



Alief District of Innovation Plan - Executive Summary

The District of Innovation concept, passed during the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, gives traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas' open-enrollment charter schools. The flexibility derives from the district's ability to exempt itself from state mandates that may limit its ability to implement innovative ideas.

In March 2016, the Alief Board of Trustees approved a resolution to investigate the District of Innovation concept and what it may mean in terms of new and better ways to meet the needs of our students in receiving a world class education. To conduct this evaluation, the Board appointed an Alief District of Innovation (ADI) Committee comprised of district staff, parents, and community members. The district also appointed an ADI Work Group comprised of central level and campus-based instructional leaders to support the efforts of the ADI Committee through activities such as research and plan development.

The ADI Committee met during the spring and fall of 2016 and ultimately identified several action ideas that are incorporated into three areas of innovation:

1. Non-Traditional Schools - The Committee recommends the expansion of non-traditional school models that provide students and parents with a variety of options for how education is delivered. Non-traditional school models may include international schools, magnet programs, and school-within-a-school models.
2. Special Programs - The Committee recommends an increase in special programs in multiple focus areas that are all designed to enhance student engagement through personalized learning. The special programs recommended include, but are not limited to: career and technical education (CTE) partnerships, career explorations, enrichment, STEAM activities, and project based learning.
3. Non-Traditional Schedules - The Committee recommends exploring non-traditional scheduling options that allow for flexibility. This may include acceleration and self-paced, personalized progression through courses, using strategies such as blended or project-based learning.

To implement these innovative strategies, Alief may request exemptions from and/or flexibility with the following state requirements: First Day of Instruction, Class Size, Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade, Minimum Minutes of Instruction, Early Release, Certification Required, Planning and Preparation Time, and Staff Development.

On February 21, 2017, the Alief ISD Board of Trustees and the District Educational Improvement Council approved the Alief District of Innovation Plan. The Plan will be effective for five years beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

For more information visit www.AliefISD.net/ADI



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