

Waxahachie ISD

Exploring District of Innovation Status

Public Hearing: November 14, 2016



What is a District of Innovation?

A concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, that gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools.

To access these flexibilities, a district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

Is WISD eligible to become a District of Innovation?

To be eligible for designation as a District of Innovation (DOI), a school district's most recent academic performance rating must be at least acceptable.

- ✓ Waxahachie ISD has maintained an acceptable rating yearly of *Met Standard*, including in the most recent year, 2015-2016.

Potential Flexibilities Allowable under TEC Chapter 12A

- Provides for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which may include:
 - (A) innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance and parental involvement;
 - (B) modifications to the school day or year;
 - (C) provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding;
 - (D) accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and/or
 - (E) any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees.
- Identifies requirements imposed by this code that inhibit goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan.

Specific Options for Flexibilities Allowable under TEC Chapter 12A

- Site-based decision making processes
- Uniform school start date
- Minimum minutes of instruction
- Class size ratio
- The 90 percent attendance rule
- Student discipline provisions
- Teacher certification, contracts and benefits
- Teacher appraisal system
- Certain purchasing and contract requirements

Prohibited Exemptions

1. District governance
2. Curriculum
3. State Assessment System
4. State Accountability System
5. School Finance
6. Federal Requirements
7. Other requirements in state law outside of Education Code

Process: Step 1 - Decide to Explore DOI

Board Resolution

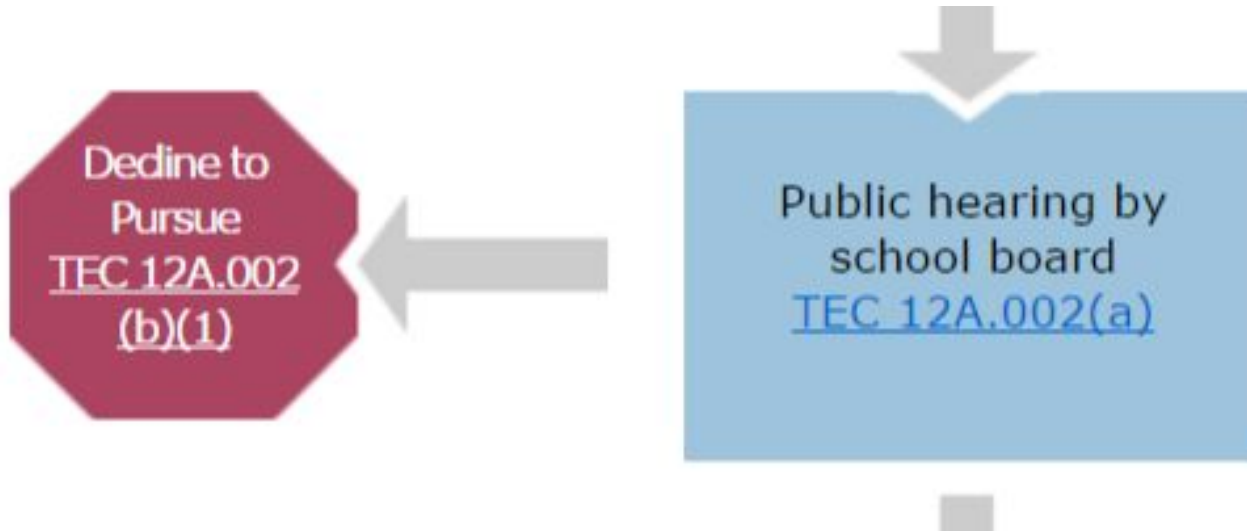
[TEC 12A.001\(c\)\(1\)](#)

OR

**Petition signed by majority of
District Advisory Committee**

[TEC 12A.001\(c\)\(2\)](#)

Process: Step 2 - Public Hearing & Potential Action



Process: Step 3 - Appoint a Committee



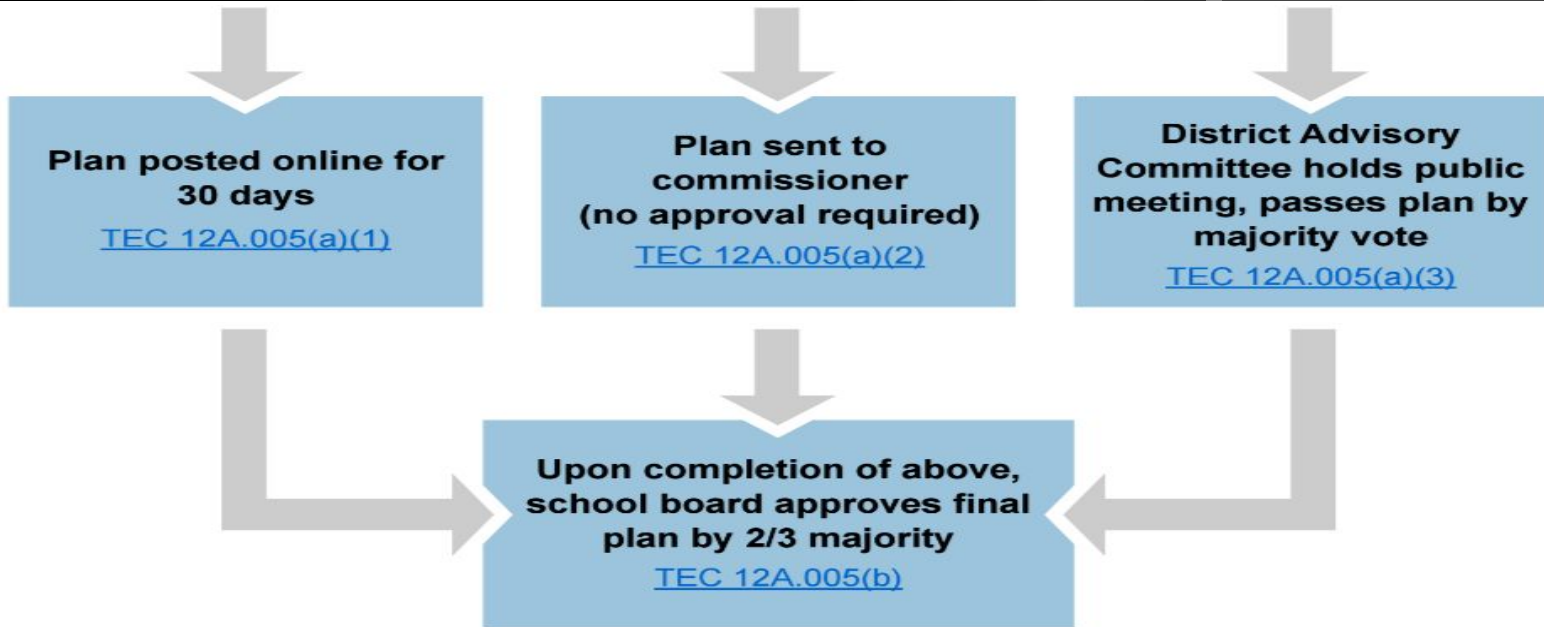
Board appoints committee to develop plan with:
(1) comprehensive educational program with innovations, and
(2) list of Education Code provisions to be exempt

[TEC 12A.002\(b\)\(2\)](#) [12A.003](#)

DOI Committee Expectations

- ❖ Sub-committee of the District Advisory Committee
- ❖ Majority staff representation
- ❖ Explore options under the recommendations of the board of trustees
- ❖ Align with the WISD Strategic Plan
- ❖ Monitor updates from TEA regarding District of Innovation statute
- ❖ Maintain transparency with the community through meetings and website
- ❖ Present findings to District Advisory Committee
- ❖ Seek community input in public hearing over proposed final plan
- ❖ Post proposed final plan on district website for 30 days
- ❖ Named as committee that will evaluate, revise and amend plan over 5 years

Process: Step 4 - Community Input



Proposed WISD DOI Timeline

- ◆Board Makes Resolution
- ◆Public Hearing
- ◆Appoint DOI Committee

District of Innovation Committee (DOIC) Holds Meetings to Research, Consult Legal, Align and Create Formal Plan

DOIC presents proposed final plan to District Advis. Team (DAT)

- DOIC Must:
- ◆Post proposed final plan on website (30 days)
 - ◆Host public hearing
 - ◆Notify Commissioner

Formal plan approved by WISD Board of Trustees

Nov. 14, 2016

Nov. 2016 - Jan. 2017

Jan. 17, 2017

Jan. 18- Feb. 8, 2017

Feb. 8, 2017



Goal for District of Innovation Process

To establish local control through flexibility in areas that will allow the district to enhance instruction, innovate practices and make decisions that best meet the needs of all stakeholders while maintaining our district standards for *Excellence in Education*.