



# MABANK ISD

District of Innovation Plan

2021-2026

## What is a District of Innovation

Amended  
August 28, 2023

A District of Innovation is a concept passed by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, effective immediately, that gives traditional school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan as set forth in Texas Education Code chapter 12A.

**HB 1842**

**Districts of Innovation**  
**HB 1842** provides MISD with the **opportunity** to design a strategic plan according to the **needs and resources** of our district while maximizing **local control**.

## What legal requirements can Mabank ISD better manage by becoming a District of Innovation?

1. **School Health Advisory Council (BDF Legal):** An exemption from the meeting requirement outlined in TEC 28.004 would be more respectful of community member time. MISD would ask the SHAC to meet as necessary to address student needs.
2. **Uniform school start date (EB Legal):** This will allow MISD to provide a calendar that addresses student instruction and focused professional development plan in conjunction with the new instructional minutes rather than instructional days required.
3. **Class size ratio (EEB Legal):** Currently K-4th grade classes are to be held to a 22 students to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When the classes exceed, a waiver to TEA is required. Annually students must be transported between the threeneighborhood schools to maintain this ratio which reduces the positive attributes of neighborhood schools for all students. This will allow MISD more flexibility for the elementary campuses.
4. **Mandatory DAEP Placement for e cigarette related events (FOC Legal):** HB 114 is scheduled to amend TEC 37.006 to require immediate DAEP placement for students Vaping or in possession of e cigarette paraphernalia. An exemption will allow the district to employ a campus level consequence for a first time offender prior to a DAEP placement.
5. **Teacher Certification (DK Legal and Local):** In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, a district must submit a request to TEA. In order to best serve MISD students, this will allow decisions on certification to be handled locally.
6. **Probationary Contracts (DCA Legal):** Currently, for experienced teachers new to the district, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years. This time period is not sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to state assessment results. For experienced teachers, counselors, or nurses new to the district that have been employed as a teacher, counselor, or nurse in public education for at least five of the last eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the last date of district employment.

### Summary of Original Process

- ◇ MISD Board consider to Adopt a Resolution
- ◇ Conduct Public Hearing
- ◇ Decision to decline or appoint a District of Innovation Committee
- ◇ Develop a Strategic Plan
- ◇ Provide Plan for Review (Public/District Innovation Team/TEA)
- ◇ District of Innovation Team votes on Strategic Plan
- ◇ MISD Board votes on Strategic Plan

### What impact could innovations have on school funding?

*School district funding will remain substantially the same for Districts of Innovation. The MISD Administrative team predicts a positive impact to the budget.*

*Original Plan approved by MISD District Advisory Committee on March 21, 2016.*

*DOI renewals begin upon expiration of the previous plan.*

*Inspiring hearts and minds one learner at a time.*