

## **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.

CBISD first became a designated District of Innovation on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, for a five-year term beginning with the 2017-18 school year and ending with the 2021-22 school year. This renewal plan will be in effect for the 2022-2023 instructional school year through the 2026-2027 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)/DOI Committee with approval from the CBISD Board of Trustees.

### **DOI Planning Team:**

<b>Central Administration- Agreed</b> Steven Galloway Chris Miller Samantha Fowler Jennifer Kelly	<b>Campus Administrators- Agreed</b> William Jeffery Jeffrey Kinney Leah Liserio Mary McCarthy Roxana Bolton Anne Cohea
<b>District Instructional Coaches- Agreed</b> Catherine Mader Iris Howard Julie Segovia Holly Heble Christina Wallace	

**Timeline:**

January 10, 2022 DOI Planning Meeting

January 11, 2022 DOI DOI Committee agreement and Plan posted to CBISD website

January 18, 2022 Public meeting

January 20, 2022 CBISD Board sends letter to Commissioner

February 15, 2022 CBISD Board adopts DOI plan 2/3rds affirmative vote

**I. Education Code 25.0811**

First Day of Instruction School districts may not begin instruction before the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in August.

Proposed – Columbia-Brazoria ISD will begin instruction no earlier than the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. CBISD 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****Education Code 21.003 (a)****Education Code 21.053(a)****Education Code 21.053(b)****Education Code 21.057(a)****Education Code 21.057 (b)**

The Texas Education Code states a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school

counselor 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. A person who desires to teach in a public school shall present the person's certificate for filing with the employing district before the person's contract with the board of trustees of the district is binding. An educator who does not have a valid certificate may not be paid for teaching or work done before the effective date of issuance of a valid certificate. A school district that assigns an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year shall provide written notice of the assignment to a parent or guardian of each student in that classroom. The superintendent of the school district shall provide the notice required by subsection (a) not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> instructional day after the date of the assignment of the inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher.

Proposed – These exemptions will allow CBISD to better serve our students and community by allowing more flexibility in scheduling and class offerings. To best serve CBISD students, decisions pertaining to teacher certification and assignment will be handled locally. Teacher certification waivers, state permit applications, fees, or notifications will not be submitted to TEA. CBISD will maintain a commitment to secure certified professionals and will continue to search for highly effective certified educators for all teaching positions. If a certified teacher cannot be secured, the district will have the flexibility to issue a local teaching permit (District of Innovation Permit) based on skills and experiences outside of the traditional teacher certification pathway. Qualifications that may be considered are professional work experience, formal training and education including advanced degrees, combination of work experience, training and education, and demonstration of successful experience working with students. The campus principal must submit to the superintendent a request of a District of Innovation Permit outlining the individual's credentials and qualifications. The superintendent will then approve the request if the individual will be beneficial for students and possesses the knowledge, skills, and experience required for the position. The superintendent will also 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. If approved by the superintendent, all decisions and teaching contracts will be reported to and approved by the CBISD Board of Trustees. Individuals hired under the CBISD District of Innovation exemption will be issued a local District of Innovation Permit and receive a one-year non-certified contract that must be renewed annually. All individuals with local District of Innovation Permits will have a mentor, additional professional development in classroom management, and lesson planning support. An employee working under a local District Teaching Permit will be appraised under the same teacher appraisal system as required of all certified teachers and will adhere to the same professional standards, ethics, and

requirements of all certified teachers and will be required to complete the criminal background check in compliance with State Board of Education rules.

#### **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.

#### **VI. Transfer Students (TEC §25.036)**

State law allows a student to transfer annually from the child's school district of residence to another district in the state if both the receiving district and the applicant parent or guardian jointly approve and timely agree in writing to the transfer. In approving transfer requests, the availability of space and instructional staff, availability of programs and services, the student's disciplinary history, academic performance, and attendance records are also evaluated. Under TEC §25.036, a transfer is interpreted to be for a period of one school year.

Proposed - The administration will review disciplinary records, academic performance, attendance records, and other data of transfer students on an ongoing basis to determine if the transfer agreement is being upheld. CBISD is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one-year commitment to transfer students when they violate district expectations of attendance, discipline, academic achievement, and/or falsify documentation. This flexibility would allow the district to have the option of immediate revocation of a student's transfer status by the Superintendent or designee at any time during the school year.

Approved by the Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District Board of Trustees on TBD.