

# SBISD District of Innovation FAQs

On April 25, 2016, the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve our Strategic Plan/Local Innovation Plan as specified under Texas Education Code Chapter 12A. Districts of Innovation. With the approval of this new plan, SBISD becomes a District of Innovation as defined under the law.

Click [here](#) to view the SBISD Strategic Plan/Local Innovation Plan and website.

This is intended to be a living document –let us know your questions, so we can provide you with answers. Email us at [innovation@springbranchisd.com](mailto:innovation@springbranchisd.com)

## **APRIL 26, 2016**

### **Q. What changes in our schools today, April 26, 2016, as a result of last night's SBISD Board of Trustees vote to approve our Strategic Plan/Local Innovation Plan and become a District of Innovation?**

**A.** Nothing changed today in SBISD. Unless and until the SBISD Board of Trustees takes action to enact a particular exemption from the Texas Education Code and related regulations, nothing changes in SBISD's compliance with state laws and local policies. If the Board of Trustees considers a change under the District of Innovation law, we will give parents, students, employees, and the community an opportunity to weigh in. The SBISD Board added this step into its policy development process to be more transparent and receive authentic feedback from our community. The Board also commits to requiring a super-majority, or two-thirds vote, for any policy change considered under the District of Innovation law.

### **Q. What are the next steps for identifying tactics to support the Strategic Plan?**

**A.** The first steps will be to develop the action plans for Strategic Plan implementation. District leaders will consider recommendations made by the Strategic Planning Committee and identify tactics to begin implementing next year under each of the four strategic theme areas (Learning Ecosystem, Extraordinary People, Customized Supports, and Resilient Foundation). As a learning organization, we expect many of the ideas to come from our schools, our teachers, and our school communities as they identify ways to improve their unique students' experiences. Since this is a five-year plan, actions will be prioritized and phased in over time. Clear accountability measures for each tactic and a regular reporting schedule will enable the district, the Board of Trustees and our community to monitor success.

### **Q. Will the calendar change for the 2016-17 school year?**

**A.** No. SBISD's calendar has already been developed, approved and published for the 2016-17 school year. Click [here](#) to view the 2016-17 school year calendar.

### **Q. Will SBISD change the calendar to a year-round, 4 day week?**

**A.** We are not considering a district-wide, year-round calendar or a four-day /week calendar. As is our current practice, the academic year calendar options are developed by our District Improvement Team, which serves as the district's calendar committee. Calendar options are communicated to our staff and

our community for input via a survey before a final recommendation is made to the Superintendent and, in turn, the Board of Trustees.

**Q. What will change for my child next year as a result of the new Strategic Plan /District of Innovation Designation?**

**A.** SBISD will take a methodical, thoughtful approach to implementing the Strategic Plan. Next year will not look very different as a direct result of becoming a District of Innovation. We will spend much of next year focused internally on strengthening the district's foundation and operational excellence. We will continue to improve the quality of instruction across the system and expect continuous improvement in our classrooms and our schools. We also will continue to build and support great teachers and leaders for the benefit of Every Child in SBISD.

**Q. Will classrooms be converted into computer banks to replace teachers?**

**A.** No. SBISD recognizes that strong teachers, along with strong campus leaders, are the most important elements in a child's education. Technology serves as a valuable tool to support student learning and success, but technology will never replace our teachers. (For many years, SBISD has had a virtual high school for students who prefer to take a course online. This opportunity will continue, and these courses are teacher-led.)

**Q. Does being a District of Innovation mean we can opt out of STAAR testing?**

**A.** No, SBISD cannot opt out of the state accountability system as a District of Innovation.

**Q. Is T-2-4 still our goal?**

**A.** Yes. T-2-4 success for Every Child is our goal. We want every SBISD graduate to successfully complete some form of higher education – a technical certificate, military training, or a 2-year or 4-year degree.