

San Isidro Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan



February 2024-February 2029

Districts of Innovation (DOI)

Introduction

HB 1842 was passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session in spring 2015. This bill provides Texas Public school districts the opportunity to be designated as Districts of Innovation. To access these flexibilities a school district must adopt a District of Innovation Plan.

Districts of Innovation provides opportunities for:

- Greater local control;
- Increased flexibility governing education programming; and
- Empowerment to innovate and think differently.

Districts are not exempt from statutes related to curriculum, graduation requirements, nor academic and financial accountability.

Duration

The term of the plan is for five years, beginning February 2024 and ending in February 2029 upon adoption, unless terminated or amended earlier by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the law. The Committee will continually monitor the effectiveness of the plan and recommend to the Board any suggested modifications to the plan.

Timeline

September 20, 2023	<p>Board Information On September 20, 2023, the San Isidro ISD Board of Trustees was provided an overview and Introduction to District of Innovation</p>
September 20, 2023	<p>Take Resolution for Approval On September 20, 2023, the San Isidro ISD Board of Trustees will be introduced to a resolution to explore the opportunity for San Isidro ISD to become a District of Innovation.</p>
October 18, 2023	<p>Public Hearing On October 18, 2023, the San Isidro ISD Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing for public input on the District of Innovation opportunity.</p>
October 18, 2023	<p>Appoint Committee On October 18, 2023, the Board of Trustees will appoint the District Planning and Decision Making Committee (DPDMC) to develop a District of Innovation Plan</p>
October 24, 2023 DOI Meeting #1	<p>Develop & Approve a Plan of Innovation</p>
November 2, 2023 DOI Meeting #2	
November 29, 2023 DOI Meeting #3	
January 4, 2024	<p>DOI plan posted on website for 30 days</p>
February 5, 2024	<p>Superintendent will notify Commissioner of intent to Adopt DOI.</p>
February 28, 2024	<p>District of Innovation Plan Approved by Board of Trustees District of Innovation Plan will be approved the by Board of Trustees on February 21, 2024. A copy of the approved District of Innovation Plan will be provided to the Texas Education Agency for posting on its website.</p>

District of Innovation Committee

Sara A. Alvarado	Superintendent
Lori Moore	District Principal
Veronica Lopez	District Dean of Instruction
Cris Vela	GEAR UP Facilitator
Claudia Alvarez	Elementary Teacher
Jonna Treviño	Elementary Teacher
Ninfa Velazquez	Middle School Teacher
Gerardo Arambula	Secondary Teacher

Eric Ochoa	Secondary Teacher
Rosie Garza	Teacher Assistant
Clarice Martinez	Teacher Assistant/ Parent
Amanda Garcia	Parent
Veronica Garcia	Parent
Leticia Saenz	Community Member
Judge Veronica Alaniz	Justice of the Peace
Hernan Garza	County Commissioner

Flexible Calendar

Currently

(TEC 25.0811)

FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION. (a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Proposed

To allow a calendar that fits the local needs of the community, San Isidro ISD would like to consider a flexible calendar option which may include an early start date, whereas students may begin the school year earlier than the fourth Monday of August.

Justification

The flexibility to determine the school start date allows the district to determine locally, on an annual basis, what best meets the needs of the students and local community. The district calendar is created and approved by a district-level committee before being presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Exemption from the uniform start date will also allow for our district to get a jump start on the preparations for the state assessments, benefiting both students and staff. A flexible calendar will ensure that our semesters are well-balanced giving our students the best opportunities to succeed.

Teacher Certification

Currently

(TEC 21.003) (TEC 21.053) (TEC 21.057)

CERTIFICATION REQUIRED. (a) 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. {referring to Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Texas Education Code} PRESENTATION AND RECORDING OF CERTIFICATES. (a) A person who desires to teach in a public school shall present the person's certificate for filing with the employing district before the person's contract with the board of trustees of the district is binding. (b) An educator who does not hold a valid certificate may not be paid for teaching or work done before the effective date of issuance of a valid certificate. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION. (a) A school district that assigns an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher to the same classroom for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year shall provide written notice of the assignment to a parent or guardian of each student in that classroom. In the event a district cannot locate a certified teacher for a position or a teacher is teaching a subject outside of their certification, the district must submit a request to the Texas Education Agency. TEA then approves or denies this request.

Proposed

In order to best serve San Isidro ISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally.

a. The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request to allow a certified teacher to teach one subject out of their certified field. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials the certified teacher possesses which qualify this individual to teach this subject.

b. An individual with experience in a CTE field could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or course through a local teaching certificate. The principal will submit the request to the superintendent with all the individual's credentials. The superintendent will then approve the request if they feel the individual could be an asset to students. The superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees prior to the individual beginning any employment. Local teaching certificates will be for one year.

Justification

The teacher certification proposal will allow more flexibility in our scheduling and will provide more options and offerings for our students, specifically secondary students. San Isidro ISD students will be provided with greater opportunities to access job and career related courses.

Kinder through 4th Class Size Waiver

(EEB LEGAL) (TEC 25.111) (TEC 25.112) (TEC 25.113) (TEC 25.114)

Currently

Kindergarten – 4th Grade classes are to be kept at a 22 student to 1 teacher ratio according to state law. When a class exceeds this limit, the district must complete a waiver with the Texas Education Agency.

Proposed

In the event a class size in kindergarten through fourth grade exceeds twenty-two students and the 22:1 teacher to student ratio, the superintendent will report to the Board of Trustees. Notifications to the parents will only be sent home in the event a Kindergarten through fourth grade class reaches a 24:1 student to teacher ratio. In most cases at San Isidro ISD, student to teacher ratio's that exceed 22:1 are rare and for limited periods of time.

Justification

A class size waiver for San Isidro ISD would provide flexibility when dealing with situations when class size increases without having the bureaucracy of waivers to the Texas Education Agency.

Discipline Options

Currently

(TEC 37.008)

Current law requires students who are placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Educational Program (DAEP) to be separate from their regular instructional setting, be under the supervision of a certified teacher, and not be allowed to be with other students who are not in the program.

Proposed

All continuous supervision by a non-certified paraprofessional who has been trained in behavior management techniques. Require a certified teacher to assist the DAEP instructor for at least 60 minutes per day for classroom instruction.

Justification

San Isidro ISD is a small school and DAEP placements, often require extensive resources that need instructional support personnel to transport or serve students placed forty- five minutes away. The proposed change gives the district flexibility, especially when dealing with short term placements, to meet the needs of a student placed in DAEP while not removing services from students on campus.

Probationary Contracts

Currently

(DCA LEGAL) (TEC 21.102)

For experienced teachers new to the district, the probationary period may not exceed one year if the person has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the previous eight years.

Proposed

For experienced teachers and counselors new to the district that have been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the last date of district employment.

Justification

This provision gives the district more time to evaluate the effectiveness of the employee over a longer period of time.