

Innovation District Advisory Committee Feedback

- **What issues or innovations should we consider to better implement the AISD Strategic Plan and improve educational outcomes?**
 - Provide different approaches to the same instruction to serve different student groups. Ability to move students between instructional methods (classic, common core, etc.) & between teachers.
 - Period of language immersion prior to general enrollment where the need exists for students entering with language barriers.
 - Ability to vary class sizes based on student capability. (Needs based) Different class size.
 - Focus efforts on the academic needs of our students versus focusing efforts on state mandated legislation coming out of the capitol by people with limited to no public educational background.
 - Becoming a DIO has the potential to remove local control by Board of Trustees – are you aware of that? If that happens, then TEA can appoint a Board in its place which can mean disaster for our Austin students.
 - As this designation would apply for the entire district and leave the selection of exemptions to be determined for each campus as appropriate, we should opt to accept every exemption allowed.
 - Re: DOI – we need more information on what is currently restricted by the state, complete with the specific education statute.
 - Using online courses to help create individual learning plans for all students
 - At least 1 more in-service day for teachers
 - Utilize industry professionals to teach specific vocational courses
 - 360 degree feedback on teachers/staff, including from students
 - A computer for every child, loaded with e-textbooks
 - Do we have to be an innovation design district to implement a great innovation? Can't we do this now?
 - More teacher PD (time and money)
 - Teacher pay-for-performance; differentiated pay
 - More technology courses related to the local economy
 - One-to-one devices for every student
 - Flexibility to hire part-time teachers
 - More focus on academics—less on sports and performing arts
 - Hire more qualified, innovative teachers
 - Create a “hub and spoke” facility plan for CTE and core courses
 - SEL report card
 - Lack of specialized courses due to lengthy hiring requirements
 - Lack of opportunities for students to pursue passion and field of interest
 - Time –PD, planning for teachers
 - Flexibility in hiring
 - 90% attendance rule
 - School day
 - Curriculum inflexibility
 - Budget constraints
 - Internship at High School
 - Curriculum flexibility
 - PD
 - Testing out
 - Campus & community planning

- **Which District of Innovation flexibilities (TEC exemptions) could we utilize?**
 - Start times to facilitate busing needs. Budgets may allow certain programs only at certain locations (Time shifting)
 - Pairing teachers or aids with programmers or other industry experts who could offer specialized courses (Non-certified Instructors)
 - Allow students to test out of core curriculum to spend seat time in chosen areas of study. Self-study programs.
 - Instructional credit for internships & work experience.
 - The exemptions that limit outside interference from legislatures who have none or limited educational backgrounds
 - All of them, possibly. However, those that leverage flexibility of time and location provide the most opportunities to innovate
 - Are we limited to stationary restrictions, or can we add innovations that are not mentioned in Texas Statute?
 - “Maintain reasonable sizes” , & allow class sizes to swell and shrink to allow teacher flexibility, e.g. planning time, PD time
 - Adjust instructional minutes—allowing online courses
 - Local teacher appraised system, allow innovative feedback system, including peer reviews & 360 degree feedback
 - Start time, seat time
 - However, is there another way to do it? Without going this route?
 - Hiring a part time teacher to teach specialized courses and more diverse subjects (ex. welding, biotech, CSI, architecture, adv. Comp. programming)
 - Allowing students to fulfill mandated minutes by pursuing out-of-class opportunities (ex. internships, volunteering)
 - Length of school day
 - Teacher Certifications
 - Uniform school start date
 - Student flexibility for outside learning opportunities
 - We will see if we need to

- **What barriers or other considerations need to be addressed?**
 - Social Promotion—How to educate diverse groups while keeping students with similar age groups
 - School start dates to facilitate
 - Soft skills need to be part of curriculum
 - Not having a uniform calendar (start date, times) can ruin family vacations & summer camp opportunities. For example, I plan my summer vacation with my sister since our districts end at the same time. Without this, we may not be able to vacation together again.
 - Allowing more students per classroom instead of reducing class size can be hugely detrimental to our students and eventually the graduation rate.
 - The digital learning environment that will be a result of a DOI designation makes teacher obsolete, and places the competency of incompetency of our students in the hands of a software maker, and not educators. Those software makers are not having conversations with teachers even though this directly affects students.
 - It will be important to articulate the purpose—the “why” behind the adoption of exemptions
 - Also, change is always difficult. Having support for teachers will be critical.
 - All provisions must address the racial and socioeconomic segregation at the campus level that is currently found in AISD
 - Can TEA Virtual School “vouchers” be used for accelerative courses
 - Replace textbooks with e-textbooks?

- If we have a great idea, do we have to be an innovative design district to do it?
- Removing certification requirements; gain corporate, community, univ. partnerships
- To devote required minutes for 'seat time' to more out of school exp. Time
- Teacher support/fear
- More campus choice could create barriers between campuses/competition/inequity of opportunities
- Austin is a diverse, educated community, but innovation & change are not always embraced by all
- Support of teachers, staff, & community
- Lack of understanding
- Do we need this to make campus changes or can we do this
- Fear of unknown
- Simple solutions to complicated problems