

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 approximately 90 percent of its school-age population.

- Third largest district in Bexar County with approximately 53,000 students
- Student/Teacher ratio of 17 to 1
- Approximately 93 percent of students are considered economically disadvantaged
- Ethnic composition: 91 percent Hispanic; 7 percent African American; 2 percent White/Non-Hispanic

SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Legislative Priorities for the 85th Texas Legislative Session 2017



JANUARY 2017



San Antonio Independent School District

Priorities for the 85th Texas Legislative Session

The San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) has developed legislative priorities committed to its **mission**: To transform SAISD into a national model urban school district where every child graduates and is educated so that he or she is prepared to be a contributing member of the community.

Specifically, SAISD endorses or seeks legislation that would address the following issues:

★ ACCOUNTABILITY (ENSURE A-F IS A FAIR SYSTEM)

- The system must avoid a direct correlation between performance and poverty.
- A separate accountability system should be created for comparing K-8 schools instead of combining them with K-5 schools.
- We should continue to have a choice on using Domain I or II in determining our accountability results.
- Domain IV should be greatly reduced for Elementary Schools.
- Every school should theoretically be able to earn an A.

★ SCHOOL FINANCE

- Increase the Basic Allotment
- Increase Weights for Compensatory Education, Bilingual, and Special Education
- Ensure sufficient Special Education Funding so all students can receive appropriate services
- Update the Cost of Education Index, which has not been updated since 1991 despite large increases in cost of living
- Allow districts that are establishing a new campus in a renovated old facility the ability to access the New Instructional Facilities Allotment.
- For districts and charters that enter into a partnership, funding will be provided at whichever partner is funded at the higher level.

★ DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION AND LOCAL CONTROL

- The current District of Innovation law is working for SAISD and should not be changed.
- On calendar flexibility, the majority of families in SAISD want an earlier school start date.
- Districts should be able to maintain their current flexibilities on scheduling elections.
- There should be no additional unfunded state mandates such as the Cameras in SPED Classrooms.
- As a whole, local control should not be further eroded by the state.

★ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- At a minimum, the state should double its investment from HB 4 last session to maintain its current Pre-K funding.
- Ideally, the state should further increase Pre-K funding and move it into the K-12 funding formulas.
- Pre-K funding should also reach 3-year olds as well especially in economically disadvantaged communities.

★ COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS AND P-TECH

- SAISD supports the push to create a statewide, funded P-TECH network.
- The state should provide funding for each student to take the SAT or ACT during their junior year.
- This assessment could replace most of the End of Course exams administered by the state.

