Draft
April 21,2026

MABANK ISD

District of Innovation Plan 2026-2031

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.

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

- **School Calendar (EB Legal): An exemption from TEC 25.0811 and TEC 25.0812 allows MISD to provide a calendar that addresses student instruction and a focused professional development plan in conjunction with the new instructional minutes rather than instructional days required.**
- **Teacher Contract Days (DC Legal): Board policy already allows a decrease in teacher contract days proportionate to a decrease in student days. Furthermore Texas Education Agency measures instructional compliance in minutes which we satisfy. An exemption from TEC 21.401 would further clarify our opportunity to adjust teacher contract days relative to district needs maintaining a traditional 10 month expectation not to exceed 187 days.**
- **Class size ratio (EEB Legal): Currently K-4th grade classes are to be held to a 22 students to 1 teacher ratio according to TEC 25.112. 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 and may separate siblings. An exemption from TEC 25.112 allows MISD more flexibility for the elementary campuses.**
- **Teacher Certification (DK Legal and Local): TEC 21.003, 21.053, and 25.111 limits the ability to hire teachers in highly specialized, hard-to-fill areas, and complicates the district's ability to adjust course offerings based on student demand and State regulations. The codes also hinder the ability to grow our own locally sourced teachers. In the event the 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 that if approved has a limited time authorization. In order to best serve MISD students, exemptions from TEC 21.003, 21.053, and 25.111 will allow more flexibility for decisions on certification to be handled locally.**
- **Teacher Conference (DL Legal): Currently TEC 21.404 and 21.405 limits a teacher's opportunity to provide instruction during or in place of a conference time and/or designated lunch. An exemption from TEC 21.404 and 21.405 would clarify staff's opportunity to voluntarily provide instruction for students or receive additional compensation through a mutually agreed upon student instructional assignment.**

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.***

District of Innovation Process 2015-2016

- ◊ MISD Board Adopted a Resolution
- ◊ Conducted a Public Hearing
- ◊ Appointed a District of Innovation Committee
- ◊ Developed a Strategic Plan
- ◊ Provide Plan for Review (Public/District Innovation Team/TEA)
- ◊ District of Innovation Team voted on Strategic Plan
- ◊ MISD Board voted and approved Plan
- ◊ Plans available for renewal every 5 years with DEIC and MISD Board approval and amendable with DEIC and MISD Board approval at anytime.

- **Counselor Duties (DP Legal): TEC 33.006 (d-h) requires school counselors spend no more than 20 percent of their time on duties outside that of a counseling program established in TEC 33.005. TEC 33.006 limits our counselor's ability to serve our students and creates an unrealistic documentation burden for them as well. An exemption from TEC 33.006 (d-h) will remove unnecessary paperwork and allow our counselors to continue serving student needs.**
- **Contracts (DCA Legal): Currently TEC 21.102 states that 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 given teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to state assessment results. With an exemption from TEC 21.102 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 will be issued for up to two years from the last date of district employment.**
- **Transfer Students (FDA Legal and Local): The transfer policy for non-resident students is interpreted to be a one year commitment on behalf of the District. Exemption from TEC 25.036 would free the district of a one year commitment in the event a transfer student were to become a liability to the district with respects to discipline or attendance.**
- **Parent Grievance (FNG Legal): TEC 26.011 establishes a parent grievance process outlined in TEC 26A that creates a timeline that can take up to 120 days to address a grievance; an exemption from TEC 26.011 and specifically TEC 26A will allow our District to continue our previous grievance process through Board policy FNG which will allows a grievance to be addressed in 35 days or less.**
- **Depositories Contract (BDAE Legal): TEC 45.205 requires the District to enter into a two year contract with a depository bank and up to two, two year renewals thereafter upon agreement. An exemption from this mandate would allow the District to continue with a depository bank as long as it is beneficial to the District.**
- **Retire/Rehire Minimum Salary (DEA Legal): Currently, all districts, when hiring a retired educator, must pay them their salary based on the TEA minimum salary scale in addition to a Teacher Retirement System (TRS) surcharge which creates a budgetary limitation to employ veteran educators and their talents. An exemption from TEC 21.402 would allow flexibility through which the district could hire retired educators, adding value to the district, at a mutually agreeable rate while still paying their TRS surcharge as well.**
- **Acquisition of Library Materials (EFB Legal): TEC 33.026 mandates a review and approval process for the acquisition of library materials that delays access to timely instructional and enrichment resources. The required process is also redundant relative to the robust process that has been in place and follows TSLAC (Texas State Library Archive Commission) Standards. An exemption from this mandate will allow the district to continue our review and acquisition process as it has been; continuing to provide timely, appropriate material for our students. (possible amendment for 4/2026)**