

Deweyville

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Local Innovation Plan 2018-2023

HB 1842, of the 84th Legislative Session, allows Texas districts to qualify as a District of Innovation. Districts of Innovation are able to gain local control of certain operations that are currently under the control of the Texas Education Agency.

**RESOLUTION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF EXPLORING THE
OPTION OF DESIGNATING DEWEYVILLE ISD AS A
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 36.054 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 Deweyville Independent School District's most recent performance rating under Education Code 36.054 reflects at least acceptable performance,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Deweyville 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 to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation and that after the public hearing the Board of Trustees of Deweyville Independent School District shall appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designation as a district of innovation.

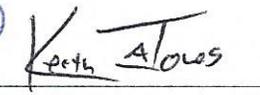
Adopted this 26th day of February, 2018, by the Board of Trustees.



T.J. Hardin
President



Julie Lavergne
Secretary



Keith A. Jones
Superintendent

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

February 26, 2018 – Board Signed Resolution to become DOI

March 15, 2018 – Committee met to discuss DOI, decided to postpone pending IR status.

May 29, 2018 – Public hearing held to discuss DOI and to let the public know we are waiting for IR results.

August 14, 2018 – Met Standard at district and both campuses. Resumed DOI process.

August 20, 2018 – Public Hearing to Discuss DOI

August 20, 2018 - DOI Committee Approved by Board

August 24, 2018 – DOI Committee Meeting, Review Plan

August 24, 2018 – Plan Posted to DISD website

September 24, 2018 - DOI Committee met to finalize and vote on DOI plan

September 24, 2018 - Public meeting held, DISD Board approved plan by a unanimous vote

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

COMMITTEE

Chair

Keith Jones

Coordinator

Leisha Johnson

Campus Based Staff

Levi Moore

Vicki Long

Brandi Zirlott

Brian East

Janae Welch

Carmen Purghan

Lisa Mcglothin

Parents

Ashleigh Stanley

Hattie Jenkins

Michelle Hatcher

Belva Linscomb

Business Members

Jeff Sheppard & Reghan Berry

Joann Burke

Community Members

Brad Bickham

Deana Gibson

Stephen Gibson

DISD INNOVATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from certain mandates including the uniform school start date and required minutes of instruction.
- **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- **Autonomy:** Districts must submit a district of innovation plan to the commissioner of education, but approval is not required.

On February 26, 2018, the Deweyville Independent School District Board of Trustees passed a Resolution to explore the development of a District of Innovation Plan to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives. The adoption of this plan seeks to increase the District's flexibility in order to improve educational outcome for the benefit of students and the community. On August 20, 2018, the Board appointed a 19-member District of Innovation Committee comprised of diverse leaders representing a cross-section of the District's stakeholders including teachers, principals, parents, community members, and administrators. The Committee met on August 24, 2018, to conduct a public forum and accept input on the proposed District of Innovation Plan. Based on the input received from the community, the Committee made adjustments to the plan, and then approved the plan by a unanimous vote. The DISD Board of Trustees will consider the Plan at its meeting on September 24, 2018.

TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning September 24, 2018 and ending September 24, 2023, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If, within the term of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of HB 1842, the Board will appoint a new Committee to consider and propose additional exemptions in the form of an amendment to the Plan. Any amendment adopted by the Board will not extend the term of this Plan. The District may not implement two separate plans at any one time.

AREAS OF INNOVATION

With regard to each area of innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provision, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.

Teacher Certification

Exemption from: TEC §21.003; TEC §21.053; TEC §21.057

Relevant Board Policies: DBA LEGAL/LOCAL; DK LEGAL/LOCAL

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

TEC 21.003 states that a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.

In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must request emergency certification from the Texas Education Agency and/or State Board for Educator Certification. This system is burdensome and does not take into account the unique financial and/or instructional needs of the district.

TEC 21.053 requires a teacher to present his or her certificate to the District before their employment contract will be binding, and prohibits the District from paying an educator for teaching if the educator does not hold a valid certificate at the time.

TEC 21.057 requires that the District provide written notice to parents if an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned to a classroom for more than 20 consecutive instructional days.

Innovation Strategies

a. The District will maintain its current expectations for employee certification. The District will make every attempt to hire individuals with appropriate certification for the position in question; however, where that is not reasonably possible, the District will have the flexibility to hire individuals who are knowledgeable in the area and equipped to effectively perform the duties of the position in question.

b. For grades 5-12, the campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for local certification that will allow an already certified teacher to teach a course or grade level for which he/she is not certified. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials or life experience the teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject.

c. An individual with experience in the content of an elective course could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or elective course through a local teaching certificate. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials or life experience the teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. Examples: an experienced homebuilder teaching a building trade's course, a licensed corrections officer teaching a criminal justice course, or a retired CPA teaching an entry level accounting course.

d. Whenever possible, instructional planning for the uncertified teacher's Course will be created in partnership with certified teachers in the same Field. Uncertified teachers will be provided teacher mentoring, increased observations and feedback, professional development or instructional resources, or other supports.

e. The superintendent will report this action to the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting following the assignment.

f. Teacher certification waiver requests, state permit applications, or other paperwork will not be submitted to the Texas Education Agency. The District will ensure that all individuals assigned to teach have the knowledge and resources necessary to be successful.