



Empowering Today to Excel Tomorrow

District of Innovation

HEB ISD Overview



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Overview

HB 1842 included language allowing school districts with **acceptable academic accountability ratings** to be designated as "districts of innovation."

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Benefits

- Allows districts to plan to improve students' educational outcomes with local input and less regulatory control from Austin.
- Can serve as a way to market district schools to parents and students that is competitive with private and charter schools.
- Could be a mechanism for districts to access some programmatic and administrative freedoms that charters currently have.
- May facilitate and support efforts to reform some of the lowest-performing campuses in school districts.



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District of Innovation Plan Requirements

- The plan must identify the sections of the Texas Education Code from which the district exempts.
- HB 1842 prohibits exemptions from certain sections of the Texas Education Code:
 - a state or federal requirement applicable to an open-enrollment charter school operating under Subchapter D, Chapter 12 (examples include PEIMS reporting, special education, retention of student records, use of public funds, etc.);
 - Subchapters A, C, D, and E under Chapter 11 that pertain to accreditation, responsibilities of a school district and board of trustees
 - state curriculum and graduation requirements adopted under Chapter 28; and
 - academic and financial accountability and sanctions under Chapter 39.



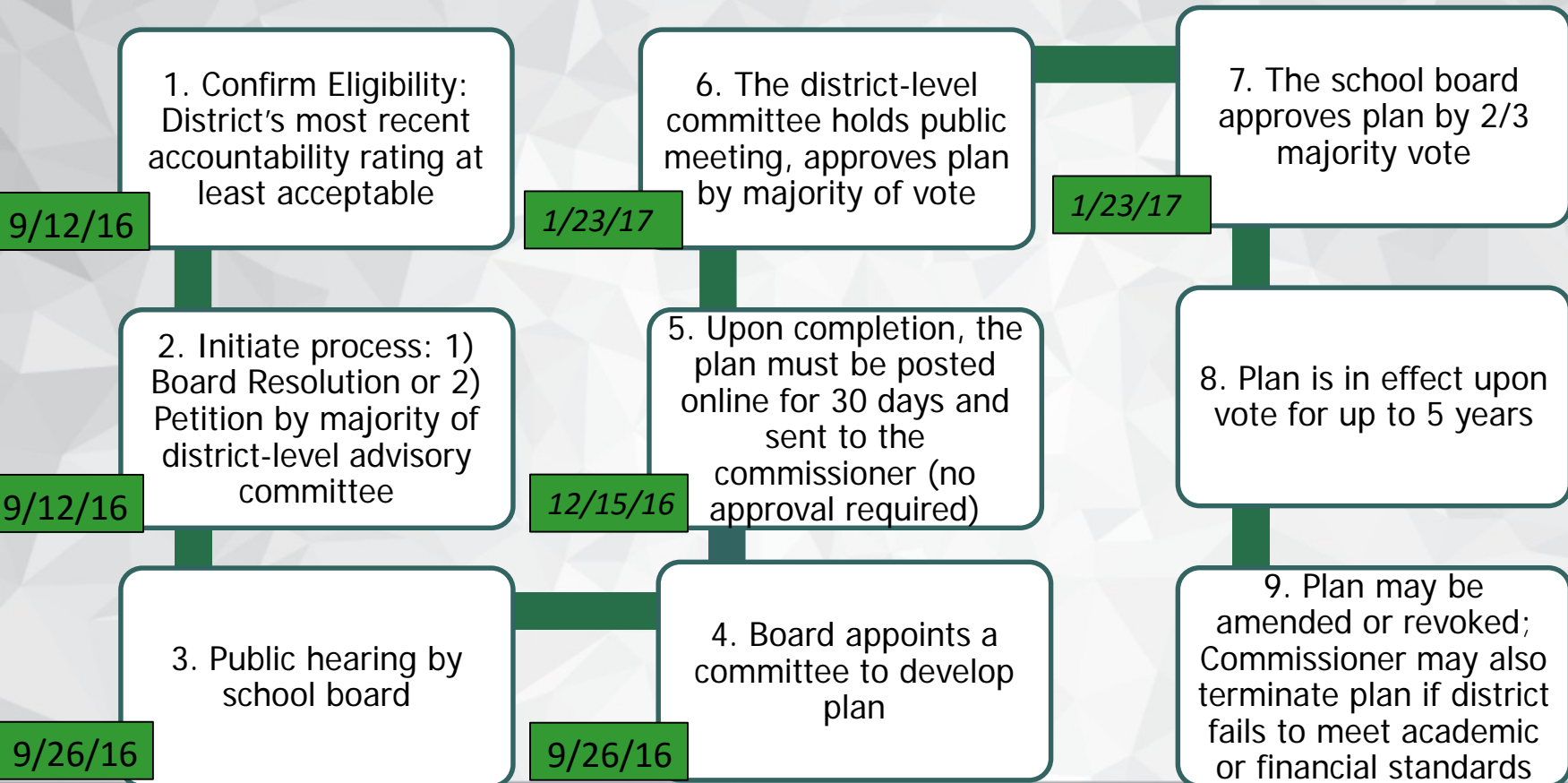
District of Innovation Plan Requirements

- HB 1842 essentially gives districts the operational flexibility of a charter school.
- The following are noteworthy sections of the Texas Education Code not applicable to charter schools that should be examined as possible areas to include in a district's innovation plan:
 - School Admission and Attendance Policies, including school start date and 22:1 requirement
 - Chapter 37 of the Education Code, which deals with student discipline



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Process to Become a District of Innovation





HEB ISD - District of Innovation Approach

Education Code	Requirement	Rationale
Ch. 25 Subchapter C §25.0811 First Day of Instruction	A school district may not begin instruction before the 4 th Monday in August	Restricting the start date to the 4 th Monday in August operationally challenges HEB ISD because the 75,600 instructional minutes must be calendared between 4 th Monday in August and generally May 28 due to constraints of the venue contract for HS graduation.
Ch. 37 Subchapter A §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator	A person at each campus must be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator.	Strict interpretation of the language implies only one person can be designated instead of a minimum of at least one person be named. On a high school or junior high campus having only one person, even with the back-up of the principal, is not feasible, responsible or practical given the number of students being served.



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HEB ISD - District of Innovation Approach

Education Code	Requirement	Rationale
Ch. 25 Subchapter D §25.112 Class Size and §25.113 Notice of Class Size.	1. the district may not enroll more than 22 students in K-4 grade levels and 2 without an approved waiver and 2. If waiver is granted, written notice shall be provided to parents / parental guardians detailing the class, the number of children in the class	We submit annual waivers for class size that are continuously approved by TEA. The need to continue to apply for waivers is not expected to change near term as we anticipate being at or above some grade level capacities in K-4. The District will continue to manage to established class size thresholds (K = 23, Grades 1-4=24).
Ch. 21 Subchapter C §21.102	Probationary Contracts for first year teachers cannot exceed a maximum of three years, and for teachers new to district that have been in public education for at least 5 of last 8 years cannot exceed a maximum of one year.	To enhance our ability to retain only high quality teachers, teachers who have been in education 5 of the last 8 years, but are new to HEB ISD to be on a one-year probationary contract with a district option to recommend a second probationary year to be approved by the Board of Trustees



HEB ISD - District of Innovation Approach

Education Code	Requirement	Rationale
Ch. 45 Subchapter G. School District Depositories Sec. §45.205 through 45.209	Districts are required to bid depository banking services at minimum every 6 years	There are a limited number of banking entities with the interest in serving the district's financial needs. In addition, changing banks requires a burdensome administrative effort. The district monitors the availability of services and the pricing. Newer banking regulations are making local-government-entity business unattractive to banks, so the options are expected to remain limited in the near future.
Ch. 44 Subchapter A- School District Fiscal Management Sec. §44.903	Districts are required to purchase certain types of light bulbs for any instructional facility (property used predominately for teaching curriculum)	While district would still consider energy efficiency in purchases of all bulbs, removal of the mandate provides additional flexibility in operations, particularly for older facilities where the mandate would require full replacement of entire light fixtures or systems.



HEB ISD - District of Innovation Approach

Education Code	Requirement	Rationale
Ch. 21 Subchapter A. General Provisions Sec. §21.003	A person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued by the appropriate state agency.	The current state teacher certification requirements inhibit the District's ability to hire teachers for potentially hard-to-fill, career and technical/STEM (applied Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) courses. In order to enable more students to obtain the educational benefit of such course offerings, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements and its own requirements for training of professionals and experts to teach such courses in lieu of the requirements set forth in law.



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HEB ISD - Timeline

August

- Start official process with overview to Board

September

- Send district-wide communication and notify teacher organizations
- Obtain Board Resolution
- Hold Public Hearing
- Appoint Committee

October – December

- Hold Committee Meetings to develop plan
- Post plan online and notify Commissioner

January

- Hold Public Hearing for Committee to vote on Plan
- Obtain Board approval of Plan