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:

<u>Central Administration</u> <u>Wild Peach Elementary</u>

Chris Miller Susan Harriman

Lynn Grell-Boethel Keith Barnett

Brenda Matthews Tina Watts

Samantha Fowler Christy Bragg

Jennifer Kelley Macy Wilkes

Columbia High School West Columbia Elementary

Bobby Mowles Kathy Humbird

Scott Moody Roxana Bolton

Christel Salazar Phyllis Chappell

Dina Murphy Nancy Koenig

Robert Lawrence Anna Barr

Darlene Jones Lori Logsdon

Randy Marble Haley Bell

Helen Baker Amber Neal

Carri Shank Traci Yelderman

Lauren Jones Holly Cantrell

Stephanie Schreck Holly Heble

Jared Stavinhoa Iris Howard

West Brazos Junior High Barrow Elementary

Robert McReynolds Tara Belote

Alfred Black Dawn Thomas

Wendy Thoe Kayla Scott

Amee Montgomery Gayla Anderson

Mandy Prewitt Mary Stevens

Laura Lackey Missy Kelley

Dana West

Harriet Jennings

Kourtney Ward

Jill Mowles

Brittany Stavinhoa

Shanna Wade

Timeline:

October 3, 2016	DEIC meeting
October 18, 2016	CBISD Board heard DOI report
November 7, 2016	DEIC meeting
November 15, 2016	CBISD Board approves DOI resolution
December, 2016	Campus discussions with staff and community
December 5, 2016	DEIC meeting
December 13, 2016	CBISD Board held public hearing on DOI
	CBISD Board appointed CBISD DEIC to formulate DOI plan
January 9, 2017	CBISD Board appointed CBISD DEIC to formulate DOI plan DEIC meeting
January 9, 2017 January 16, 2017	
•	DEIC meeting
January 16, 2017	DEIC meeting DEIC meeting
January 16, 2017 January 17, 2017	DEIC meeting DEIC meeting CBISD Board approves draft plan

I.

Education Code 25.0811 First Day of Instruction

School districts may not begin instruction before the 4th Monday in August

Proposed – Columbia-Brazoria ISD will begin instruction no earlier than the 3rd Monday in August. This will allow for a calendar that meets the local needs of our community, including allowing the semester to end in December and evening the days of instruction, and accommodating our dual-credit partnership with Brazosport College.

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

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.

Education Code 21.404 Planning and Preparation Time

Teachers are required to have at least 450 minutes within each two-week period for preparation, parent conferences, and student evaluation.

Proposed – Flexible scheduling of planning time, when needed, will allow for a positive implementation of the Opportunity Culture initiative.

V.

Education Code 25.081, 25.082 Length of Instructional Day

The instructional day is defined as seven hours each day, or 420 minutes, including intermissions and recesses.

Proposed – The yearly requirement of 75,600 instructional minutes will be met in a creative manner, but not necessarily having 420 instructional minutes each day.

Approved by the Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 21st, 2017.