San Antonio Independent School District

Our Mission: Graduate all students and prepare them for success in higher education.

Technology

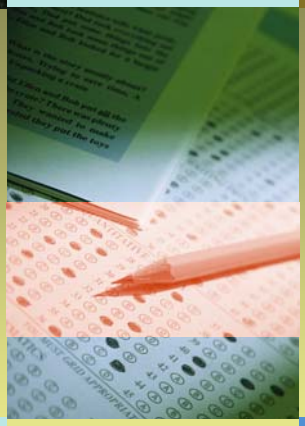
Instruction

ISSUES FOR THE 81st TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Facilities

Text Books

Testing



Programs

Transportation

Successes in the San Antonio Independent School District

Our mission: Graduate all students and prepare them for success in higher education

Who we are
SAISD is a family-oriented, urban community of thriving neighborhoods, well-established businesses – including the downtown and central business district – historic sites and world-renowned museums.
The District retains 90 percent of its school-age population, yet that population continues to decline.

- Third largest district in Bexar County with approximately 54,000 students
- Student-teacher ratio of 17 to 1
- Approximately 88 percent of students are economically disadvantaged
- Ethnic composition: 88 percent Hispanic; nine percent African-American; three percent White

High-performing schools
SAISD increased the number of high-performing schools from **27** in 2007 to **36** in 2008 under accountability ratings issued by the Texas Education Agency. Two schools achieved *Exemplary* while 34 schools are *Recognized.* As the state standards become more rigorous, SAISD students are meeting the challenge.

- 2008 – 36 *Exemplary* and *Recognized* campuses
- 2007 – 27 *Exemplary* and *Recognized* campuses
- 2006 – 25 *Recognized* campuses
- 2005 – 15 *Recognized* campuses

College-going Culture
More SAISD students than ever are going to college. Through an unprecedented partnership with Alamo Community Colleges, 32 percent more students enrolled in community college in 2007-08 than the year before.

Approximately $16.2 million in scholarships are awarded to SAISD graduates each year to attend universities and colleges.

Travis Early College High School – Opened this school year with ninth-graders who can earn an associate's degree and/or up to 60 hours college credit upon graduating from high school.

Young Women's Leadership Academy – San Antonio's first all-girls public school is a college preparatory for grades 6-12 focused on math, science and technology along with college prep, leadership and wellness.

The MET – A partnership with St. Philip's College focused on manufacturing, engineering and technology with students earning 30 hours of college credit and a high school

2009 Priorities for the 81st Texas Legislative Session

Finance

- Support legislation to **address inequities in targeted revenue** per weighted-student. The current funding system does not benefit SAISD.
- Support legislation to allow greater control by elected school boards to **raise the maintenance and operation tax rate** without voter approval in order to meet basic educational needs.
- Support legislation to establish a **weighted-student funding system that recognizes all programs and services** including academic instruction, instructional support, extracurricular activities and technology necessary to prepare students to contribute positively to society.
- Support legislation to establish a **Cost of Education Index** to make adjustments for the variations due to uncontrollable factors such as employee **Social Security contributions**, **high student mobility rate**, higher **cost of living** and **health care**.
- Support legislation that makes adjustments for costs associated with a **variation in student needs** such as Special Education and English Language Learners, particularly for districts with a disproportionate percentage of these student populations
- Support legislation increasing state **funding for technology**, including distance learning programs, equipment and staff training.
- Support legislation increasing state funding for districts providing **pupil transportation**.
- Support legislation increasing state funding for **new and renovated facilities** and continue the partnership for the financing of existing debt.
- Support legislation increasing state funding that adjusts for the **cost of inflation.**

Accountability

- Support legislation that **modifies the state accountability system** to capture academic growth of individual students and evaluates outcomes in a fair and equitable manner.

Students

- Support legislation that would provide **full funding for textbooks** or programs not included on the state-adopted list of textbooks or enrichment subjects.
- Support legislation to **reduce Field Testing** in order to **reduce lost instructional time** for students and staff.
- Support legislation that funds a **full-day Pre-kindergarten** program for all students enrolled in a designated Title I campus.

Governance

- Support legislation that would provide **incentives to developers** of residential housing in urban areas experiencing a decline in school enrollment.
- Support legislation that continues funding instructional programs aimed at assisting **"at-risk" students** to improve their academic performance in reading, math, science and social studies.

School Choice

- **Oppose** legislation that establishes **private school vouchers**, tuition tax credits and other such programs funded with public tax dollars.

San Antonio Independent School District

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SAISD

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