



**VAN ALSTYNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Dr. John Spies, Superintendent

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December 12, 2016
Mr. Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Van Alstyne Independent School District – District of Innovation

Dear Commissioner Morath:

Van Alstyne Independent School District has been in the process of developing a Local Innovation Plan in accordance with House Bill 1842 enacted by the 84th Texas Legislature. On September 19, 2016 a special meeting was held where the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to hold a public hearing to discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation. A public hearing was used to explain and further discuss this unique opportunity. On September 19, 2016, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a committee of teachers, parents, administrators, community members, and a board member to pursue a District of Innovation plan.

The committee met on September 26, 2016, and October 5, 2016, to discuss and draft a Local Innovation Plan (LIP). In order to promote and garnish more involvement in the process, Van Alstyne ISD and the District of Innovation Committee determined that the plan would be presented at each campus during a staff meeting in order to gather input from all campus based personnel. These meetings occurred on October 13, October 18, and October 19, 2016. At a public hearing for the Local Innovation Plan, the District Improvement Committee unanimously approved the plan on October 20, 2016. The plan was posted on the District web page for public input on October 21, 2016. The Board of Trustees voted on the plan December 12, 2016. The board approved the plan by a 5-0 vote.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Spies, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Randall Morgan
Van Alstyne ISD Board President