

# FLORENCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Paul Michalewicz  
Superintendent of Schools  
(254)793-2850



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April 7, 2017

Mr. Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Commissioner Morath:

The Florence Independent School District, in accordance with House Bill 1842 enacted by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, has been in the process of developing a local District of Innovation Plan. The Florence Independent School District Board of Trustees voted to pursue the designation of District of Innovation with a resolution approved at the January 16, 2017, Board Meeting. Following the Board Meeting, a public hearing was conducted on February 13<sup>th</sup> to present the District of Innovation concept and to seek comments from the school district's students, staff, parents, and community. At the conclusion of the public hearing the Board of Trustees appointed a committee of 24 individuals to represent various stakeholders and to develop a local District of Innovation Plan in accordance with Section 12A.002(b)(2) and Section 12A.003 of the Texas Education Code. The appointed committee consisted of administrators, teachers, other professional staff members, parents, community members, and business representatives.

The District of Innovation Committee met on February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and April 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss and to develop a draft District of Innovation Plan. Information concerning the process, meetings, and meeting outcomes has been conveyed to Florence ISD stakeholders through the school website as well as campus and district communication. Following the District of Innovation Planning Committee meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the District Educational Improvement Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the proposed plan. The proposed District of Innovation plan was posted to the district website on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the plan will be available for a 30-day public comment period.

Notice is hereby provided that the Florence Independent School District Board of Trustees anticipates voting on the proposed local District of Innovation Plan on May 15, 2017. We understand that the plan must be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Board of Trustees.

Please let us know if any further information is needed concerning this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Michalewicz', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Michalewicz  
Superintendent of Schools  
Florence ISD