

SPURGER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Local Innovation Plan 2017-2022

HB 1842, of the 84th 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

RESOLUTION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF EXPLORING THE OPTION OF DESIGNATING SPURGER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

Whereas, the 84th Legislature passed House Bill 1842 which provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation; and

Whereas, Texas school districts designated as a District of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state requirements which affords traditional public schools with many of the same freedoms that apply to open-enrollment charter schools; and

Whereas, the vision of Spurger Independent School District is to produce students who are progressive, independent, collaborative, open, determined, and well-rounded; and this legislation empowers local communities to be creative and innovative, while also providing greater local control in the decision-making process; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees believes that decisions affecting the students of Spurger Independent School District are best made at the local level by those who know our students, district, and community; and

Whereas, the Spurger Independent School District Board of Trustees has adopted a strategic plan that supports customization and innovation; and

Whereas, HB 1842 requires districts seeking to be designated as a District of Innovation to develop a local innovation plan that allows for increased freedom from certain state mandates; and

Whereas, the Spurger Independent School District Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing and receive feedback from stakeholders to consider the development of a local innovation plan; following the public hearing, the Board of Trustees may decline to pursue the designation or may appoint a committee to develop a plan in accordance with chapter 12A of the Texas Education Code; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Spurger Independent School District Board of Trustees initiates the process of exploring and considering the option of designating SISK as a District of Innovation under HB 1842.

Witness these signatures on the 16th day of March, 2017.

Carroll Hatton
President, Board Trustee

Rusty Roberts
Vice President, Board Trustee

Brent Marcum
Secretary, Board Trustee

Juli Golden
Board Trustee

Derrick Gray
Board Trustee

Ed Jenkins, Jr.
Board Trustee

Chris Sheffield
Board Trustee

Kendall Smith
Superintendent

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 3, 2017 – 9:30am, SISD Administration Building

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

Monday, March 6, 2017 – 1:00pm, SISD Gymnasium

Meeting with staff to discuss the designation of the District of Innovation

Thursday, March 16, 2017 – 7:00pm, SISD 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))

Thursday, May 11, 2017 – 7:00pm, SISD 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)

Friday, May 19, 2017 – 2:00 pm, SISD Administration Building

Meeting of the District of Innovation Committee

Friday, May 19, 2017 – 4:00 pm

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

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 – 8:00am

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

Monday, June 19, 2017 – 6:00pm, Administration Building

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

Approval of Final Plan by District Leadership Team

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 – 10:00am

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

Thursday, July 20, 2017 – 7:00pm, SISD 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

NAME	COMMITTEE POSITION
Kendall Smith	Superintendent
Juli Golden	Board of Trustees Representative
Ronnie Ford	Principal, Spurger High School
Kim Parker	Principal, Spurger Elementary School
Stefanie Miller	Dean of Students/Assistant Principal
Beth McInnis	Teacher, Spurger High School
Ruth Williams	Teacher, Spurger Junior High School
Dawn Warr	Teacher, Spurger Elementary School
Monica Sirmons	Teacher, Spurger Elementary School
Terisa Crosby	Parent
Christle Jenkins	Parent
Nicole Guillory	Parent
Katherine Crosby	Parent
Pam Sheffield	Parent
Tamara Harrison	Parent
Allen Graham	Parent
Alene Moncrief	Community Member
Pam Hutto	Health / SHAC Representative

SISD 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 16, 2017, the Spurger 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 May 11, 2017, the Board approved the formation of a District of Innovation Committee ("Committee") comprised of diverse leaders representing a cross-section of the District's stakeholders including teachers, principals, parents, and administrators. The Committee met again on May 19, 2017 to discuss and draft the Local Innovation Plan ("Plan"). The Committee will meet again on June 19, 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 SISD Board of Trustees will consider the Plan at its meeting on July 20, 2017.

TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning August 1, 2017 and ending July 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 consisting of the original committee and additions 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.

AREAS 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 SISD 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 with local universities, advanced placement exams, and STAAR timelines.
- c. Provide for increased local control of the instructional calendar in order to be responsive to community needs.