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DR. FRED BRENT
Superintendent

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Chief Financial Officer

February 22, 2017

Texas Education Agency
Mike Morath, Commissioner of Education
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Commissioner Mike Morath,

Texas Education Code 12.A authorizes an eligible school district to be designated as a District of Innovation, which allows the district to exempt certain TEC requirements. On May 16, 2016, the Georgetown Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a resolution to initiate the process to explore and consider becoming a District of Innovation.

With the approval of the resolution, the board held a public hearing on June 16, 2016 and at its July 25 meeting, the board unanimously approved a motion to pursue the DOI designation. On September 19, the Board appointed a DOI committee to develop an innovation plan. The 37-member committee was made up of teachers, district staff, parents, and community members. The committee met September 29-30, November 4, December 7, and December 13, 2016 to discuss and develop a plan that is aligned to the district's vision, mission, beliefs, and strategic plan.

The committee's final plan was posted to the district website on January 8, 2017 and the committee presented the plan to the GISD Board of Trustees as an information item at the January 17, 2017 Board meeting. The plan includes the following exemptions:

- First Day of Instruction
- District + Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision Making
- Minimum Attendance for Class Credit
- Teacher Certification
- Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- Teacher Appraisal System

The statutorily required district advisory committee (locally called District Performance Council) held a public meeting to review the plan on February 8, 2017. Following the public meeting, the DPC approved the plan by a majority vote. The GISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the District of Innovation plan on February 21, 2017.

The District of Innovation designation was initiated by a desire to give Georgetown ISD options to do the work of our strategic plan and a desire to bring our learner profile to fruition. Everything we have done since implementing the strategic plan has been focused on providing teachers with learning opportunities, and developing a comprehensive and aligned curriculum (written by teams of our own teachers) with a focus on student engagement and positive relationships. We hope this designation will provide us with more flexibility and freedom to do what's best for students in Georgetown ISD.

On behalf of the Georgetown ISD Board of Trustees, I respectfully submit our approved District of Innovation plan and attached Figure: 19 TAC §102.1307 (d), as required by the Texas Education Agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Brent".

Dr. Fred Brent
Superintendent