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Legislative Priorities for the
82nd Texas Legislative Session
2011



San Antonio Independent School District



Who we are

The San Antonio Independent School (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.

- Third largest district in Bexar County with approximately 55,000 students.
- Student-Teacher ratio of 17 to 1
- Approximately 92 percent of students are economically disadvantaged
- Ethnic composition: 88 percent Hispanic; 9 percent African-American; 3 percent White

The San Antonio Independent School District has developed legislative priorities committed to its mission of graduating all students with the academic and social preparation to be successful in higher education and career in a 21st century global economy. As such, the District will advocate for these priorities during the 82nd Texas Legislative Session, which convenes in January 2011, in conjunction with the Texas School Alliance, Texas Association of School Boards, the Equity Center and the Texas Council of Urban School Districts.

Legislative Priorities for the 82nd Texas Legislative Session

Specifically, SAISD endorses or seeks legislation that:

- Gives school boards the authority to increase the tax rate by a prescribed number of pennies in order to provide the flexibility needed to avoid cuts and meet inflationary cost pressures and performance expectations
- Maintains or broadens eligibility for the Pre-K Expansion Grant for districts that want to provide a full-day program to students
- Amends the bilingual education statute, TEC 42.153(c) to allow districts to spend the bilingual allotment on teacher salaries
- Amends the compensatory education statute, TEC 42.152(c) to allow districts to spend the compensatory education allotment on child care expenditures
- Amends the performance pay statute, TEC 21.705, to flow funds to certain districts with demonstrated commitment to the performance pay program

- Amends TEC 25.111 and 25.113 to provide flexibility in class size for a campus average of 22 students per class
- Repeals TEC 21.402(d) which says a teacher is entitled to the salary that is at least equal to the salary the employee received the prior school year
- Amends TEC 21.105; 21.160; 21.210 to require 60 days notice rather than 45 days notice to resign from a contract before the first day of school
- Amends TEC Ch. 39 to reduce the amount of testing days a district must administer to students
- Expands the Instructional Facilities Allotment and provides funding to school districts that co-locate with charter schools.
- Amends TEC 37.007(a) and align offenses committed within 300 feet of the campus with offenses that require a mandatory expulsion if committed on campus
- Amends TEC 21.251 to allow district to do mid-year reductions in force without an independent hearing examiner
- Repeals TEC 21.401(b) which says a teacher must be paid the daily rate of pay beyond 187 days under a ten-month contract
- Provides districts with the same flexibility as provided to charter schools
- Provides for the ability for districts to pursue revenue enhancing opportunities to include the ability to invest in programs/ventures that other governmental entities or quasi-governmental entities can participate in
- Provides for the ability of Bexar County to create a taxing district for county-wide transportation similar to Dallas County and Dallas County schools

SAISD opposes legislation that would:

- Require districts to determine citizenship at the time of a student's enrollment
- Remove the cap on the number of charter schools
- Extend the Permanent School Fund bond guarantee to charter schools
- Fund private school vouchers, tuition tax credits and similar programs with public tax dollars
- Cut funding for the Life Skills grant that supports teen parents