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:**

**Central Administration**

- Chris Miller
- Lynn Grell-Boethel
- Brenda Matthews
- Samantha Fowler
- Jennifer Kelley

**Wild Peach Elementary**

- Susan Harriman
- Keith Barnett
- Tina Watts
- Christy Bragg
- Macy Wilkes
Columbia High School
Bobby Mowles
Scott Moody
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Helen Baker
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Lauren Jones
Stephanie Schreck
Jared Stavinhoa

West Columbia Elementary
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Roxana Bolton
Phyllis Chappell
Nancy Koenig
Anna Barr
Lori Logsdon
Haley Bell
Amber Neal
Traci Yelderman
Holly Cantrell
Holly Heble
Iris Howard

West Brazos Junior High
Robert McReynolds
Alfred Black
Wendy Thoe
Ameé Montgomery
Mandy Prewitt
Laura Lackey

Barrow Elementary
Tara Belote
Dawn Thomas
Kayla Scott
Gayla Anderson
Mary Stevens
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: DEIC meeting
- January 16, 2017: DEIC meeting
- January 17, 2017: CBISD Board approves draft plan
- January 18, 2017: CBISD Board sends letter to Commissioner
  - DOI plan draft posted to CBISD website
- February 21, 2017: CBISD Board formally approves DOI 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.
II.

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.
IV.  

**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.