

District of Innovation

By Melissa Kates

What is a District of Innovation?

Gives school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open-enrollment charter schools

How does Duncanville ISD become a District of Innovation (DOI)?

STEP ONE:

The Board:

- Passes a Resolution,
- Conducts a public hearing to consider developing an innovation plan,
- Votes to pursue becoming a DOI, and
- Appoints a Committee to develop the DOI Plan.

STEP TWO:

The District of Innovation Committee:

- **Develops the DOI Plan,**
- **Identifies what portions of the Education Code that will be exempted by the plan,**
- **Brings the DOI Plan to the Board.**

STEP THREE:

- **DOI Plan posted on the district website for at least 30 days,**
- **The Board notifies the Commissioner of intent to adopt a plan, and**
- **The Committee holds a public meeting to consider and approve the final version with a majority vote.**

STEP FOUR:

- **The Board of Trustees votes on the DOI Plan at a Board meeting,**
- **The Board must adopt the DOI Plan with two-thirds majority vote, and**
- **Notify the Commissioner of the Adopted DOI Plan.**



What flexibilities are available under an Innovation Plan?

Allowable Exemptions...

- **Educator Certification**
- **Teacher Contracts**
- **First and Last Day of School**
- **Length of School Day**
- **Class Size**
- **Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator**
- **Certain Purchasing and Contract Requirements**

Prohibited Exemptions...

- **District Governance**
- **Curriculum**
- **State Assessment System**
- **State Accountability System**
- **School Finance**
- **Federal Requirement**
- **Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code**

Things to consider...

- **More flexibility with blended learning so can utilize more online learning**
- **With beginning school earlier, will have the opportunity to have more balance in instructional days during both semesters**
- **With adjusting the teacher certification requirements, can hire teachers for CTE classes that are master plumbers, welders, etc...**

Timeline:

- February:** Begin meeting with various teachers, staff, parents and community member to discuss possible options for the DOI
- March 20th:** Board will vote on resolution; hold public hearing on a District of Innovation; appoint committee to develop innovation plan
- March 23rd:** Present DOI to DAP Committee and begin to develop plan
- March-April:** Continue developing plan with the Committee
- April 8th:** Post Plan on Duncanville ISD Website
- By May 8th:** Committee will hold a public meeting and vote on Plan
- May 8th:** Board will vote on whether to adopt District of Innovation Plan; Plan is effective on date of passage.

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QUESTIONS?

