



Dr. A. Marcus Nelson
Superintendent of Schools

April 25, 2017

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President, District 5

Hector J. Noyola
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Jose R. Perez, Jr.
Trustee, District 7

Commissioner Mike Morath
Texas Education Agency Commissioner's Office
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas, 78701

Dear Commissioner Morath,

On November 16, 2016, Laredo ISD staff met to discuss the District of Innovation (DOI) process and the possible positive outcomes that could result from this designation. While DOI has provided districts with several flexibilities, Laredo ISD has opted to primarily pursue an exemption pertaining to the start date of our scholastic calendar with TEC 12A.002(b)(2). Such an exemption allows Laredo ISD to approve a calendar that coincides with our sister district and higher education institutions to address the start and end dates for the district's Advanced Academics Dual Enrollment Program and provide additional opportunities for targeted professional development.

On April 13, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a *Resolution to Initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation*, as defined by the 84th Legislative Session in House Bill 1842. Our District of Innovation Committee and District Advisory Council has developed and approved a District of Innovation plan that will be posted for the public for the next 30 days.

Laredo ISD will implement the school start date during the third week of August effective 2017-2018 to 2021-2022.

Sincerely,

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