

# TORNILLO INDEPENDENT

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Educating children today to be the leaders of tomorrow.*



**Date:** December 19, 2017

**Subject:** District of Innovation Resolution

### **Background Information:**

- School districts in Texas may seek designation as a District of Innovation (TEC 12A).
- Such a designation allows the district to access exemption from certain requirements of state law. Essentially, innovation plans are about local control.
- A District of Innovation can be exempt from certain requirements imposed by state law.
- These exemptions MAY include: uniform start date; minimum minutes of instruction; the 90% attendance rule; teacher contracts, benefits, and appraisals; campus decision-making restrictions; certain budgeting requirements; and some student discipline laws.
- A District of Innovation cannot seek exemption from the following (not a complete list): elected boards of trustees; powers and duties of school boards, superintendents, and principals; PEIMS; curriculum and graduation requirements; academic accountability and student assessments; financial accountability and related reporting; open meetings; and public purchasing laws.
- School districts are eligible for designation as a District of Innovation if the district's most recent academic performance rating was at least acceptable.

### **Administrative Consideration:**

- The process to adopt an innovation plan is initiated by either a resolution of the trustees or a petition signed by a majority of the members of the district-level advisory committee.
- A resolution for adoption is attached as an actionable item.
- Promptly after adoption of the resolution, the board must hold a hearing to consider whether the district should develop a local innovation plan for designation as a District of Innovation.
- At the conclusion of that hearing, or as soon as possible, thereafter, the board can either decline to pursue designation as a District of Innovation or appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan that complies with the relevant state law.
- Once the committee develops a local innovation plan, it must be posted online for 30 days, sent to the commissioner, and a public hearing held by the District Leadership Team (and approve the plan by majority vote).
- The board may then vote on the final proposed innovation plan. Approval requires a two-thirds majority (at least 5-2 vote). The statute does not authorize the board to modify the final version of the proposed plan.
- Upon board approval, the district becomes a District of Innovation and may begin operating in accordance with the local innovation plan, exempt from the identified provisions of the Education Code.

***Vision:** Believe we can succeed, with pride we will achieve.*

***Mission:** The mission of the District is to educate and inspire students in a safe and supportive environment which will result in closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.*

# TORNILLO INDEPENDENT

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Educating children today to be the leaders of tomorrow.*



- Currently, nothing in the law requires the Commissioner to approve a district's local innovation plan.
- The plan would be in effect for up to 5 years. However, revisions may be made to the plan by following the same public hearing and vote processes.

### **Strategic Design:**

- Goal 3: Maintains a safe, positive, transparent climate with high expectations for all students, staff, families, as well as the community to promote high academic performance.

### **Recommendations:**

- Adopt the resolution to initiate process of designation as a District of Innovation pursuant to Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

***Vision:** Believe we can succeed, with pride we will achieve.*

***Mission:** The mission of the District is to educate and inspire students in a safe and supportive environment which will result in closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.*

# TORNILLO INDEPENDENT

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Educating children today to be the leaders of tomorrow.*



### **Resolution**

FOR TORNILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF DESIGNATION AS A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PURSUANT TO TEXAS EDUCATION CODE CHAPTER 12A

#### **I. Findings**

The Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees is committed to the success of every student and acknowledges education must advance to meet the demands of the workforce, 21st century teaching and learning, and provide the pathway for all students to be college and career ready. The State of Texas has enacted legislation to enable independent school districts to locally control and administer innovative paths with significant educational benefits for our students. This resolution will facilitate the implementation of innovative curriculum, programs, and time frames needed to assure our students complete a well-rounded education.

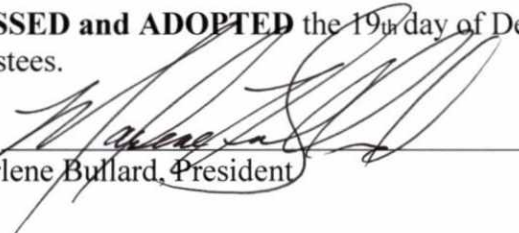
Chapter 12A of the Texas Education Code requires school districts seeking to be designated as a District of Innovation to initiate such consideration via a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees and then to hold a public hearing for discussion to consider whether the school district should develop a local innovation plan.


The Tornillo I.S.D. finds that passing such a resolution is in keeping with the Tornillo I.S.D. Board of Trustees' long-standing demands for the best and greatest educational benefits of its students and its practice of supporting innovation for the benefit of students.

#### **II. Resolution**

Based on the findings above, the Tornillo Independent School District Board of Trustees hereby resolves that it is appropriate, necessary, and beneficial to the educational experience of students and staff to initiate the process of exploring and considering designation of the Tornillo I.S.D. as a District of Innovation under Texas Education Code Chapter 12A.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017, by the Tornillo I.S.D. Board of Trustees.

By:   
Marlene Bullard, President

ATTEST:  
By:   
Ofelia Bosquez, Secretary

*Vision: Believe we can succeed, with pride we will achieve.*

*Mission: The mission of the District is to educate and inspire students in a safe and supportive environment which will result in closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.*