



MABANK ISD

District of Innovation Plan

2021-2026

What is a District of Innovation

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, effective immediately, that gives traditional school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan as set forth in Texas Education Code chapter 12A.

HB 1842

Districts of Innovation

HB 1842 provides MISD

with the opportunity to

design a strategic plan

according to the needs

and resources of our

district while maximizing

local control.

What legal requirements can Mabank ISD avoid by becoming a District of Innovation?

1. **Uniform school start date (EB Legal):** This will allow MISD 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.
2. **Class size ratio (EEB Legal):** Currently K-4th grade classes are to be held to a 22 students to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When the classes exceed, a waiver to TEA is required. Annually students must be transported between the three neighborhood schools to maintain this ratio which reduces the positive attributes of neighborhood schools for all students. This will allow MISD more flexibility for the elementary campuses.
3. **Teacher Certification (DK Legal and Local):** In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, a district must submit a request to TEA. In order to best serve MISD students, this will allow decisions on certification to be handled locally.
4. **Probationary Contracts (DCA Legal):** Currently, for experienced teachers new to the district, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. This time period is not sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to state assessment results. For experienced teachers, counselors, or nurses new to the district that have been employed as a teacher, counselor, or nurse in public education for at least five of the last eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the last date of district employment.

Summary of Original Process

- ◇ MISD Board consider to Adopt a Resolution
- ◇ Conduct Public Hearing
- ◇ Decision to decline or appoint a District of Innovation Committee
- ◇ Develop a Strategic Plan
- ◇ Provide Plan for Review (Public/District Innovation Team/TEA)
- ◇ District of Innovation Team votes on Strategic Plan
- ◇ MISD Board votes on Strategic Plan

What impact could innovations have on school funding?

School district funding will remain substantially the same for Districts of Innovation. The MISD Administrative team predicts a positive impact to the budget.

Original Plan approved by MISD District Advisory Committee on March 21, 2016.

DOI renewals begin upon expiration of the previous plan.