



# Calvert Independent School District

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## DISTRICT OF INNOVATION PLAN 2017 - 2018

HB 1842 was passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session in Spring 2015, and provides Texas public school districts the opportunity to be designed as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities, a school district must adopt an innovation plan, as set forth in Texas Education Code Chapter 12A. Becoming a District of Innovation would allow greater local control as decisions are made at the local level to adapt flexibility within the district. This plan would be most effective for the educational goals of our students and the community. The term of this plan is for five years beginning June 21, 2017 and ending June 21, 2022, unless terminated, renewed or amended earlier by the Calvert ISD Board of Trustees in accordance with the law.

Districts are not exempt from statutes including curriculum, graduation requirements, and academic and financial accountability.

### DISTRICT OF INNOVATION COMMITTEE:

Ronnell O'Keith Trotter	Principal
Thomas Kelly	Assistant Principal
Dan Arnold	Counselor/Technology Director
Edith Gilbert	Elementary Teacher
Joyce Glasscock	Elementary Teacher
Christina Mendoza	Intermediate Teacher
Margaret Morgan	Jr./Sr. High Teacher
Bobby Alford	Paraprofessional
Shanntel Williams	Parent Representative
Bridgette Woods	Business Representative

## *INNOVATIONS:*

*Calvert ISD will consider ALL permitted exemptions as described in the District of Innovation legislation (TAC 102) of 2015. Exemptions listed will be items that Calvert ISD will seek to implement immediately.*

### *❖ First Day of instructions*

- Exemption from Texas Education Code §25.0811(a)*
  - Current Statute states “Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instructions for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.”*
- Justification for exemption*
  - The late start to the year could cause the 1<sup>st</sup> semester to linger into January '18 to ensure a better balance of days per semester. Our community expects the fall semester to end with final exams before Winter break. This exemption would also allow school to end prior to the Memorial Day holiday and thus giving students a break before summer school classes start within the district as well as institutions of higher learning.*

### *❖ Operation of Schools*

- Exemption from Texas Education Code §25.081(a)*
  - Current Statute states, “Except as authorized under subsection (b) of this section, section 25.084, or Section 29.0821, for each school year each district’s school day must be 420 minutes long in order to count for ADA calculations and funding purposes, and to accumulate instructional minutes towards the 75,600 minutes, including intermissions and recesses, for students.*
- Justification for exemption*
  - The flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction within a designated school day will assist with personalizing learning to better meet student needs. This flexibility has the added benefit of allowing the possibility of an altered length of a school day, which may include, for example, a later start/earlier release time which will accommodate professional learning/collaboration opportunities for teachers, parent/teacher conferences and focus group study. The district will meet the required 75,600 minutes per year*

### *❖ Certification Required*

- Exemption from Texas Education Code §21.003(a)*
  - Current Statute states, “A person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by Subchapter B.”*
- Justification for exemption*
  - The current TEC hampers Calvert ISD from hiring professionals for courses that are hard to fill, and are in high demand. By obtaining this exemption, the Calvert ISD has the flexibility to hire professionals from diverse academic or vocational fields that qualify the candidate to teach a particular course that they may not be certified to teach. The District will establish its own local qualification procedures. The Calvert ISD will continue to seek and employ fully certified teachers, therefore making certification a priority.*

❖ *Transfer Student*

- *Exemption from Texas Education Code §25.036*
  - *Current Statute states, "A district may choose to accept, as transfer, students who are not entitled to enroll in the district. Under TEC 25.036, however, has been interpreted to require a student transfer to be for a period of one school year.*
- *Justification for exemption*
  - *The current TEC will not allow Calvert ISD to have control of students that transfer into the district that may cause discipline or attendance issue. Where as the Calvert ISD is willing to give every student an opportunity to be successful, we will not allow disruptive behaviors or attendance issue of those invited to diminish the core fibers of our school. Transfer student will be given every opportunity as every student in the district. The District is seeking to eliminate the provision of a one year commitment in accepting transfer applicants. On rare occasions, student behavior warrants suspension (in or out of school), placement in a disciplinary alternative program, or expulsion. In addition, student attendance may fall below the TEA truancy standard.. In these rare cases, Calvert ISD seeks exemption from the one year transfer commitment.*