



# Woodville Independent School District

505 N. Charlton  
Woodville, TX 75979  
(409) 283-3712

Superintendent  
Glen Conner

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May 30, 2017

Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Notice of Approval of District of Innovation Plan

Dear Commissioner Morath:

This written notice is provided in compliance with the requirement set out in 19 TAC § 102.1307(a)(2), and as authorized by the Woodville ISD Board of Trustees. On May 30, 2017, the Woodville ISD Board of Trustees approved a District of Innovation Plan, pursuant to Chapter 12A, Texas Education Code, and TEA Regulations. The approved plan exempts Woodville ISD from the following provisions of the Texas Education Code:

TEC §25.0811- First Day of Instruction  
TEC §25.0812- Last Day of Instruction

In accordance with 19 TAC § 102.1307(d), the TEA-provided form *[Figure: 19 TAC § 102.1307(d)]* has also been completed and is enclosed with this written notice.

Sincerely,

Board President

## 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.

Term of Plan: 2017-2022

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 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:

**WOODVILLE  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**Local Innovation Plan 2017-2022**

HB 1842, of the 84<sup>th</sup> 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 CONSIDER DESIGNATION AS DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

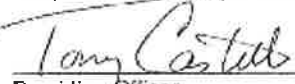
WHEREAS Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the district; and

WHEREAS the Woodville Independent School District's most recent performance rating under Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Woodville 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 within 30 days to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation and that within 30 days of the public hearing the Board of Trustees of Woodville Independent School District shall appoint an innovation plan committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designation as a district of innovation.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2017, by the Board of Trustees.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

# TIMELINE OF EVENTS

## **Thursday, March 2, 2017 – 9:00am, WISD Administration Building**

Initial meeting with administrative staff to discuss preliminary thoughts and to begin identifying possible members of the District of Innovation Committee

## **Thursday, March 9, 2017 – 9:00am, WISD Administration Building**

Meeting with administrative staff to further discuss the designation and to identify possible member of the District of Innovation Committee

## **Monday, March 20, 2017 – 7:00pm, WISD Administration Building**

Board of Trustees approval of a resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of using HB 1842 to be designated a District of Innovation (TEC 12A.001 (c)(1))

## **Monday, April 3, 2017 – 6:30pm, WISD Administration Building**

Public hearing to explain the process of becoming a District of Innovation and to hear from the community (TEC 12A.002 (b)(2), 12A.003)

Board of Trustee approval to pursue the designation of District of Innovation, and the appointment of a committee to develop a plan (TEC 12A.002 (b)(2), 12A.003)

## **Monday, April 24, 2017 – 3:30pm, WISD Administration Building**

Meeting of the District of Innovation Committee and Approval of Plan

## **Monday, April 24, 2017 – 6:00pm, WISD Administration Building**

District Leadership Team Public Meeting (TEC 12A.005(a)(3))

## **Tuesday, April 25, 2017 – 9:00am, WISD Administration Building**

Final District of Innovation Plan posted to the WISD website for 30 days (TEC 12A.005 (a)(1))

## **Tuesday, April 25, 2017 – 8:00am**

Commissioner notified of Board's intent to vote on the District of Innovation Plan

## **Monday, May 30, 2017 – 7:00pm, WISD Administration Building**

Board approval of the District of Innovation Plan by at least a 2/3 majority (TEC 12A.005 (a)(1))

District of Innovation Plan sent to Commissioner (TEC 12A.005 (a)(2))



# DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE

<b>NAME</b>	<b>COMMITTEE POSITION</b>
John Wilson	Board of Trustees Representative
Glen Conner	Superintendent
Laura Willis	Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Federal Programs
Morgan Wright	Principal, Woodville High School
Eric Holton	Principal, Woodville Middle School
Ashley Weatherford	Principal, Woodville Intermediate
Carrie Garsee	Principal, Wheat Elementary
Angela Hollingsworth	Teacher, Woodville High School
Kim Smith	Teacher, Woodville High School
Kathleen Givens	Teacher, Woodville Middle School
Marsha Watts	Teacher, Woodville Middle School
Patricia Brackin	Teacher, Woodville Intermediate
Paula Wilmon	Teacher, Woodville Intermediate
Sandra Brown	Teacher, Wheat Elementary
Charlean Wiggins	Teacher, Wheat Elementary
Christy Cooley	Parent / Community Member
Amanda Davis	Parent / Community Member
Amy Risinger	Parent / Community Member
Kim Worsley	Parent / Community Member

# WISD 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 March 20, 2017, the Woodville Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") 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 outcomes for the benefit of students and the community. On March 20, 2017, the Board appointed a 16-member District of Innovation Committee ("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 April 24, 2017 to discuss and draft the final Local Innovation Plan ("Plan"). The Committee will meet again on May 15, 2017, 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 WISD Board of Trustees will consider the Plan at its meeting on May 15, 2017.

## TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning August 1, 2017 and ending June 31, 2022, 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.

## AREA OF INNOVATION

With regard to each area of innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provisions, 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.

### **1. School Start and End Date**

*Exemption from: TEC §25.0811; TEC §25.0812*

*Related Board Policies: EB LEGAL*

#### ***Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan***

*TEC 25.0811 states that a school district may not begin student instruction before the 4th Monday of August. TEC 25.0812 states that a school district may not schedule the last day of school before May 15. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of annual calendars to fit the needs of the community or the wishes of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.*

*Previously, districts had the option of applying to TEA for a waiver to start earlier, even as early as the 2nd Monday in August. The Texas tourism groups lobbied to have this stopped because they believed it was hurting their tourism business. Therefore, several years ago the legislature took away all waivers and dictated that districts may not begin until the 4th Monday, with no exceptions.*

#### **Innovation Strategies**

- a. Relief from the statute will allow WISD to develop a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional development in conjunction with the new instructional minutes requirement, rather than days.
- b. Alignment of the district calendar in partnership with county school districts, advanced placement exams, and STAAR timelines.
- c. Provide for increased local control of the instructional calendar in order to be responsive to community needs.



# Woodville Independent School District

505 N. Charlton  
Woodville, TX 75979  
(409) 283-3712

Superintendent  
Glen Conner

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April 25, 2017

Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Notice of Intent to Vote on Adoption of Proposed District of Innovation Plan

Dear Commissioner Morath:

This written notice is provided in compliance with the requirement set out in 19 TAC § 102.1307(a)(2), and as authorized by the Woodville ISD Board of Trustees. On March 20, 2017, the Woodville ISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the development of a local District of Innovation Plan, pursuant to Chapter 12A, Texas Education Code. The statutory process for development of this plan is ongoing, and the Board plans to meet in the near future to consider and take possible action to adopt the proposed plan.

Sincerely,

Board President