

Galena Park Independent School District

District of Innovation

PROCESS and TIMELINE

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1842, created in the 84th Legislative Session, provides opportunities for traditional independent school districts to exempt themselves from some parts of the Texas Education Code (TEC), giving them the same flexibility currently available to Texas' open enrollment charter schools. In order to utilize this opportunity, independent school districts must first become a District of Innovation by following a prescribed course of action outlined in statute. Galena Park ISD's process and timeline are described below.

DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- ★ May 2016: District leadership became aware of HB 1842, and representatives attended an informational session hosted by Region 4 Education Service Center.
- ★ July 2016: District administrators met to determine if it would benefit Galena Park ISD to pursue designation as a District of Innovation. The decision was made to move forward with the process citing the benefits to students and staff of Galena Park ISD.
- ★ August 8, 2016: The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees began the formal process by unanimously passing a Resolution to explore the possibility of Galena Park ISD becoming a District of Innovation.
- ★ August 23, 2016: At a special called Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees meeting, District staff conducted a Public Hearing to consider developing a local innovation plan.
 - After the Public Hearing, the Board of Trustees approved, as presented, the District of Innovation Advisory Committee comprised of 25 campus / district staff members and representatives from district stakeholder groups, such as the local chapter representatives from the Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA), Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), Retired Educators Association, Teacher Leadership Council, Community Leadership Council, and local Ministers' Alliance.

○ The Galena Park ISD District of Innovation Advisory Committee:

Crystal Murray	Assistant Superintendent, Special Projects	Galena Park ISD
Sandy Mathews	Program Director, Grants/Community Relations	Galena Park ISD
Elizabeth Lalor	Assistant Superintendent, Educational and Academic Support	Galena Park ISD
Dr. Wanna Giacona	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources	Galena Park ISD
Terri Moore	Assistant Superintendent, Communications	Galena Park ISD
Karen Sutera	Senior Director, Staff Development	Galena Park ISD
Hollice Malloy	Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction	Galena Park ISD
Dr. Mechelle Epps	Executive Director for Student Support	Galena Park ISD
Livia Callahan	Director, Elementary Instructional Support	Galena Park ISD
Veronica Martinez	Director, Early Childhood and Bil/ESL	Galena Park ISD
Ben Pape	Tax Assessor-Collector	Galena Park ISD
Kim Hadaway	Parent	Galena Park Middle School
Cordia Robles	Parent	North Shore-9 th Grade Center
Tabitha Sapien	Lead Counselor	North Shore Senior High School
Dr. Jeff Hutchinson	Principal	Early College High School
Janie Bazile	Teacher, TCTA Representative	Cobb 6th Grade Campus
Lynn Nutt	Administrative Assistant, ATPE Representative	Warehouse Services
Bianca Shaughnessy	Principal	Woodland Acres Elementary
Toshia Gouard	Principal	Havard Elementary
Shaunté Morris	Principal	Galena Park Middle School
Ruth Buffington	Retired Educator	Retired
Joe Herrera	Minister	Grace Worship Center
Shalonda Dawkins	Community Leadership Council	United Community Credit Union
Noelia Vargas	Teacher of the Year, Elementary	Woodland Acres Elementary
Charlene Culpepper	Former Teacher of the Year, Secondary	North Shore 9 th Grade Center

- ★ August 31, 2016: The first meeting of the Galena Park ISD District of Innovation Advisory Committee was conducted, focusing on the concept and process of House Bill 1842 and the District of Innovation designation. Two additional meeting dates (September 21 and October 11, 2016) were scheduled to develop the Galena Park ISD Local Innovation Plan.
 - District of Innovation Advisory Committee Members were asked to meet with their representative groups to share information presented during the initial District of Innovation Advisory Committee Meeting and gather feedback regarding the proposed areas for exemption, as well as any other possible areas of inclusion for Galena Park ISD's Local Innovation Plan.
- ★ September 13, 2016: Galena Park ISD's process, timeline and progress were presented to the District Planning and Advisory Committee. Members were asked to share the information with their campuses and stakeholder groups and to forward feedback to the District of Innovation Advisory Committee for possible inclusion in the Galena Park ISD Local Innovation Plan.
- ★ September 21, 2016: The District of Innovation Advisory Committee met again to hear feedback from stakeholder groups and began the development of the Galena Park ISD Local Innovation Plan. Feedback was solicited and considered, and the plan was revised and refined.
- ★ October 11, 2016: The District of Innovation Advisory Committee met a final time to complete the development of Galena Park ISD's Local Innovation Plan.
- ★ October 12 – November 12, 2016: Galena Park ISD's Local Innovation Plan was posted on the Galena Park ISD website for 30 days; concurrently, the plan was submitted to Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath.
- ★ October 18, 2016: The Galena Park ISD District Planning and Advisory Committee held a public meeting to consider and approve the final version of Galena Park ISD's Local Innovation Plan with a majority vote.
- ★ November 14, 2016: The Board of Trustees voted to approve Galena Park ISD's Local Innovation Plan, as presented, by a vote of 6 to 0.
- ★ November-December 2016: Updates of all related local and legal policies were reviewed, revised and submitted to the Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees for approval.
- ★ Galena Park ISD is designated as a District of Innovation for a term of five years, renewable within six months of the plan's expiration date of November 2021. The plan is amendable by a majority vote of the District Planning and Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees.
- ★ April-June 2017: Amendment #1, regarding Teacher Certification, was written and reviewed by District staff, and was approved by the District Planning and Advisory Committee as well as the

Board of Trustees. The amended plan was submitted to the Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath on June 17, 2017.

- ★ August 14, 2017: The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees formally adopted local policies AF (Local), DBA (Local), DK (Local), DNA (Local), EB (Local), EC (Local), EEB (Local), and FO (Local), bringing the Galena Park ISD District of Innovation Plan into alignment with policy.
- ★ June-August 2017: Amendment #2, regarding Teacher Certification, was written and reviewed by District staff, and was approved by the District Planning and Advisory Committee as well as the Board of Trustees. The amended plan was submitted to the Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath on August 17, 2017.