



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: April 12, 2017

Purpose: Report Only Recognition Discussion/ Possible Action

Presenter(s): Aja Gardner, Director of STEM, Adv. Academics, & Instructional Technology

Item Title:

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Local District of Innovation Plan for South San Antonio ISD to better meet the needs of the students and community.

Description:

With the recent academic successes of South San Antonio ISD, we request to approve the District of Innovation Plan to better meet the needs of the students and community by enhancing program choices for our students.

House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, provides the opportunity for Texas public school districts to pursue the designation of District of Innovation. This allows local school districts to obtain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code to allow more flexibility and local control for innovative programming. These same flexibilities are available for Texas' open enrollment charter schools.

District Goal:

Goal 3 We will provide meaningful and innovative instruction that promotes critical thinking and problem solving.

Funding Budget Code and Amount:

CFO Approval

Fund Balance

Program Funding will be the responsibility of ACE Mentor Program, at no cost to the District.

APPROVAL ROUTE

Principal/Director:

Executive Director:

Chief Administrator:

Superintendent:

SIGNATURE

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DATE

[Handwritten dates in blue ink: 3/24/17, 3-24-17, 3-24-17, 4-7-17]

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District of Innovation



DOI Board Presentation

April 12, 2017

District of Innovation Process

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Updates on DOI DRAFT

- March 10, 2017
 - draft Local Innovation Plan made available to the public on district website
 - TEA notified of Board's Intent to Vote
 - Public Comments/ Questions and responses available to public on district website
- April 3, 2017
 - District Education Improvement Council (DEIC) meeting on DOI
 - Discussion and Input on Exemption Guidelines
 - Plan updated to reflect DEIC input

TEC §25.0811 and §25.0812

First day of Instruction and Last Day of Instruction

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Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

The District desires to design a **district calendar** that best meets students' and the school community's needs.

The District will have the flexibility to **start school one week early, the third Monday in August**. This will balance the two instructional semesters, setting exams prior to Winter Break, and allowing for **more instructional time before STAAR/EOC/ AP exams**.

Students enrolled in the **Early College High School** would be able to start and end their high school courses at the same time as their college courses. The balanced semesters will **better align with college semesters**; allowing for more opportunities for summer internships, summer courses at the colleges, and industrial certification opportunities.

Mirroring the college calendar would enable the District to **recruit highly qualified faculty** who desire to coordinate their work schedule with the local college.

Local Guidelines

The **District Educational Improvement Council**, comprised of teachers, administrators, support personnel, parents, and business and community leaders, serves as the District's calendar committee. This committee will develop several **instructional calendar options** and recommend a preferred option to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will then make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. In developing calendar options, the Committee will utilize the flexibility of having more **local control on the school start date**.

NO
CHANGES
MADE

Data on Attendance Trends

Campus	Students not meeting 90% rule
Madla	28/694 (4%)
Five Palms	9/377 (2%)
Armstrong	30/479 (6%)
Shepard	53/609 (9%)

Campus	Students not meeting 90% rule
Kindred	20/522 (4%)
Palo Alto	16/514 (3%)
Kazen	25/469 (5%)

Campus	Students not meeting 90% rule
Athens	26/427 (6%)
Price	16/398 (4%)
Carrillo	13/377 (3%)
Dwight	30/469 (6%)

Campus	Students not meeting 90% rule
Hutchins	12/586 (2%)
Benavidez	21/625 (3%)
Zamora	9/548 (2%)

Campus	%age of students not meeting 90% rule
SSHS	533/2,439 (22%)

841/9,533 (9%) of students not meeting the 90% rule

→ 841 attendance committee meetings
 → 841 students possibly retained/ failing a course(s)

*** as of March 24, 2017

TEC §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

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Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

Currently, students who have already **mastered course material**, yet have unique attendance issues are required to re-take the course for **“seat time” credit**. Additionally, students who are able to advance more rapidly, due to the **ability to work above grade level**, are not allowed to do so. Students are required to earn “seat time” regardless of their level of content mastery. The District will need an exemption from the **90% “seat time” attendance rule**.

The District strives to implement **innovative ways for learners to learn**. Virtual classroom learning opportunities and service learning opportunities are examples of innovative learning. Additionally, students will be afforded the opportunity to pursue potential career passions.

Local Guidelines

The District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) will develop an Attendance Committee Appeal process to effectively and efficiently provide targeted guidance and support for campuses. The DEIC will also develop a process to address those students who are able to complete the requirements of a respective course in less time.

Data on Overage Students

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Cohort	Students retained at least once	Students needing all EOCs	Students w/ DAEP placements
current 12th graders	64/549 (12%)	13/64 (20%)	15/64 (23%)
current 11th graders	77/601 (13%)	10/77 (13%)	20/77 (26%)
current 10th graders	111/675 (16%)	31/111 (28%)	17/111 (15%)
current 9th graders	81/696 (12%)	N/A	8/81 (10%)
current 8th graders	98/701 (14%)	N/A	8/98 (8%)

TEC §25.081 Minimum Minutes of Instruction- 75,600 minutes/year, 420 Minutes/Day

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Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

The District seeks to establish an **alternative education program** designed to meet the needs of **non-traditional students**. Students who are overage and who are at risk of dropping out need **customized learning plans** to meet their needs, and exempting the District from the minimum minutes of instruction requirement would allow the necessary flexibility to help these students. Students will only attend school for the classes they are lacking, or to **complete the requirements** for passing STAAR/EOC exams. The goal is to **provide an opportunity** for students who may have difficulty being successful in a traditional school setting due to special circumstances.

In order to better meet the needs of individual students, the District requests the flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction. This exemption will provide educational advantages to students by **promoting innovative learning** with flexible methods, locations, and times instruction may be delivered to students.

Local Guidelines

The district will **establish a local committee** comprised of various stakeholders (e.g., teachers, campus administrators, district staff) to develop and recommend an Alternative Education Program Plan to best meet the needs of students who are at risk of dropping out. Customized learning plans for each student will be developed by Campus-level administration in collaboration with District-level administration.

District Courses Requiring DOI- CTE

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- Staffing CTE Courses at Middle Schools and High Schools
 - Middle School
 - Exploring Careers
 - High School
 - Health Science
 - Practicum in Health Science
 - Culinary
- CTE Course offerings
 - Middle School
 - Introductory courses for CTE sequences
 - allow for more course options at high school
 - High School
 - Pharmacology
 - Pathophysiology
 - Practicum in Dentistry
 - Practicum in Veterinary Medicine
 - Dual Credit (Culinary and Nursing)

no teacher = funding lost = less opportunities for students

District Courses Requiring DOI- other

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- Electives
 - Middle School
 - High School
- Dual Credit Course offerings
- Foreign Language Course offerings



TEC §21.003 and TEC §21.051 Certification and Required Field-based Experience

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

The teacher certification requirements enacted in these statutes inhibit the District's ability to hire **highly-skilled individuals** to teach dual credit, career and technological education courses, STEM courses, as well as courses taught in languages other than English. The **availability of teachers** who are certified to teach these courses is limited, which causes the District to **limit course offerings** that support the 21st Century Learner.

SSAISD is committed to establishing and sustaining the middle schools as **magnet schools**—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Fine Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, and Public Services. In order to best serve SSAISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. Henceforth, students will be afforded **greater course options**, fluidity in scheduling and exposure to specialized practitioners (i.e. college professors, public service professionals and other expert personnel).

Local Guidelines

The campus principal may submit to the Superintendent a request to allow a ~~teacher~~ **non-certified applicant** to teach a course in a **highly specialized or hard-to-fill area**. The superintendent will make a determination as to whether the applicant is qualified to teach such a course or vocational skill through a **local teaching certificate**. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will receive a non-Chapter 21 contract. **The Superintendent will approve all local teaching certificates for highly specialized or hard-to-fill Career and Technical Education (CTE) and elective courses.** The Superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees. **All highly specialized or hard-to-fill core subject course (Math, English, Science, Social Studies) requests would require approval of the Board of Trustees.**

Data on Class Size Trends

- Two 1st grade classrooms at Five Palms ES for the 2016-17 school required a class waiver

	# days at 20	# days at 21	# days at 22	# days at 23	# days at 24	# days at 25
Classroom A	0	0	4	91	14	1
Classroom B	12	30	25	13	34	0

- end of 2nd 6 weeks (November 16, 2016) before the need to move a student 23 students vs. 21 students
- teacher did not want student moved
- ended 4th 6 weeks with 22 students (classroom A) and 21 students (classroom B)

TEC §25.112 and §25.1113 Class Size and Notice of Class Size

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Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

While we acknowledge that the **student-teacher ratio** impacts the classroom and student achievement, the **mobility rate** of South San Antonio ISD must be considered along with the challenge of hiring quality staff in a timely manner to be in compliance. Also, the addition of one or two students beyond the recommended ratio may not hinder the learning environment; however, moving students can be detrimental to the **continuity and stability** of their academic and emotional growth.

Local Guidelines

South San Antonio ISD **strives to adhere to the current Texas Education Code (TEC)**, §25.112 of the 22:1 ratio in grades K-4. The District requests flexibility to make the best possible decisions regarding the **academic and emotional needs of our students**. In the event a classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio in grades K-4, **campus and district administration, in collaboration with the teacher**, would request an exemption from the Superintendent of Schools. **Any classrooms exceeding the 22:1 ratio by 1-2 students will require the approval of the Superintendent.** The Superintendent will then report to the Board of Trustees the number of exemptions granted. **Any classrooms exceeding the 22:1 ratio by three or more students will require the approval of the Board of Trustees.** At any time, the Board may request that the Superintendent bring the exemptions for Board approval.

TEC §29.151 Free Kindergarten

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Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

In order to best serve the students of South San Antonio ISD, the majority of which would be considered economically disadvantaged according to the state guidelines, the district would welcome the opportunity to **provide educational access as early as possible** to ensure **long-term academic success**. Research says the sooner students are served in an academic setting, the gaps they potentially come with could be eliminated.

The current statute states that children must be **five years of age by September 1st** in order for them to **begin Kindergarten** in a public school district and for that **district to receive state funding**. Children **mature and learn at varying rates**. Many children miss the cut-off-date to start school and would benefit from attending school sooner instead of waiting another academic year to begin.

Local Guidelines

The district requests **flexibility in determining readiness for Kindergarten** by allowing students who are not age 5 by September 1 to meet **locally established eligibility requirements** and to optionally enroll with all the same district financial benefits of those students who are 5 years old by September 1st. The district will **establish a local committee** comprised of various stakeholders (e.g., teachers, campus administrators, district staff) to develop and recommend **local criteria for Kindergarten readiness** to the Superintendent/Board of Trustees, as appropriate. Students who are ready for school can develop a strong **foundation of literacy and numeracy** to **prevent potential gaps** in achievement and accelerate their learning.

***** awaiting guidance from TEA prior to utilizing this exemption*****

District Initiatives Requiring DOI

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- **Early College High School**
 - students taking classes at Palo Alto College need to have their high school schedule aligned with the college

****Requires Exemption on First and Last Day of Instruction****
- **Dual Credit** Course offerings
 - CTE: Culinary and Nursing
 - Core Content

****Requires Exemption on First and Last Day of Instruction****
****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****
- **Opportunity Culture** at Five Palms and Armstrong Elementary
 - Multi-Classroom Leaders (MCL) - may go over 22:1 ratio

****Requires Exemption on Class Size****
- **Foreign Language** Course offerings
 - Spanish offered at middle schools
 - Spanish and French offered at high schools
 - Chinese, Latin, Sign Language are all languages prevalent within our society

****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****
- **Academy of Health Science** Courses and Structure
 - higher level, specialized health science courses remain vacant or can not be offered

****Requires Exemption on First Day of Instruction****
****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****

Proposed District Initiatives Requiring DOI

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- **STEM Magnet and Fine Arts Magnets**
 - redesign middle school campuses to offer a comprehensive educational program centered around student interests
 - partnership and internship opportunities for students

****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****
- **Schools of Student Choice**
 - redesign campuses to offer students the opportunity to learn and grow in areas where they show interests

****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****
- **STEM, Fine Arts, Business and Industry, Public Services courses** at elementary schools
 - offering career exploration opportunities to elementary students is limited by teacher knowledge on vast array of careers
 - students would benefit from formal courses being taught by industry experts

****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****
- **Alternative Educational Program for Overage Students**
 - provide customized learning plans for students who are at risk of dropping out

****Requires Exemption on Minimum Attendance for Class Credit****
****Requires Minimum Minutes of Instruction****
****Requires Exemption on Teacher Certification****
- **Kindergarten for children** missing September cut-off date at elementary schools (delay implementation)
 - children prepared for formal schooling are unable to attend due to age, not ability

****Requires Exemption on Free Kindergarten****

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Questions?