

Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan

Introduction:

HB 1842 passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in spring 2015, providing Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, an eligible school district must adopt a five-year innovation plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

Districts of Innovation may be exempted from a number of state statutes and will have:

- greater local control as the decision makers over the educational and instructional model for students;
- increased freedom and flexibility, with accountability, relative to state mandates that govern educational programming; and
- empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes including curriculum and graduation requirements, and academic and financial accountability.

This plan will be in effect for the 2017-2018 instructional school year through the 2021-2022 school year. The District of Innovation Plan (DOI) plan may be amended at any time by the Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC) with approval from the CBISD Board of Trustees.

DEIC DOI Planning Team:

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II.

<u>Education Code 25.111</u>	<u>Student/Teacher Ratio</u>
<u>Education Code 25.112</u>	<u>Class Size</u>
<u>Education Code 25.113</u>	<u>Notice of Class Size</u>
<u>Education Code 25.114</u>	<u>PE Class Size</u>

School districts are to maintain a student to teacher class size ratio of 22:1 in kindergarten through fourth grade. When exceeding the ratio, districts must complete and submit a waiver to the Texas Education Agency. Columbia-Brazoria ISD has traditionally submitted class size waivers each school year.

Proposed – If a class size exceeds the ratio, the information will be reported to the board of trustees. Will continue to follow the same procedures and guidelines currently used to balance class sizes. Columbia-Brazoria is interested in implementing the Opportunity Culture initiative and these exemptions will allow CBISD to maximize this initiative.

III.

Education Code 21.003 Teacher Certification Required

The Texas Education Code states a person may not be employed as a teacher by a district unless the person holds an appropriate certification or permit issued by the appropriate state agency. Districts must submit requests to the Texas Education Agency to employ teachers in a subject outside of their certification area.

Proposed – This exemption will allow CBISD to better serve students and community by allowing more flexibility in scheduling and class offerings. The superintendent will consider campus requests for a teacher to instruct one subject or grade level outside of their current certification. An individual with work experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. All decisions and teaching contracts will be reported to and approved by the CBISD Board of Trustees.

