

# FLORENCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



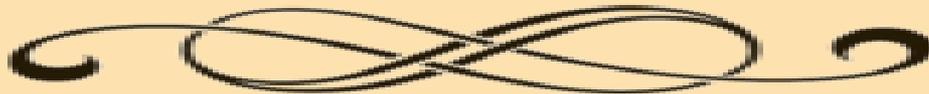
District of Innovation  
Public Hearing  
February 13, 2017

## What is a “District of Innovation”?

- ◉ The District of Innovation concept was passed into law by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in HB 1842, which created TEC chapter 12A.
- ◉ The law allows traditional independent school districts to access most of the flexibilities available to Texas’ open enrollment charter schools. To adopt these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in Chapter 12A and TEA rules.

## Which school districts are eligible to be a District of Innovation?

- A school district's most recent academic performance rating must be "Met Standard".
- If a district's final or preliminary academic performance rating is Improvement Required, the district is not eligible.



## Why would a school district choose to be a “District of Innovation”?

A local school district may want to pursue specific innovations in:

Curriculum	School Calendar
Instruction	Budgeting
Parent or Community Involvement	Governance

# What are some potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation?

- Local Control: Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- Flexibility: Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices similar to charter schools, including exemptions from mandates such as:

Site-base decision-making	Student discipline provisions
Uniform school start date	Teacher certification
Class-size ratios	Teacher contracts
90 percent attendance rule	Use of planning and preparation periods
Minimum minutes of instruction	Teacher appraisal system

# What are some prohibited exemptions?

Prohibited exemptions include (but not limited to):

- District Governance
- Curriculum
- State Assessment System
- State Accountability
- School finance
- Federal requirements
- Other requirements in state law outside of the Education Code

## How does Florence ISD become a “District of Innovation”?

- The process begins either with a Board of Trustees resolution or by signed petition from a majority of your district-level advisory committee.
- The Board conducts a public hearing to consider developing an innovation plan.
- Within 30 days of the public hearing the Board must formally decide to pursue or decline the opportunity.
- If the Board chooses to pursue the opportunity, the Board appoints an Innovation Plan Committee to develop and write the plan.

## How does Florence ISD become a “District of Innovation”?

- The innovative plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district.
- The innovative plan must identify the Texas Education Code provisions from which the District of Innovation should be exempted within the allowable innovations.



# Who is involved?

Board Members

Central Office Teams

Principals

Teachers

Parents

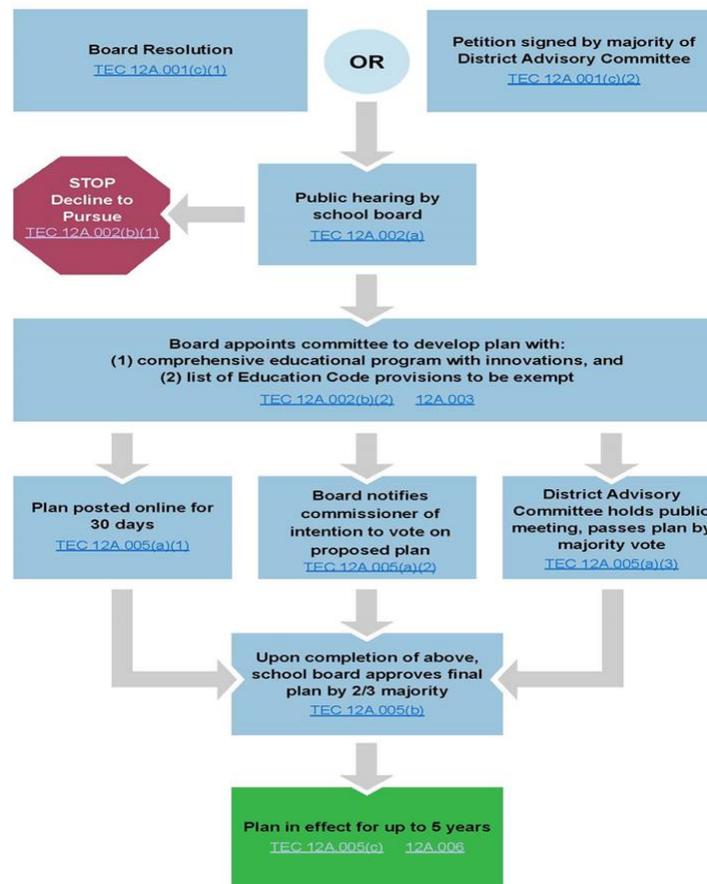
Community Members

District Advisory Committee



# What is the process for Florence ISD to become a District of Innovation?

## Process to Become a District of Innovation Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 12A



## What approval is needed for innovative plans?

Innovative plans do not have to be approved by TEA, but TEA has rulemaking authority regarding the implementation of Districts of Innovation. A district is required to notify TEA, and TEA is required to maintain information about the statutory exemptions adopted by districts in their innovation plans. TEA reports to the Legislature about school districts' statutory exemptions.



**Questions?**