



District *of*
INNOVATION

Approved Amendments

I. Introduction

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. During a regular Board meeting on April 23, 2017, the Irving ISD Board of Trustees approved a local plan of innovation for the district, thereby designating the Irving Independent School District as a District of Innovation.

Under 19 Texas Administrative Code §102.1307, school districts may amend their plans of innovations if additional flexibilities/exemptions are desired. The Irving ISD has decided to exercise its right to seek additional exemptions through proposing amendments to the district's current plan. The District Improvement Committee must approve the plan before submission to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Pursuant to House Bill 1842, the District seeks to amend its District of Innovation Plan to include two additional exemptions. Irving ISD proposes flexibility and seeks exemptions in the following areas:

1. Texas Education Code §37.105: Removal of Individuals from District Property/Facilities
2. Texas Education Code §37.005: Suspension Limitation for Students Below Grade 3

District administrators, with consent from the District Improvement Committee, have begun the process for obtaining additional exemptions from specific state regulations as identified and described herein.

II. TIMELINE for Developing AMENDMENTS

02-06-2018	Presentation to District Improvement Committee (DIC) to Seek Approval to Pursue Additional Exemptions
02-15-2018	DRAFT Amendment Plan Shared with DIC for Feedback
02-16-2018	Sharing of Proposed Amendments with District Officials and Campus Administrators for Feedback/Comments
02-16-2018	Public Posting (30+ Days) of Proposed Amendments to District Website
03-06-2018	Public Hearing Held to Receive Parent, Community and Stakeholder Input
04-03-2018	District Improvement Committee Vote
04-16-2018	Presentation to Board of Trustees for Discussion
04-23-2018	Board of Trustees Vote on Proposed Amendments to Local Plan
04-25-2018	Submission of Amended Plan to the Texas Education Agency for Public Posting (if approved)

III. District Improvement Committee Members

Name	Group Represented
Hugo Salazar (Chairperson)	Parent
Adrian Sittig	Parent
Kristi Yarborough	Parent
Wendy Cordona	Parent
Michelle Sullivan	Parent
Cindy Buchanan	Parent
Douglas Fullmer	Parent
Dawn M Cano	Parent
Sonja Miller	Parent
John Valerius	Community
Dr. Wanda Zamorano	Community
Steve Hillier	Community
Kitty Boyle	Community
Nikki Clemons, Irving YMCA	Local Business
Dexter Freeman, Chamber of Commerce	Local Business
Adrian Howard, State Farm	Local Business
Dr. Marco Navarro, Advanced Orthodontics Studio	Local Business
Jaime Mendoza, MacArthur Cluster	Elementary Teacher
Melanie Meeks, MacArthur Cluster	Elementary Teacher
Zak Martinez, Irving Cluster	Elementary Teacher
Lindsay Hathaway, Nimitz Cluster	Elementary Teacher
Brian Parham, Nimitz Cluster	Elementary Teacher
Bethany Lusk, Irving Cluster, Crockett	Middle School Teacher
Marquette McGee, MacArthur Cluster	Middle School Teacher
Raquel Gair, Nimitz Cluster	Middle School Teacher
Karina Bray, MacArthur Cluster	High School Teacher
Yesenia Vasquez, Irving Cluster	High School Teacher
Lynette Bigfoot, Irving Cluster	High School Teacher
Bernard Manale, MacArthur Cluster	High School Teacher
Chelsea Dorton, Irving Cluster	High School Teacher
Christine Estrada	Librarian
Vanessa Duckett	Counselor
Stephen Pollard	Principal
Anabel Coughlin	Middle School Administrator
Mika Tepfer	High School Administrator
Pam Ekren	District Representative

IV. TERM of the AMENDMENTS

The term of the amendments is for a period of four years, beginning at the start of the 2018-19 school year and ending at the end of the 2021-22 school year, unless the plan is terminated or amended earlier by the IISD Board of Trustees in accordance with statute.

V. IMPLEMENTATION of the AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the Local Innovation Plan are designed to assist district officials and school administrators in maintaining the safest and most orderly learning environments possible. Specific implementation plans, tasks, and timelines will be developed to ensure the successful implementation of the amendments. Finally, revisions to Board policy and regulations will be developed and adopted to reflect the proposed exemptions to state law and district policy as outlined by the amendments.

VI. Current EXEMPTIONS under District Innovation Plan

The District Advisory Committee developed a Local Innovation Plan during the 2016-2017 school year, which includes the following exemptions from Texas Education Code:

- A. TEC §25.0811, §25.0812: Uniform School Start Date
- B. TEC §25.081(e), 25.082(a): Minimum Minutes of Instruction
- C. TEC §37.0012: Designation of Campus Discipline Coordinator
- D. TEC §21.102, §21.211(b)(c): Probationary Contracts / Contracts Rights
- E. TEC §21.003(a): Teacher Certification
- F. TEC §21.352(a)(1): Teacher Appraisal System

VII. AMENDMENTS to the Plan of Innovation

The district proposes including the following two amendments to the District's Local Plan of Innovation.

G. Removal of Individuals from District Property/Facilities

Texas Education Code Requiring Exemption: §37.105
Irving ISD School Board Policy: GKA (Local/Legal)

Current Status:

According to TEC §37.105, the District must maintain a record of each verbal warning of potential removal from district property/facilities, including the name of the person to whom the warning was issued and the date of the issuance. At the time a person is refused entry or removed from district property/facilities, the District is also required to provide to the person written information explaining the appeal process.

Proposed Innovation and Benefit of Exemption:

To better ensure the safety and security of students and staff in Irving ISD, we propose that the District not be required to maintain a record of each verbal warning of potential removal from district property/facilities, nor be required to provide written information explaining the appeal process to those who have been refused entry to district property/facilities or removed from district property/facilities.

The District currently attempts to provide written notice to persons who are subject to potential refusal for entry or for removal from district property/facilities. Should an exemption from TEC §37.105 be granted, the District shall continue to provide written notice to persons who are subject to potential refusal for entry or for removal from district property/facilities in situations where the administrator on site feels it is reasonable and safe to do so. Also, the District would continue to allow those who have been removed from district property/facilities to visit their children's schools or other district facilities to discuss educational needs upon scheduling an appointment with campus principal or other appropriate administrator.

Benefit:

- a. District staff/administrators will be better able to maintain an orderly and safe environment for students, staff and visitors.

H. Out-of-School Suspensions for Students Below Grade 3

Texas Education Code Sections Requiring Exemption: §37.005

Irving ISD School Board Policy: FOB (Legal)

Current Status:

A student who is enrolled in a grade level below grade 3 may not be placed in out-of-school suspension unless while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property, the student engages in:

1. Conduct that contains the elements of an offense related to weapons under Penal Code 46.02 or 46.05;
2. Conduct that contains the elements of a violent offense related under Penal Code 22.01, 22.011, 22.02, 22.021; or;
3. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of an amount of:
 - a. Marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Health and Safety Code Chapter 481, or by 21 USC Section 801 et seq.;
 - b. A dangerous drug, as defined by Health and Safety Code Chapter 483; or
 - c. An alcoholic beverage, as defined by Alcoholic Beverage Code 1.04.

Proposed Innovation and Benefits of Exemption:

To best serve the students of Irving ISD, we propose that school administrators be able to exercise their professional judgment and suspend students when they deem it necessary in order to maintain an orderly learning environment for all students. Specifically, the District seeks the flexibility to authorize school administrators to suspend students below grade 3 when necessary.

The District currently monitors the suspensions of all students, regardless of grade level, to ensure that District policy and the Student Code of Conduct are applied appropriately across the district. Should an exemption from TEC §37.005 be granted, the District would continue to monitor the suspensions of all students, which would now include students in grades below 3, to ensure that suspensions are appropriate.

Benefits:

- a. Allows for school-based decision making
- b. Assists in maintaining an orderly learning environment for all students
- c. Allows school administrators to more effectively ensure the safety and security of all students