Orange Grove Independent School District

District of Innovation

Background

House Bill 1842, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2015, provides public school districts an opportunity to pursue the designation of District of Innovation. This designation allows districts to modify state requirements affording more flexibility and local control in order to better serve their student populations.

Under House Bill 1842, public school districts can identify requirements by the Texas Education Code that may restrict or inhibit components of a plan developed by the district to serve its student body. Districts are not exempt from statutes to include curriculum, graduation requirements, or academic and financial accountability.

Should OGISD's Board of Trustees pursue the designation and ultimately approve a District of Innovation Plan, implementation of the plan will begin with the 2019-2020 school year, continuing for a period not to exceed five years. District of Innovation plans may address various provisions of the Texas Education Code as allowed in statute. Examples include:

1. Site-based Decision-making Process
2. Uniform School Start Date
3. Minimum Minutes of Instruction and Length of School Day
4. Class Size Ratio
5. 90% Attendance Rule
6. Student Discipline
7. Teacher Certifications
8. Teacher Contracts

A DOI plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed given that procedural steps are followed.

District of Innovation Committee

Dr. Randy Hoyer, Superintendent	Dana Hinze, Teacher, Elementary School
Ernest Henderson, Central Office	Eddie Ortiz, Teacher, Intermediate School
Debra Warren, Counselor, Junior High School	Karen Kinkler, Teacher, Junior High School
Ruben Cantu, District Diagnostician	Jeri Coker, Teacher, Junior High School
Stephanie Mata, Teacher, Primary School	Dalayna Tunchez, Teacher, High School
Andrea Pierce, Teacher, Primary School	Laura Adams, Teacher, High School

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER DESIGNATION AS DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

WHEREAS Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the district; and

WHEREAS the Orange Grove Independent School District's most recent performance rating under Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Orange Grove Independent School District by adoption of this resolution initiates the process under Education Code Chapter 12A to become a District of Innovation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after this resolution is signed by the Board, a public hearing shall be held within 30 days to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation and that within 30 days of the public hearing the Board of Trustees of Orange Grove Independent School District shall appoint an innovation plan committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designation as a district of innovation.

Adopted this 21st day of January, 2019, by the Board of Trustees.

Presiding Officer

Secretary

Uniform School Start Date

Statute: TEC 25.0811 – A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August

Proposed – OGISD seeks flexibility from current statute in order to:

Balance the instructional time per semester
Provide graduates summer opportunities to attend institutions of higher learning
Build a school calendar on an annual basis that better fits the needs of the District

Teacher Certification

Statute: TEC 21.003 – Having to do with appropriate certification for employment by a school district; 21.053a – Having to do with the presentation and filing of certification prior to a contract becoming binding; 21.053b – Educators not holding a valid certificate may not be paid for teaching or work done before the issuance of a valid certificate.

Proposed – OGISD seeks exemption from 21.003 and 21.053 in order to:

Establish local qualification requirements for courses in the high-need areas of dual credit, career and technical, foreign languages, and District Alternative Educational Placement (DAEP)

Prevent the cycle of substitutes teaching courses without content expertise

Probationary Contracts

Statute: TEC 21.102(b) – the probationary period may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the district.

Proposed – OGISD seeks exemption from 21.102(b):

A one-year probationary period is not sufficient to evaluate a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom because contract renewal timelines occur prior to the completion of the full evaluation cycle. With this exemption, all contract employees will be subject to the probationary period set out in TEC 21.102(c) which will grant the District more time to assess an employee's performance.

Minimum Service Required

Statute: TEC 21.401(a) - A contract between a school district and an educator must be for a minimum of 10 months' service; (b) An educator employed under a 10-month contract must provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Proposed – OGISD seeks exemption from 21.401 (a,b):

In order to provide flexibility on an annual basis in the number of contractual days for certified employees without a reduction in salary. The flexibility sought by the District is based on the needs of the District as it pertains primarily to the development of the instructional calendar for students and staff.

Timeline for District of Innovation Designation

January 21, 2019	OGISD Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution initiating the District of Innovation Process
January 21, 2019	Public Hearing held by OGISD Board of Trustees to consider whether the District should develop an innovation plan Trustees appoint an advisory committee (District Improvement Committee) to develop the plan
February 6, 2019	District of Innovation Committee meets to develop innovation plan
February 7, 2019	Plan posted to OGISD Website for 30 days DOI plan sent to Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency for the purpose of notification
March 20, 2019	Public Meeting – presentation and vote on the final DOI plan by the DOI committee (requires majority vote)
March 25, 2019	Final DOI plan presented to Board of Trustees for approval (requires 2/3 vote)
April 1, 2019	Committee notifies Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency of Board approval of the DOI plan