



September 25, 2018

District of Innovation Local Innovation Plan

INTRODUCTION

House Bill (HB) 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.

Potential benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Flexibility:** Districts will have the flexibility to implement practices that support local needs, including exemptions from certain mandates such as the uniform school start date and required minutes of instruction.
- **Local control:** Districts decide which flexibilities best suit their local needs.
- **Autonomy:** Districts must submit a District of Innovation Plan to the Commissioner of Education, but approval is not required.

On September 11, 2018, the Raymondville Independent School District's Board of Trustees ("Board") passed a Resolution to explore the development of a District of Innovation Plan to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives. The adoption of this plan seeks to increase the District's flexibility in order to improve educational outcomes for the benefit of students and the community. September 21, 2018, the Board appointed the District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC) to be the District of Innovation Committee comprised of diverse leaders representing a cross-section of the District's stakeholders including teachers, principals, parents, community members, and administrators. The Committee met on September 25, 2018 to discuss and draft the Local Innovation Plan.

TERM

The term of the Plan is for five years, beginning July 1, and ending June 30, 2024, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. If, within the term of this Plan, other areas of operations are to be considered for flexibility as part of HB 1842, the Board will appoint a new committee to consider and propose additional exemptions in the form of an amendment to the Plan. Any amendment adopted by the Board will not extend the term of this Plan. The District may not implement two separate plans at any one time.

District Of Innovation Committee Members:

Dara Cepeda, Benjamin Clinton, Sulema Davila, David Flores, Frank Garcia, Martha Hinojosa, David Longoria, Andrea Mungia, Carmen Ortega, Kayla Arce, Ann Aguirre, Diana Cardiel, Robyn Carey, Martha Esparza, Malissa Gonzales, Marisol Herrera, Elizabeth Mendoza, Beatriz Salinas, Miguel Salinas, Jennifer Zamorano

Timeline of Events: Tentative

9/11/2018: Raymondville ISD Board passes District Of Innovation Resolution

9/21/2018: Raymondville ISD Board holds public hearing to discuss possibility of pursuing District Of Innovation Plan and adopts findings regarding Texas Insurance Code

9/21/2018: Raymondville ISD Board takes action to pursue District Of Innovation Plan and Raymondville ISD Board approves District Of Innovation Committee members.

9/25/2018: District Of Innovation Committee develops Plan. Approved 20-0

9/26/2018: Plan posted for public view/Raymondville ISD Board notifies Commissioner of Education of intent to vote on Plan.

10/30/2018: Raymondville ISD Site-Based Decision-Making Committee holds public meeting and votes on District Of Innovation Plan.

11/13/2018: Board approves the Raymondville ISD District of Innovation Plan.

AREA OF INNOVATION

With regard to each area of innovation, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provisions, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification, and State Board of Education.

1. Preclusion from Exiting Uniform Group Coverage Program Established under Chapter 1579, Insurance Code.

Exemption from: TEC §22.004(i)

Related Board Policies: RISD CRD (LEGAL) and CRD (LOCAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

TEC §22.004 (i) states that a school district may not make group health coverage available to its employees pursuant to TEC 22.004(b) after the date a District implements the program of coverages provided under Chapter 1579 of the Texas Insurance Code. The current process allows no flexibility in the design of group health insurance benefits to fit the needs of all Raymondville ISD employees. This provision also prohibits the District from procuring group health insurance benefits that may provide better coverages for its employees and at a

lower cost. This provision is in direct contradiction to the wishes of the local Board of Trustees who represent community interests in this matter.

On September 21, 2018 the Board of Trustees adopted findings declaring that the Texas Insurance Code Section 1579.151 provides that each school district with 500 or fewer employees and each regional education service center is required to participate in the program. However, subsection (b) states notwithstanding Subsection (a), a school district otherwise subject to Subsection (a) that, on January 1, 2001, was individually self-funded for the provision of health coverage to its employees may elect not to participate in the program and that Raymondville ISD was individually self-funded for the provision of health coverage to its employees on January 1, 2001 (Board Minutes and Adopted Resolution attached).

Texas Education Code 22.004 is not in any of the prohibited exemptions that can be included in a District's local innovation plan pursuant to Texas Education Code 12A.004 and the list of the Commissioner's prohibited exemptions in Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Chapter 102, subchapter JJ, Section 102.1309.

Innovation Strategies

- a. Increased local control of the group health benefits plan to allow the District to be responsive to employee and community needs.

Resolution to Adopt a District Of Innovation

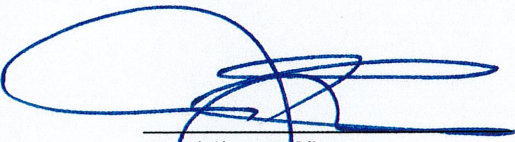
Whereas, Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a district of innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the board of trustees of the district; and

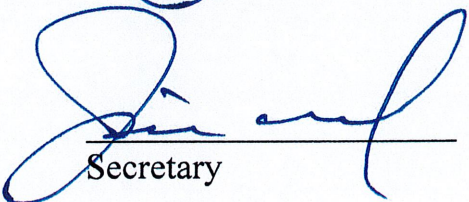
Whereas, the Raymondville Independent School District's most recent performance rating under Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Trustees of Raymondville Independent School District, by adoption of this resolution, initiates the process under Education Code Chapter 12A to become a District of Innovation.

Be It Further Resolved that after this resolution is signed by the Board, a public hearing shall be held to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation and that after the public hearing, the Board of Trustees of Raymondville Independent School District shall appoint a committee to develop a local innovation plan or decline to pursue designations as a district of innovation.

Adopted the 11th day of September, 2018, by the Board of Trustees



Presiding Officer

Secretary

Raymondville Independent School District Resolution

Whereas, Pursuant to 12A.001 of the Texas Education Code the Raymondville Independent School District (RISD or the District) Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution to begin the process to for RISD to be designated a District of Innovation on September 11, 2018;

Whereas, Texas Education Code 12A.002 provides that the Board of Trustees must have a public hearing to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a district of innovation;

Whereas, The Board of Trustees held a public hearing pursuant to Texas Education Code 12A.002 on September 21, 2018;

Whereas, Texas Education Code 12A.003 provides that a local innovation plan must be developed for a school district before the district may be designated as a district of innovation;

Whereas, a local innovation plan must provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which program may include:

- innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;
- modifications to the school day or year;
- provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding;
- accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and
- any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees; and
- identify requirements imposed by this code that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan, subject to Section 12A.004.

Whereas, Texas Education Code 12A.004 provides that a local innovation plan may not provide for the exemption of a district designated as a district of innovation from the following provisions of this title:

- a state or federal requirement applicable to an open-enrollment charter school operating under Subchapter D, Chapter 12;
- (2) Subchapters A, C, D, and E, Chapter 11, except that a district may be exempt from Sections 11.1511(b)(5) and (14) and Section 11.162;
- (3) state curriculum and graduation requirements adopted under Chapter 28; and
- (4) academic and financial accountability and sanctions under Chapters 39 and 39A.

Whereas, Texas Education Code 12A.004 provides that the commissioner shall: maintain a list of provisions of this title from which school districts designated as districts of innovation are exempt under this chapter; and notify the legislature of each provision from which districts enrolling a majority of students in this state are exempt.

Whereas, Texas Administrative Code Title 19 Chapter 102 Subchapter JJ Section 102.1309 provides an innovation district may not be exempted from the following sections of the Texas Education Code (TEC) and the rules adopted thereunder:

- a state or federal requirement, imposed by statute or rule, applicable to an open-enrollment charter school operating under the TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter D, including, but not limited to, the requirements listed in the TEC, §12.104(b), and:
- TEC, Chapter 22, Subchapter B;
- TEC, Chapter 25, Subchapter A, §§25.001, 25.002, 25.0021, 25.0031, and 25.004;
- TEC, Chapter 28,
§§28.002, 28.0021, 28.0023, 28.005, 28.0051, 28.006, 28.016, 28.0211, 28.0213, 28.0217, 28.025, 28.0254, 28.02541, 28.0255, 28.0258, 28.0259, and 28.026;
- TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter G;
- TEC, Chapter 30, Subchapter A;
- TEC, §30.104;
- TEC, Chapter 34;
- TEC, Chapter 37, §§37.006(l), 37.007(e), 37.011, 37.012, 37.013, and 37.020; and
- TEC, Chapter 39;
- TEC, Chapter 11, Subchapters A, C, D, and E, except that a district may be exempt from the TEC, §11.1511(b)(5) and (14) and §11.162;
- TEC, Chapter 13;
- TEC, Chapter 41;
- TEC, Chapter 42;
- TEC, Chapter 44,
§§44.0011, 44.002, 44.003, 44.004, 44.0041, 44.005, 44.0051, 44.006, 44.007, 44.0071, 44.008, 44.009, 44.011, 44.0312, 44.032, 44.051, 44.052, 44.053, and 44.054;
- TEC, Chapter 45, §§45.003, 45.0031, 45.005, 45.105, 45.106, 45.202, 45.203; and
- TEC, Chapter 46.

Whereas, in addition to the prohibited exemptions specified above of this resolution, an innovation district may not be exempted from:

- a requirement of a grant or other state program in which the district voluntarily participates;
- duties that the statute applies to the execution of that power if a district chooses to implement an authorized power that is optional under the terms of the statute; and
- requirements imposed by provisions outside the TEC, including requirements under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 822.

Whereas, Texas Insurance Code Section 1579.151 provides that each school district with 500 or fewer employees and each regional education service center is required to participate in the program. However, subsection (b) states notwithstanding Subsection (a), a school district otherwise subject to Subsection (a) that, on January 1, 2001, was individually self-funded for the provision of health coverage to its employees may elect not to participate in the program.

Whereas, Raymondville ISD was individually self-funded for the provision of health coverage to its employees on January 1, 2001 (Board Minutes attached);

Whereas, Texas Education Code 22.004 (i) provides notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a district participating in the uniform group coverage program established under Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, may not make group health coverage available to its employees under this section after the date on which the program of coverages provided under Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, is implemented;

Whereas, Texas Education 22.004 (i) precludes the Raymondville ISD from opting out of the "program" established by 1579 of the Insurance Code.

Whereas, Texas Education Code 22.004 is not in any of the prohibited exemptions that can be included in a District's local innovation plan pursuant to Texas Education Code 12A.004 and the list of the Commissioner's prohibited exemptions in Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Chapter 102, subchapter JJ, Section 102.1309.

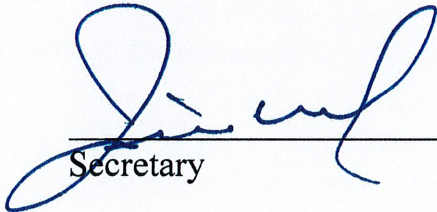
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Trustees of Raymondville Independent School District, by adoption of this resolution, finds all of the above to be true.

Be It Further Resolved that after this resolution is signed by the Board, the committee appointed shall develop a local innovation plan consistent with the findings contained in this resolution and with all statutes, regulations, and local board policies.

Adopted the 21st day of September by the Board of Trustees



Presiding Officer



Secretary

State of Texas

County of Willacy

The Board of Trustees of the Raymondville Independent School District met in a special session at 7:30 p.m. on May 23, 2002, in the RISD Board Room. The meeting was called to order by President Oscar Gutierrez.

Roll Call

Present: Oscar Gutierrez, Harry Cavazos (joined at 8:01 PM), Ray Solis, John Kellogg, Zack Gonzales, John Solis, and Gilbert Tristan.

Absent: None

President Oscar Gutierrez called meeting to order and called the roll and noting the Board had a quorum.

Mr. Gutierrez welcomed everyone including Dr. Davenport.

Others Present: Orlando A. Correa, Gilbert Vasquez, Bill Greer, Feliberto Lucero, Richard C. Garcia, Richard Flores, III, Johnnie C. Karseno, Jr., Margaret Reyna, Paul Whitworth, Alicia Davis, Jim Scarborough, Estella Ortiz, Humberto S. Romero, Cecilia Falcon, Cliff Fambrough, Almar Moreno, Sandra Bermea, and Melissa Oviedo.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item 3(a) Mr. Correa recommended to the board to award Raymondville I. S. D. Food Service Management contract to Chartwell's. Mrs. Reyna handed information to the Board and Mr. Gutierrez opened for discussion. Mr. Gonzales asked if the last page was recommendations and implementations? Mrs. Reyna responded that they were recommendations that were listed in the action plan. After a comprehensive discussion Mr. R. Solis made a motion to approve Raymondville ISD Food Service Management contract to Chartwell's. Mr. Gutierrez amended motion upon review of our legal council in regards to the five-year contract renewed every year. Mr. Kellogg then made a motion to approve with the consent and review of legal council and Mr. R. Solis seconded. Motion passed with a 6-0.

Item 3(b) Mr. Correa recommended that the Board that Raymondville ISD opt into the TRS-ACTIVECARE Program. Mr. Correa informed the Board the TRS-ACTIVECARE has informed our District that they will be accepting our District to opt into the Program. Mr. Greer presented the Board with additional information on insurance issues and what Greer Insurance could offer the District. Mr. Correa informed the Board that 96% of the District staff has expressed to opt into the TRS-ACTIVECARE. Mr. Kellogg demonstrated a concern with the state policy and stated that it may be 5 to 8 million dollars deficit. Sitting in the reserves with Greer Insurance is at \$112,000. A discussion was held on the amount that the employee would have to contribute. This issue was clarified by Mr. Correa and Mr. Greer. Mr. Cavazos asked about the survey and Mr. Correa informed the Board of the procedure and that the majority of our employees favored the state plan not knowing that rates would not be guaranteed through the 3-yrs. Mr. Cavazos stated that it was clear on what the staff wanted and that we needed to listen to our staff and approve the TRS-ACTIVECARE state plan. Mr. R. Solis asked how everyone was going to file with the state. Mr. R. Solis also stated that the District was not in the insurance business and asked who was going to be the District consultant services that Mr. Greer was providing our district. Mr. Kellogg made a motion to table this item due to the lack of insurance information on coverages. Mr. Cavazos asked for discussion. Mr. Cavazos again stated that the staff had spoken and that the Board should not go against what the staff wanted and table this item. Motion dies. Mr. Correa recommended that we opt into the TRS-ACTIVECARE and Mr. Gonzales made the motion to opt into the state plan and Mr. J. Solis seconded. Motion carried with a 6-1 vote.

The Board convened into Executive Session and reconvened into regular session at 8:55 PM and acted on the matters discussed in the Executive Session. Mr. Correa recommended that the Board approve employments and resignations as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. R. Solis made a motion to approve and seconded by Mr. G. Tristan to hire: Arturo De La Paz, Debra Ann Ehlers, Jill McDonald, and Idolina Maria Reyna and to accept the resignations of: Christine K. Levings and Don Young. Motion passed 7-0.

Adjournment

With no further business, adjourn.