May 16, 2017

Dear Commissioner Morath;

Rankin ISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution on February 15, 2017 to develop a local plan for the designation of the District as an Innovation District. The Board voted unanimously on May 10, 2017 to approve that plan. Enclosed is a copy of the District of Innovation Plan and the agency form showing the TEC exemptions.

Sincerely,

Keith Richardson
Superintendent
DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN
DISTRICT OF INNOVATION
COMMITTEE

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:
Mr. Keith Richardson                  Superintendent
Mr. Sammy Wyatt                      High School Principal
Mrs. Kristi Exum                     Elementary Principal
Mr. Adrian Gallardo                  District Counselor
Mrs. Elidia Gallardo                 PEIMS/Federal Programs
Mr. Jeff Shelton                     Athletic Director

JUNIOR/HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES:
Mrs. Kendra Davidson                 High School Teacher
Mrs. Susan Netopski                  High School Teacher

ELEMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES:
Ms. Vonda Garner                     Elementary Teacher
Ms. Barb Lawson                      Elementary Teacher

PARENT & BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES:
Mr. Pete Jackson                      Parent
Mr. Paul Prewozniak                   Parent
Mrs. Corey Owens                      Business Partner/Parent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Action/Agenda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 24, 2017</td>
<td>Administration Meeting</td>
<td>Discuss District of Innovation plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7, 2017</td>
<td>Administration Meeting</td>
<td>Discuss District of Innovation plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 2017</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>School Board adopts resolution to consider designation as a District of Innovation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22, 2017</td>
<td>District Site Base Meeting</td>
<td>Discuss District of Innovation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 2017</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>School Board holds Public Meeting to discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation. School Board votes to move forward with plan. School Board approves members of the District of Innovation Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Rankin ISD Website</td>
<td>Post for 30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 2017</td>
<td>Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Committee meets for final vote on District of Innovation Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2017</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>School Board approves District of Innovation Plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is a “District of Innovation”?

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

Should my district become a “District of Innovation”?

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Local Control:** District decides which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- **Flexibility:** District will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools; including exemptions from mandates such as:
  - School start dates
  - Teacher certification (except as required by federal law)

School Start Date Waiver Issue

The uniform school start date for the 2018-2019 school year is August 27, 2018. Using this date will back our school calendar up to the end of May or beginning of June.

If we receive this “district of innovation” designation we can start on August 20, 2018 and will be able to maintain a school calendar similar to the current adopted calendar.

Steps from here:

- School Board will consider adopting an Innovation Plan Resolution in February.
- School Board will consider adopting the Innovation Plan after it has been posted on line for 30 days.
- Innovation Plans may have a term of 5 years.
- School must achieve “met standards” on accountability rating in order to maintain the Innovation Plan.
Rankin ISD will apply for exemptions of the following legal requirements:

- **Uniform School Start Date (EB LEGAL):** This will allow RISD to provide a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional development plan in conjunction with the new instructional minutes rather than instructional days required.

- **Teacher Certification (DK LEGAL & LOCAL):** In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside their certification, a district must submit a request to TEA. In order to best serve RISD students, this will allow decisions on certifications to be handled locally.
Term of Plan: 5 years

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: