
- What’s next?
Am I eligible?
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• Yes—if district academic accountability rating is met standard
• No—if final or preliminary rating is Improvement Required
How do I become an Innovation District?
How do I become an Innovation District?

• Process begins either with a board of trustees resolution or by signed petition from a majority of your district-level advisory committee
• Board conducts a public hearing to consider developing an innovation plan
• Within 30 days of public hearing Board must formally decided to pursue or decline the opportunity
We are moving forward!

• Board appoints an Innovation Plan committee to write a plan that:
  • provides for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which program may include:
    • (A) innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;
    • (B) modifications to the school day or year;
    • (C) provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding;
    • (D) accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
    • (E) any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees; and
  • identifies requirements imposed by this code that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan.
We have a plan...now what?

• Post on your district website for at least 30 days
• Board notifies the Commissioner of intent to adopt plan
• Your Chapter 11 district committee holds a public meeting to consider and approve the final version with a majority vote
• Board of Trustees adopted with two-thirds majority vote
But wait! There is one more thing...

Notify the Commissioner!!
What flexibilities are available?
Prohibited exemptions include (but not limited to):

- District Governance
- Curriculum
- State Assessment System
- State Accountability System
- School Finance
- Federal Requirement
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code
• Allowable exemptions include (but not limited to):

  • Educator Certification
  • Teacher Contracts
  • First and Last Day of School
  • Length of School Day
  • Class Size
  • Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements
What’s next?
Things to consider...

• Do you need to update local policies to correspond with new exemptions?
• Articulate the problem your plan is addressing.
• Is there a program you are trying to implement?
• Is there a big area of need that can be addressed by this flexibility?
• Involve all of your stakeholders, including those who do not always agree with you.
Learn from Others

- **Spring Branch ISD**—https://cms.springbranchisd.com/plan2012/Home

- **El Paso ISD**—https://www.episd.org/community/lic.php


- **TEA**—
  http://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/General_Information/Innovation/Districts_of_Innovation/