

2022-2027

# Local Innovation Plan



# INNOVATE



Brazosport Independent School District





## **BRAZOSPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN**

**May 16, 2022 - May 16, 2027**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The mission of the Brazosport Independent School District is to graduate every student to be future ready. To accomplish this mission, the district implemented a strategic plan to move classrooms away from an outdated 20th century factory model to an innovative, collaborative and cutting edge 21st century learning experience. This strategic move is aligned with the district's beliefs. In BISD,

- We believe that every child deserves the highest quality education.
- We believe everyone is accountable for student success.
- We believe students find purpose through connections with their schools.
- We believe collaborative partnerships are vital to strengthening the learning experience.
- We value and support the contributions of our staff.

Our vision is to set the standard for educational excellence. Our district goals align with this vision. We are dedicated and committed to:

- Providing a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure that every student is future ready;
- Having learning environments that are safe and conducive to learning;
- Promoting, communicating and marketing the accomplishments, achievements and successes of students and staff;
- Exercising fiscal responsibility to ensure financial strength and providing the resources to equip and maintain quality facilities and educational programming; and
- Recruiting, developing and retaining highly effective staff.

With the passage of House Bill 1842 in the spring of 2015 by the 84th Legislative Session, and with the subsequent creation of Texas Education Code §12A, traditional independent school districts have increased flexibility through statute exemptions typically reserved for open enrollment charter schools by becoming a district of innovation. The Brazosport Independent School District recognized an opportunity to fulfill the district mission and improve student outcomes by taking that step in May of 2017. The Brazosport ISD Board of Trustees is renewing the District of Innovation status for another five years with this revised plan that reduced the number of innovations from nine to five. Those innovations the district continued include:

- Teacher Certifications
- Teacher Contracts
- Instructional Calendar
- Discipline



- Optional Flexible School Day Program
- Class-Size Exceptions

### **INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE**

On January 21, 2022, the district notified the Texas Education Agency of its intention to renew their Local Innovation Plan and their District of Innovation status. From January 24 through March 11, the Superintendent's Cabinet-level supervisors met with their respective departments to review the original innovations and to consider any other areas where the district could innovate. The Superintendent's Cabinet met on March 21 to review the results of those reviews and the decision was made to not add any additional innovations, to eliminate some as obsolete, to continue to innovate in the areas of Teacher Certifications and Teacher Contracts as before, and to continue to innovate in the areas of Instructional Calendar, Class-Size Exceptions and Student Discipline also as before, but with minor revisions. The District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) convened on March 31, 2022, and voted 23-0 to approve the final plan. On April 1, the plan was posted on the district website for review and public comment, where it remained through May 9. Also on April 1, the district posted a news release announcing the approval of the plan by the DEIC and inviting the public to view the plan on the district's website and to provide comments. On April 25, the Board of Trustees took action to declare their intent to vote on the adoption of the revised Local Innovation Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 16. The next day, the district notified the Commissioner's office of the Board's intent to vote on adoption. The Board voted by greater than a 2/3 margin to adopt the revised Local Innovation Plan, and the next day, the district notified the Commissioner of Education of the approval of the plan in writing, and included the list of Texas Education Code exemptions as an attachment. That same day, the district's District of Innovation webpage was updated to include a copy of the board adopted Local Innovation Plan.

### **PROVISION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

The Brazosport Independent School District is located in the heart of a major petro-chemical complex. The district faces many opportunities and challenges to providing a comprehensive educational program that call for innovated approaches and flexibility in practice. For example, the need for high school graduates with industry certifications is growing and certainly provides an opportunity for students. Finding certified teachers in specialized Career and Technical Education fields, however, is challenging. Not only that, but being unable to hire field expert teachers who are not certified and who do not meet the State Board of Education allowances for teachers entering the field from business and industry means that classes that are needed by students who are on a CTE pathway but no teacher is available cannot be offered. Another challenge the district faces in providing a comprehensive educational program is issuing a Chapter 21 contract for the remainder of the school year to certified teachers who were hired after the first day of instruction. The district needs the flexibility to make necessary changes to protect student learning at any time throughout that first year. The limitation to one year on a probationary contract for teachers who have been employed for at least five of their first eight years also creates a challenge and the district will use teacher contract flexibility to expand the number of probationary years up to three years before offering them a non-probationary Chapter 21 contract.

To maximize the impact of the district's comprehensive educational program, the district prioritizes keeping students on their home campuses and teachers with their instructional teams after the beginning of the school year. The district will use the flexibility of allowing class sizes to exceed 22:1, but not exceeding 24:1, for a period of 35 days prior to seeking an exception form the Board of Trustees to allow campuses to keep



new enrollees on their home campus, thus providing the students with the stability that comes from not changing campuses. In Brazosport ISD, classes that exceed the 22:1 student to teacher ratio are rare, and when they do occur, they are typically isolated to a single grade level on a campus. Furthermore, seldom does a grade level exceed the 22:1 average for all classrooms for the full 35 days. Keeping PK-4 students enrolled on their home campus supports the consistency and stability needed for them to thrive in learning.

Having to start school on the fourth Monday in August creates challenges to a comprehensive educational program for the substantial number of students at the two district high schools who take dual credit courses at the local Community College since the start and end dates for each semester do not align. Additionally, the fourth Monday start of school causes a one week crossover in June when dual credit student have to miss the first classes of the summer term at the college to take final exams at their high schools. Having the flexibility to start school prior to the fourth Monday in August also provides the district with the flexibility to balance the lengths of the first and second semesters. Finally, having the ability to move the start of school date around provides flexibility to the district calendar team that also includes outside stakeholders, to create an annual instructional calendar that supports the comprehensive educational program of the district.

Brazosport ISD operates a full-day (more than 75,600 minutes annually) dropout recovery program for grades 9-12. The program is part of the district's comprehensive educational program and offers flexible learning opportunities to the district's most at-risk students. The program offers the flexibility for students to attend full- or half-time depending on their needs. The program also offers students the opportunity to attend for two hours in the evening, or to come for less than a half-day during the school day. The district currently uses the flexibilities afforded through the Flexible Day exemption to provide these options. The Flexible Day innovation was revised to better align with the Optional Flexible School Day Program. The revised innovation still provides the option to offer at-risk students greater flexibility with scheduling, but it also added an exemption from having to apply for the OFSDP annually and also included the provision that attendance recording will be done according to the OFSDP guidance in the most recently approved Student Attendance Accounting Handbook.

Part of the district's comprehensive educational program is an emphasis on positive behavior, high character and positive relationships that support classroom environments that are safe and conducive to learning. Despite the myriad supports the district and campuses have in place to support behaviorally challenged students, not having a third option, the flexibility to discretionarily expel a student to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) who is persistently misbehaving at both their home campus and the Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP), creates challenges when those students return to the classroom and begin to disrupt the learning of other students. By innovating in this area, the district gains the flexibility to expel those students to the JJAEP and to ensure that classrooms remain safe and conducive to learning.

## **INNOVATIONS**

To address the challenge to recruiting and hiring people from business and industry who can teach students in the Career and Technical Education and special enrichment classes, the district is including an innovation in teacher certification that will provide the district with the flexibility to hire experts in industry fields who are not certified teachers. Additionally, the district recognizes that with additional teacher certification flexibilities, it is possible to hire experts in non-industrial fields to provide additional enrichment classes to students that will better prepare them to enter college and the workforce.





In addition to the flexibility needed in teacher certifications, the district is also seeking flexibility in teacher contracts. Prior to the approval of the Teacher Contract innovation in 2017, it was Brazosport ISD's practice to issue a Chapter 21 contract for the remainder of the school year to certified teachers who were hired after the first day of instruction. With the approval of the innovation, the district was able to fill the high-need CTE teacher needs and to hire teachers after the first day of instruction without having to put them on a Chapter 21 contract. Also prior to the approval of the Teacher Contract innovation, experienced teachers new to the district had a probationary period that could not exceed one year if the person had been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. This limited the period of time needed to fully determine the staff member's effectiveness. The district innovated in this area, which allowed a request to be submitted to the Superintendent to approve a second and/or third year probationary contract for a teacher employed by the District, who had been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, and who had completed their first probationary year with the district. The purpose of extending the probationary contract status was to provide principals with the opportunity to continue evaluating the staff member's effectiveness.

Brazosport ISD innovated in the area of Instructional Minutes and Calendar in 2017 to create opportunities for early release days and for the district to begin classes prior to the fourth Monday in August. With the change in statutory language regarding a minimum of 420 minutes per day of instruction, the Instructional Minutes innovation is no longer needed. The Instructional Calendar innovation is needed, however, and the district will continue with the flexibilities provided in that innovation.

The district seeks to maintain a 22:1 student to teacher ratio in grades PK-4, but prior to the approval of the Maximum Class Size innovation in 2017, they were required to submit maximum class size exception waivers at different times throughout the year. From 2011 to 2017, the district requested exceptions for 174 classrooms from the Texas Education Agency. Since the innovation was put into place going into the 2017-2018 school year, the district has requested 26 classroom exceptions from the Board of Trustees. Because of high mobility, the district will once again seek flexibility in this area, but the title of the innovation is being changed to Class-Size Exceptions to align with limiting the innovation to grades PK-4. Specifically, Brazosport ISD will attempt to keep all PK-4 classrooms to a 22:1 ratio. In place of submitting a class-size waiver to TEA, if a PK-4 classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio, the district will allow class sizes to go up to 24:1 in order to provide greater flexibility in keeping students on their preferred or neighborhood campus.

The Brazosport Independent School District supports the successful learning of all students by providing financial and personnel resources to support efforts to reduce disruption to instruction by students with significant behavioral issues. Teachers, administrators, counselors, interventionists, and behavior specialists deliver tiered behavioral interventions within a structured system of discipline. Efforts have resulted in a reduction in the number of discretionary placements to the Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP). There remain, however, a few students who, despite receiving extensive tiered interventions, persistently behave in a manner that substantially disrupts the learning of other students. Section one of the innovation on discipline provides the district with the option of discretionarily assigning students who persistently engage in misbehavior at the DAEP to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP). After all tiered interventions have been exhausted on campuses and at the district's DAEP, students with documented persistent misbehavior may be removed from class and expelled to the JJAEP under TEC §37.007. The second exemption sought under the discipline innovation is to remove the requirement that each campus have a designated behavior coordinator who is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline and implementing the provisions under TEC §37. Brazosport ISD is seeking flexibility from the requirements of TEC §37.0012 so that the district can continue to promote a more collaborative discipline



program in which multiple members within the organization collectively support students and maintain student discipline. This collaborative approach to discipline will be under the direction of the campus principal.

The innovation plans that follow include the six innovations that the Brazosport Independent School District will continue to implement as part of the renewal of their status as a District of Innovation. Each plan includes a section identifying the specific chapters and sections of the Texas Education Code for which a flexibility is being sought. Also included is a list of district local policies that will require revision once the plan is adopted. The rationale for each innovation follows and precedes the description of the innovation itself. Each plan concludes with a section on the required exemptions from Texas Education Code being sought.



## Local Innovation Plan

### Innovation Initiative: Teacher Certification

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022

Teacher Certification	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> Texas Education Code §21.003 Certification Required; §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates	<b>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DBA(LEGAL)</li><li>• DBA(LOCAL)</li><li>• DK(LEGAL)</li><li>• DK(LOCAL)</li><li>• DK(EXHIBIT)</li></ul>
<b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The current certification requirements inhibit the District's ability to hire professionals with industry experience to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, &amp; Mathematics (STEAM) courses. In order to provide more students the opportunity to take such courses and obtain professional certifications, the District seeks to establish its own local qualification requirements for such individuals in lieu of the requirements set forth in law.</li><li>• Currently, a certified teacher cannot be hired for a position or be assigned to a subject outside his/her certification, limiting the District's ability to effectively utilize personnel to ensure quality instruction.</li></ul>	
<b>Innovation:</b> <p>Brazosport ISD Human Resources Department will submit a written request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent or designee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For an individual with professional or vocational experience who does not possess a traditional teaching certificate, but is highly credentialed as evidenced by a license, degree or experience, to teach non-core courses such as CTE.</li><li>• For a certified teacher to teach a subject area out of his/her certified field in grades 5th - 12th.</li></ul> <p>Candidate Qualification may include a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional work experience;</li><li>• Formal training and education;</li><li>• Relevant industry licensure, certification, or registration; and/or</li><li>• Any combination of work experience, training and education, or industry credential related to the subject matter he/she will be teaching.</li></ul> <p>The written request will outline the reason for the request and it will document the credentials possessed by the recommended teacher which qualify him/her to teach the subject. In addition, the written request must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee for approval prior to employing them as a teacher.</p>	



**Local Innovation Plan**

**Innovation Initiative: Teacher Certification**

**Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022**

**Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:**

21.003 Certification Required; §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates





## Local Innovation Plan

### Innovation Initiative: Teacher Contracts

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022

Teacher Contracts	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> Texas Education Code §21.002, Teacher Employment Contracts; §21.102(b) Term of Probationary Contract; §21.202(a) Probationary contract required prior to issuing a term contract.	<b>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DC(LOCAL)</li><li>• DCA (LOCAL)</li><li>• DCB (LOCAL)</li></ul>
<p>In alignment with our current practice, returning certified teachers will be given a Chapter 21 contract.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently, an applicant cannot be hired to teach a subject without appropriate certification, causing vacancies or deficiencies.</li><li>• Currently, it is a BISD practice to issue a Chapter 21 contract for the remainder of the school year to certified teachers hired after the first day of instruction, binding the District to potentially ineffective instruction for students.</li><li>• Currently, experienced teachers new to the district have a probationary period that may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years, limiting the time period to fully determine the staff member's effectiveness.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Innovation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Brazosport ISD Human Resources Department will submit a written request for approval to fill a teaching position to the Superintendent without issuing a Chapter 21 Contract:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For a noncertified applicant to teach</li><li>• For a teacher hired after the first day of instruction (late hire)</li></ul></li></ol> <p>The written request will outline the reason for the request and it will document the credentials the recommended teacher possesses which qualify him/her to teach the subject. In addition, the written request must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee for approval prior to employing the applicant.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. The Superintendent will approve recommendations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For a second and/or third year probationary contract for teachers employed by the District, who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years and have completed their first probationary year with the District, in order to continue to evaluate the staff member's effectiveness.</li></ul></li></ol>	
<p><b>Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:</b> Texas Education Code §21.002; §21.002(b); §21.202(a)</p>	



## Local Innovation Plan

### Innovation Initiative: Instructional Calendar

Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022

Innovation Title	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> Texas Education Code §25.0811 First Day of Instruction, §25.0812 Last Day of School	<b>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EB (LOCAL)</li></ul>
<p><b>Rationale: BISD Strategic Plan Goal 1</b> is designed to provide a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure every student will be future-ready. We value and support the contributions of our staff, and we value the collaborative partnerships as vital to strengthening the learning experience.</p> <p>Designation of the fourth Monday in August as the first day the district may begin instruction for students restricts the District's ability to provide balanced semesters, create more time before state testing dates, align with college semesters for students taking dual credit classes, and collaboratively determine with local partners on how best to strengthen the learning experience. By obtaining exemption from TEC §25.0811, the District will be better able to create balanced grading periods while still ending the first semester prior to the holiday break and to align with the local community college semester dates. In addition, the district will also be able to start school mid-week, allowing for a smoother transition at the beginning of school.</p>	
<p><b>Innovation:</b></p> <p>Allow local control through the use of a collaborative committee made up of community partners and district staff members to develop an instructional calendar that provides balanced semesters, is in alignment with the community college, begins mid-week, and begins instruction prior to the fourth Monday in August.</p>	
<p><b>Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:</b></p> <p>TEC §25.0811, §25.0812</p>	



**Local Innovation Plan**  
**Innovation Initiative: Discipline**

**Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022**

Innovation Title	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• §37.0012 Designation of a Campus Behavior Coordinator;</li><li>• §37.007(c) Discretionary Placement of Students to the JJAEP</li></ul>	<b>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FOD (LEGAL)</li><li>• FODA (LEGAL)</li><li>• FO (LEGAL)</li><li>• FO (LOCAL)</li><li>• FOA (LEGAL)</li></ul>
<p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <p><b>Innovation #1</b>--BISD Strategic Plan Goal 2 is designed to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning. Brazosport ISD utilizes positive behavioral interventions and supports embedded within a Response to Intervention model to support students with behavioral deficits. Teachers, administrators, counselors, interventionists, and behavior specialists deliver tiered behavioral interventions within a structured system of discipline. The district is restricted from utilizing the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) for students whose persistent misbehavior disrupts instruction.</p> <p>After all tiered interventions have been exhausted on campuses and at the district's DAEP, by including students with documented persistent misbehavior in those who may be removed from class and expelled under TEC §37.007(c), the District is better able to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning.</p> <p><b>Innovation #2</b>--BISD Strategic Plan Goal 2 is designed to ensure learning environments are safe and conducive to learning. BISD provides campus-based support systems to assist campuses with the utilization and enforcement of the district-wide student management plan. Designation of one person who is primarily responsible for maintaining student discipline on a campus restricts the District's ability to promote a more collaborative campus-level discipline program in which multiple members within the organization collectively support students and maintain student discipline.</p>	
<p><b>Innovation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. After all tiered interventions have been exhausted on campuses and at the district's DAEP, include students with documented persistent misbehavior among those who may be removed from class and expelled to the JJAEP under TEC §37.007(c).</li></ol>	



**Local Innovation Plan**  
**Innovation Initiative: Discipline**

**Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022**

2. Promote a more collaborative discipline program in which, under the direction of the campus principal, multiple members within the organization collectively support students and maintain student discipline.

**Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:**

TEC §37.0012

TEC §37.007(c)



## Local Innovation Plan

### Innovation Initiative: Optional Flexible School Day Program

Approved by District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022

Innovation Title	
<b>Texas Education Code</b> <b>Chapters:</b> §29.0822 Optional Flexible School Day Program	<b>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EB (LOCAL)</li></ul>
<p><b>Rationale:</b> <b>BISD Strategic Plan Goal 1</b> is designed to provide a rigorous and relevant learning experience to ensure every student will be future-ready. Many students (including parents, parents-to-be, homeless, over age, etc.) need flexible schedules to allow them to meet their educational goals.</p> <p>For students who attend the district's credit recovery / alternative education program, TEC §29.0822 provides districts with the opportunity to apply for permission to run an Optional Flexible School Day Program to address the learning needs of students at-risk of dropping out of high school.</p>	
<p><b>Innovation:</b></p> <p>Being exempt from TEC §29.0822 will permit the district to offer alternative programming with fewer minutes that focuses on quality programming and cost savings, and that is designed to fit the needs of At-risk students without having to submit an annual Optional Flexible School Day Program application.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Option 1: Students can attend full time.</li><li>2. Option 2: Students can attend part time during the day or evening hours through the district's dropout recovery program.</li></ol> <p>Recording of attendance for the OFSDP will continue to follow reporting guidelines established in the most recently approved Student Attendance Accounting Handbook.</p>	
<p><b>Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:</b></p> <p>By obtaining an exemption from TEC §25.0822, the district will no longer have to apply annually to offer an Optional Flexible School Day Program.</p>	





**Local Innovation Plan**  
**Innovation Initiative: Class Size Exception**  
**Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022**

Innovation Title	
<b>Texas Education Code Chapters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>§25.112 Class Size; §25.113 Notice of Class Size</li></ul>	<b>Corresponding Board Policies Requiring Revision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>EEB (Legal)</li><li>EEB (Local)</li></ul>
<b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Schools begin the school year with staff based on projections of student enrollment. It is not uncommon that as a school year begins enrollment will exceed projections in one elementary school and be below projections in another. To balance classes, students had to be moved from one campus to another to meet the 22 to 1 student to teacher ratio limit for grades PK-4. As a result, students had to leave behind friends and teacher relationships they have already begun forming.</li><li>From time-to-time, one or more PK-4 classes on a campus will exceed the 22:1 ratio by one or two students. Infrequently, a class will exceed the ratio for 30 days. Typically, the grade level enrollment will drop enough to move classes back to 22:1 or below. By the time the board approved the exception waiver request and the waiver was submitted, it was not needed.</li><li>Being exempt from the 22 to 1 ratio statutory requirement will allow students to remain with the teacher and classmates with whom they began the school year, which will foster continuity, stability, and support increased student achievement.</li><li>Incoming students can remain in their preferred or neighborhood school instead of being transported to a different campus.</li><li>District Bilingual students will not have to be separated from siblings in order to balance Bilingual Education classes.</li></ul>	
<b>Innovation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brazosport ISD will attempt to keep all PK-4 classrooms to a 22 to 1 ratio.</li><li>In place of submitting a class-size waiver to TEA, if a PK-4 classroom exceeds the 22 to 1 ratio, the district will allow class sizes to go up to 24 to 1 in order to provide greater flexibility in keeping students on their preferred or neighborhood campus.</li><li>Should a class size exceed 22 to 1 for more than 35 days, the Board of Trustees must approve a class-size exception.</li><li>While the class size exception innovation will allow PK-4 classrooms to exceed the 22 to 1 ratio, the district will implement the following action steps in its effort to keep the student to adult ratio to at or below 22 to 1:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Survey campus enrollment, staffing ratios and class sizes at the beginning of each school year and monitor them throughout.</li><li>Apply district staffing ratios to support students and teachers in classes granted an exception by the Board of Trustees to exceed 22 to 1.</li><li>Continue to allow classes to go to 24:1 with support during the high mobility period of the</li></ul></li></ul>	



## **Local Innovation Plan**

### **Innovation Initiative: Class Size Exception**

**Approved by the District Educational Improvement Council: March 31, 2022**

final twelve weeks of school.

- Regularly review campus enrollment, staffing ratios and class sizes with the Superintendent and his Cabinet.

#### **Required Exemptions from Texas Education Code:**

- The class size exception innovation seeks exemptions from the requirements of Texas Education Code §§25.112 and 113: class size exception waiver and notification to parents when PK-4 classes exceed a 22 to 1 ratio.

## Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307(d)

### Innovation District

Please submit, on district letterhead, a letter to the commissioner of education stating the date that the board of trustees adopted a resolution to develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the district as an Innovation District.

A local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as an Innovation District. A local plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:

- 1) Innovative Curriculum
- 2) Instructional Methods
- 3) Community Participation
- 4) Governance of Campuses
- 5) Parental Involvement
- 6) Modifications to the school day or year
- 7) Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding
- 8) Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
- 9) Any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.

A local innovation plan must identify requirements imposed by the Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan. The local innovation plan should specify the manner in which a particular statute inhibits one or more goals of the plan. Please use the form below to check the statutes specifically identified in your district's local innovation plan as inhibiting a goal of the plan. Checking a specific statute does not necessarily indicate eligibility for an exemption from all subsections of the statute. The local innovation plan controls with regard to the specific exemptions adopted by a district. The form below provides a reporting mechanism to fulfill the reporting requirements of the statute. Entire sections of code may not be eligible for exemption and each district should consult its legal counsel in developing its innovation plan.

Exemptions claimed for an Innovation District apply only to the specific provision of the Texas Education Code (TEC) cited, which may or may not be governed by a separate legal requirement. The exemption does not relieve the district of any requirement imposed by other state or federal law or a duty imposed under federal regulation, grant compliance, agency rule applicable to a charter school or a local legal requirement. Each district should consult its legal counsel to ensure adoption of necessary local policies to ensure compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of exemptions.

May 16, 2022 to May 16, 2027

Term of Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

Plan applies to: ☒ Entire District  
☐ Campus (list) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chapter 11 – School Districts**

### **Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts**

- ☐ §11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board
- ☐ §11.162 School Uniforms

### **Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making**

- ☐ §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process
- ☐ §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making
- ☐ §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making
- ☐ §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

## **Chapter 21 – Educators**

### **Subchapter A – General Provisions**

- ☒ §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts
- ☒ §21.003 Certification Required
- ☐ §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

### **Subchapter B – Certification of Educators**

- ☐ §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.
- ☒ §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- ☐ §21.057 Parental Notification

### ☒ **Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts**

### ☐ **Subchapter D – Continuing Contracts**

### ☐ **Subchapter E – Term Contracts**

### **Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives**

- ☐ §21.352 Local Role
- ☐ §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance
- ☐ §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators
- ☐ §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

### **Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits**

- ☐ §21.401 Minimum Service Required
- ☐ §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- ☐ §21.4021 Furloughs

- ☐ §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal
- ☐ §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule
- ☐ §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- ☐ §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- ☐ §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- ☐ §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- ☐ §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- ☐ §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- ☐ §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
- ☐ §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
- ☐ §21.415 Employment Contracts
- Subchapter J – Staff Development**
  - ☐ §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
  - ☐ §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
  - ☐ §21.458 Mentors

## **Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers**

### **Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits**

- ☐ §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- ☐ §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- ☐ §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- ☐ §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- ☐ §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- ☐ §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

## **Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance**

### **Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance**

- ☒ §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- ☒ §25.0812 Last Day of School
- ☐ §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- ☐ §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

### **Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size**

- ☐ §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- ☒ §25.112 Class Size
- ☒ §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- ☐ §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size



## **Chapter 29 – Educational Programs**

- ☒ §29.082 optional Flexible School Day Program

## **Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order**

### **Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management**

- ☒ §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- ☒ §37.002 Removal by Teacher

## **Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management**

### **Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts**

- ☐ §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- ☐ §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- ☐ §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- ☐ §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- ☐ §44.043 Right To Work
- ☐ §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

### **Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions**

- ☐ §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- ☐ §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- ☐ §44.903 Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs in Instructional Facilities
- ☐ §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

## **Chapter 45 – School District Funds**

### **Subchapter G – School District Depositories**

- ☐ §45.205 Term of Contract
- ☐ §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- ☐ §45.207 Award of Contract
- ☐ §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- ☐ §45.209 Investment of District Funds

## **Other**

Please list any additional exemption required for your Innovation District Plan: