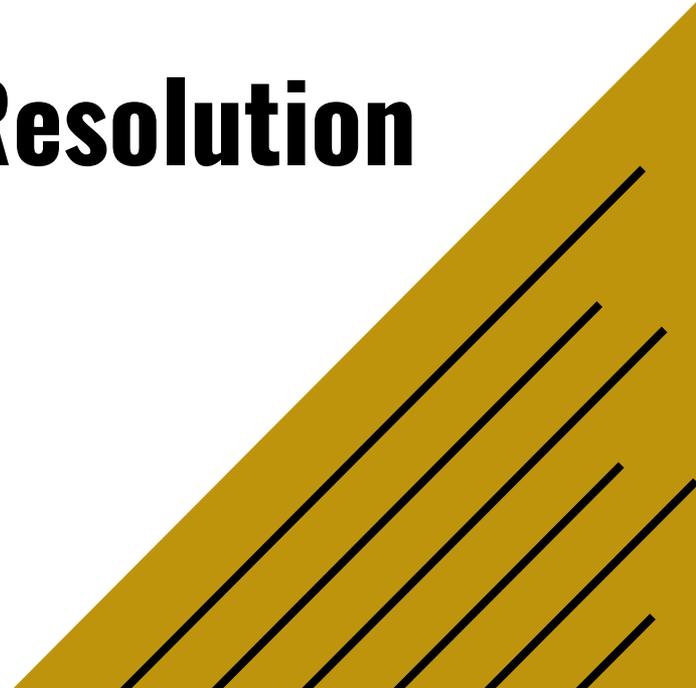




# **District of Innovation Resolution**

January 2018



# Background Information

HB 1842 allows for the designation of Districts of Innovation (DOI). The law can be found in Ch. 12A of the Texas Education Code. Ch. 12A provides that a school district that is rated acceptable may create an innovation plan, potentially including exemptions from the much of the TEC, which constitutes the state's regulatory framework and statutory safety net for public schools. DOIs may be exempted from many state statutes and will have: greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students; increased freedom and flexibility, with accountability relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and empowerment to innovate and think differently.



# Possible Benefits

- Allows districts to plan to improve students' educational outcomes with local input and less regulatory control from Austin.
- Can serve as a way to market district schools to parents and students that is competitive with private and charter schools.
- Could be a mechanism for districts to access some programmatic and administrative freedoms that charters currently have.
- May facilitate and support efforts to reform some of the lowest performing campuses in school districts.



# Additional Flexibility

Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates **such as** :

- School start date
- 90% attendance rule
- Class-size ratios
- Site-based decision-making processes
- Certain student discipline provisions
- Teacher probationary contracts
- Teacher appraisal requirements
- Teacher certification requirements

Please note: This is a partial list of exemptions.



# Limited Flexibility

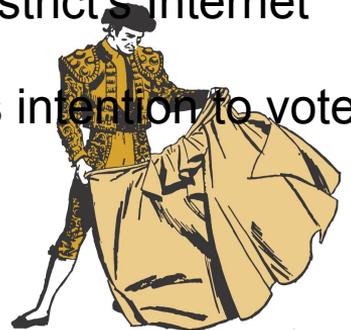
Prohibited exemptions include (but are not limited to)...

- District Governance
- Curriculum
- State Assessment System
- State Accountability System
- School Finance
- Federal Requirements
- PEIMS
- Open Meetings
- Bilingual Education
- Special Education
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code



# The Process

- A district is eligible for designation as a DOI if the district's most recent performance under the state accountability reflects at acceptable performance.
- The designation process must be initiated by a board resolution; or a petition signed by a majority of the members of a district-level committee.
- The board must hold a public hearing to consider if the district should develop a DOI innovation plan or decline to pursue this option.
- If the board decides to pursue the option, it must appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan.
- The final version of the proposed plan must be available on the district's Internet website for at least 30 days.
- The board of trustees must notify the commissioner of the board's intention to vote on adoption of the proposed plan.



# Questions

