

# Renewal of the District of Innovation Designation

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December 17, 2020



# Agenda

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What does it mean to be a District of Innovation?

What is the role of DLT?

What is in the current Local Innovation Plan?

What revisions is the district proposing?

What is the timeline and process for renewal?

Q&A

# District of Innovation Designation

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## Policy and Local Context

- ▶ In 2015, the Texas Legislature created Texas Education Code Chapter 12A: Districts of Innovation which allows school districts to access the same types of flexibilities previously available only to open enrollment charter schools.
- ▶ In order to access these flexibilities, districts have to create a Local Innovation Plan.
- ▶ In June 2016, SAISD became one of the first districts in the state to adopt a Local Innovation Plan, thereby becoming a District of Innovation.
- ▶ Local Innovation Plans are in effect for a period of five years.
- ▶ There are currently 913 [Districts of Innovation](#) in Texas.

# Districts of Innovation in and around San Antonio

17 of 19 area school districts are designated Districts of Innovation.

District	DOI	District	DOI	District	DOI
Alamo Heights	✓	Judson	✓	Randolph	✓
Boerne	✓	Lackland	✓	San Antonio	✓
East Central	✓	La Vernia	✓	Schertz-Cibolo	✓
Edgewood	✓	Medina Valley	✓	South San	✓
Ft. Sam Houston	✓	Northeast	✓	Southside	✓
Floresville	✓	Northside	✗	Southwest	✓
Harlandale	✗				

## The Role of the DLT

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Districts are required to have a district level committee approve the Local Innovation Plan prior to submitting it to the Board of Trustees.

### Advise

Serves in an advisory role for the district

### Consider

Holds a public meeting to consider the Local Innovation Plan

### Approve

Approves the Local Innovation Plan by a majority vote

## SAISD's Current Local Innovation Plan

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<b>Class Size</b> Section 25.112 (TEC)	Allows the district and campuses to waive the state's class size ratio in grades K-4 to maximize resources, prioritize high-need areas, and increase campus flexibility
<b>Notice of Class Size</b> Section 25.113 (TEC)	
<b>Length of Instructional Day</b> Sections 25.081 and 25.082 (TEC)	Originally allowed the district a waiver from the minimum 420 minutes or 7 hours a day, but later legislation (HB 2610) removed these requirements
<b>First Day of Instruction</b> Section 25.0811 (TEC)	Allows the district to begin the school year prior to the fourth Monday in August which then allows the completion of the first semester prior to the Winter Break and provides opportunities to mitigate summer learning loss

# SAISD's Proposed Local Innovation Plan - Revisions

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## Remove Exemption Related to Length of Instructional Day

- ▶ **Instructional Day**, *Section 25.082 (TEC)*

## Continue Exemptions Related to Class Size and Instructional Calendar

- ▶ **Class Size**, *Section 25.112 (TEC)*
- ▶ **Notice of Class Size**, *Section 25.113 (TEC)*
- ▶ **First Day of Instruction**, *Section 25.0811 (TEC)*

# SAISD's Proposed Local Innovation Plan - Additions

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## Add Exemptions Related to Educator Certification

- ▶ **Certification Required**, *Section 21.003 (TEC)*
- ▶ **Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void**, *Section 21.0031 (TEC)*
- ▶ **Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field-Based Experience and Internships**, *Section 21.051 (TEC)*
- ▶ **Presentation and Recording of Certificates**, *Section 21.053 (TEC)*

The use of these exemptions would be limited to individuals teaching courses in Fine Arts and Career and Technical Education (CTE), allowing the district to hire highly-skilled and specialized practitioners.

This will also allow the district to provide an increased number of course options, flexibility in scheduling, access to subject matter experts, and an additional pathway to recruit non-traditional teachers.



## Local Guidelines for Educator Certification

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- ▶ The district will make a reasonable effort to hire certified teachers in Fine Arts and Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- ▶ The district will provide individuals with opportunities to enhance their subject matter expertise with knowledge in pedagogy as well as classroom management.
- ▶ The district will ensure individuals are aware of the pathways to becoming a certified teacher should they choose to pursue a certification as well as support them through the certification process.

## Benefits for Fine Arts and CTE Programs

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- ▶ Support the district's ongoing expansion of Fine Arts to include multiple opportunities for students at all grade levels, particularly in grades K-8
- ▶ Leverage the district's proximity to the city's artistic and cultural assets to connect students with real-world practitioners in the arts
- ▶ Strengthen existing efforts to staff CTE programs at all of the district's comprehensive high schools with industry experts, particularly in the fields of health science and technology
- ▶ Continue to expand specialized Choice Schools and Programs such as P-Tech at Sam Houston, Fox Tech, and Lanier and career-themed schools like CAST Tech and CAST Med
- ▶ Increase the district's competitiveness in recruiting subject matter practitioners given that 13/17 area school districts utilize the same exemptions in addition to area charter schools

## Timeline for Renewal

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December 17, 2020	DLT reviews the renewal timeline and proposed Local Innovation Plan
January 5, 2020	Post the proposed Local Innovation Plan to the district's website for a period of 30 calendar days
January 19, 2021	Notify the commissioner of the Board's intent to vote on a Local Innovation Plan
January 21, 2021	DLT hosts a public meeting, considers and votes on the final Local Innovation Plan
February 8, 2021	Board of Trustees votes on the renewal of the Local Innovation Plan
February 9, 2021	Local Innovation Plan is posted to the district's website for the duration of the plan
February 23, 2021	Provide a copy of the approved Local Innovation Plan to TEA

# Q&A

Thank you!

