

# Innovation Districts

# Overview

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- **Am I eligible?**
- **How do I become an Innovation District?**
- **Who should be involved?**
- **What flexibilities are available?**
- **What role does TEA play?**

Am I eligible?

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# Am I eligible?

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- Yes—if district academic accountability rating is at least acceptable (“C”)
- No—if final or preliminary rating is “D” or “F”

# How do I become an Innovation District?

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# 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 decide to pursue or decline the opportunity

# We are moving forward!

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- 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?

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- 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 after adoption (email or U.S. mail)**

### **Include:**

- Link to adopted plan (no longer than 15 days from the date of adoption)
- Exemptions checklist (Figure 19 TAC §102.1307(d))

# Exemptions checklist

(Figure 19 TAC §102.1307(d))

<b>Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order</b> <b>Subchapter A – Alternative Dispute Resolution</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §37.0012 Designation of Mediator <input type="checkbox"/> §37.002 Removal of Mediator	<input type="checkbox"/> §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule <input type="checkbox"/> §21.4031 Professional Staff Salary Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> §21.4032 Reduction of Professional Staff Salary <input type="checkbox"/> §21.404 Planning and Management of Professional Staff Salary Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> §21.405 Duty-Free Leave <input type="checkbox"/> §21.406 Denial of Compensation Prohibited <input type="checkbox"/> §21.407 Requiring of Organizations: Political Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> §21.408 Right To Join or Not Join <input type="checkbox"/> §21.409 Leave Of Absence <input type="checkbox"/> §21.415 Employment of Professional Staff	<b>Term of Plan:</b> _____ <b>Plan applies to:</b> <input type="radio"/> Entire District <input type="radio"/> Campus (list) _____ <input type="radio"/> Other (please describe) _____
<b>Chapter 44 – Fiscal Management</b> <b>Subchapter B – Purchasing</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §44.031 Purchasing <input type="checkbox"/> §44.0331 Management of Purchasing <input type="checkbox"/> §44.0352 Competitive Bidding <input type="checkbox"/> §44.042 Preference <input type="checkbox"/> §44.043 Right To Buy <input type="checkbox"/> §44.047 Purchasing <b>Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §44.901 Energy <input type="checkbox"/> §44.902 Long-Rate <input type="checkbox"/> §44.903 Energy-Related <input type="checkbox"/> §44.908 Expenditures	<b>Chapter 22 – School District Employment</b> <b>Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Compensation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §22.001 Salary Deductions <input type="checkbox"/> §22.002 Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> §22.003 Minimum Pay <input type="checkbox"/> §22.006 Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> §22.007 Incentives for Performance <input type="checkbox"/> §22.011 Requiring of Organizations: Political Organizations	<b>Chapter 11 – School Districts</b> <b>Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §11.1511 (b)(5). (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board <input type="checkbox"/> §11.162 School Uniforms <b>Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process <input type="checkbox"/> §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making <input type="checkbox"/> §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making <input type="checkbox"/> §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review
<b>Chapter 45 – School District Information</b> <b>Subchapter G – School Information</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §45.205 Term of Contract <input type="checkbox"/> §45.206 Bid or Offer <input type="checkbox"/> §45.207 Award of Contract <input type="checkbox"/> §45.208 Deposit <input type="checkbox"/> §45.209 Investment	<b>Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Retention</b> <b>Subchapter C – Operation of Schools</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §25.0811 First Day of School <input type="checkbox"/> §25.0812 Last Day of School <input type="checkbox"/> §25.083 School Day <input type="checkbox"/> §25.092 Minimum Attendance <b>Subchapter D – Student/Teacher</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratio <input type="checkbox"/> §25.112 Class Size <input type="checkbox"/> §25.113 Notice of Closure <input type="checkbox"/> §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratio	<b>Chapter 21 – Educators</b> <b>Subchapter A – General Provisions</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> §21.003 Certification Required <input type="checkbox"/> §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void <b>Subchapter B – Certification of Educators</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships. <input type="checkbox"/> §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates <input type="checkbox"/> §21.057 Parental Notification <b>Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts</b> <b>Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts</b> <b>Subchapter E – Term Contracts</b> <b>Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §21.352 Local Role <input type="checkbox"/> §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance <input type="checkbox"/> §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals <b>Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits</b> <input type="checkbox"/> §21.401 Minimum Service Required <input type="checkbox"/> §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff <input type="checkbox"/> §21.4021 Furloughs
<b>Other</b> Please list any additional exemptions: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>		

# What flexibilities are available?

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# Prohibited exemptions include (but not limited to):

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- District Governance
- Curriculum
- State Assessment System
- State Accountability System
- School Finance
- Federal Requirement
- A state or federal requirements applicable to open-enrollment charter schools
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code

See: TEC §12A.004 & TAC §102.1309

## 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

\*Length of School Day requirements under TEC §25.081(e) [420 minutes] and §25.082(a) [7 hours] were repealed in the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

# Things to consider...

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- 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.

What role does TEA play?

## Does the Commissioner approve a DoI plan?

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- No. The agency does not have the authority to approve or disapprove plans.

## Can the DoI designation be revoked?

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- The Commissioner may revoke or have the district amend the plan after two consecutive years of unacceptable academic or FIRST ratings.
- The Commissioner must revoke after three consecutive years of the unacceptable academic or FIRST ratings.



# Learn from Others

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- **Spring Branch ISD**—<https://www.springbranchisd.com/about/our-goal/strategicplan/2017-22-plan-development-clone/district-of-innovation>
- **El Paso ISD**—<https://www.episd.org/Page/542>
- **TASB**—<https://www.tasb.org/services/legal-services/tasb-school-law-resource/governance/districts-of-innovation.aspx>
- **TEA**—[https://tea.texas.gov/Texas\\_Schools/District\\_Initiatives/Districts\\_of\\_Innovation/](https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/District_Initiatives/Districts_of_Innovation/)