

# San Elizario Independent School District

## *Soaring to Excellence*



**District of Innovation Renewal**  
**Projected Date of Board Approval:**  
**January 15, 2025**



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## District of Innovation Committee Members 2024

	Position / Location	Member Name
1	Superintendent / Administration	Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez
2	Associate Superintendent-Chairperson / P & I	Dr. Rogelio Segovia/Replaced by Ms. Blanca Cruz during 2024
3	Administrator—Research and Evaluation / P & I	Ms. Lisa Renegar/Replaced by Mr. Edgar Ponce in 2024
4	PEIMS Coordinator—Technology Dept.	Ms. Melissa Urenda
5	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Joanne Barba
6	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Ivonne Ballesteros
7	Instructional Specialist—Loya	Ms. Maribel Vallejo
8	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Rachel Quinones
9	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Joselyn Zuniga
10	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Claudia Murphy
11	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Ruth Ramirez
12	Teacher—Borrego	Mr. Enrique Santiesteban
13	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Whitney Surrat
14	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Alyssa Padilla
15	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Valerie Martinez
16	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Norma Villasenor
17	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Nancy Sullivan
18	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Idania Rodarte
19	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Soledad Gonzalez
20	Teacher—SEHS	Mr. Francisco Munoz
21	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Jasmine Lozano
22	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Pat Villarreal
23	Campus--Based Non-Teaching Staff	Ms. Gabriela Castro
24	Parent	Ms. Yhadira Arriaga
25	Parent	Ms. Cristina Garcia
26	Business/Community Member	Mr. David Cantu
27	Business/Community Member	Ms. Ruth Torres

## Timeline of Activities

Date	Activity
10/9/2019 <b>Board Resolution</b>	BOT unanimously approved the board resolution to explore becoming a District of Innovation and directed the Administration to look into this matter accordingly.
10/22/2019	Cabinet Meeting: District of Innovation information discussed - next steps
10/25/2019	District Advisory Meeting held: DoI inquiry from the BOT communicated.
11/4/2019 <b>Public Hearing</b>	1st Public Hearing held at 5:00 pm
11/13/2019 <b>Public Hearing</b>	2nd Public Hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. during the Regular Board Meeting
11/13/2019	Approved to proceed with DoI Plan / Appointment of DoI Committee
11/20/2020	Notification of DoI Committee Appointments
12/3/2019	Cabinet Meeting: District of Innovation information discussed
12/4/2019	DoI Committee 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Board Room
12/18/2019	DoI Committee 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Board Room
12/19/2019	Minutes from the DoI Committee held on 12/18/19 were sent to Board Members.
12/19/2020	Cabinet Reviews Draft DoI Handbook
12/19/2019	Draft DoI Handbook sent to District Legal Team for review
1/9/2020 <b>DAT Public Meeting to Approve Proposed Plan</b>	District Advisory Team Meeting to Vote on DOI Plan
1/10/2019 <b>Notice to Commissioner</b>	Notify the Commissioner of Education of the Board’s intention to vote on a DoI plan and hyperlink to the plan posted online.
1/10/2020 - 2/9/2020 <b>Plan Posted Online</b>	Posting of DoI Plan Online for 30 days
1/14/2020	Progressing Together Parent Meeting (9:00 am)
1/14/2020	Progressing Together Parent Meeting (5:00 pm)
2/12/2020 <b>Board Votes on Proposed Plan</b>	Board of Trustees to vote to adopt DoI Plan
2/13/2020 <b>Notice to Commissioner</b>	Notification to Commissioner
9/21/2023 <b>DAT Public Meeting to Approve Proposed Amending the Plan</b>	DAT votes to approve amending the DoI Plan
9/21/2023	The cabinet is informed of the recommended amendment to the DoI Plan.
9/26/2023	Draft DoI Handbook sent to District Legal Team for review
10/11/2023 <b>Board Votes to Amend the Plan</b>	Board of Trustees votes to approve amending the DoI Plan
10/12/2023	Posting of DoI Plan on SEISD Website
10/12/2023	Notification to the Commissioner about the amendment to the DoI Handbook
8/01/2024	DAT votes to approve amending the DoI Plan
10/21/2024	Cabinet is informed of the recommended amendment to the DoI Plan

10/21/2024	Draft DoI Handbook sent to District Legal Team for review
12/11/2024	DAT Public Meeting – Approval of the renewal of the DoI Plan 1050 Chicken Ranch Rd., San Elizario, TX 79849 5:30 pm
12/11/2024 – 1/15/2025	Posting of DoI Plan for 30 days
1/15/2025	Board Meeting – Approval of the DoI Plan (1 <sup>st</sup> Renewal)

## Presentations

Date	Presentation
1/10/2020	GEMS (8:10 am) and Loya Primary (3:30 pm)
1/13/2020	SEHS (8:15 am) and Sambrano Elementary (3:30 pm)
1/15/2020	Borrego Elementary (3:30 pm)
1/16/2020	Alarcon Elementary (3:30 pm)
1/21/2020	Community Outreach at SEHS at 5:00 pm (Loya, Sambrano, SEHS) (cafeteria)
1/22/2020	Community Outreach at GEMS at 5:00 pm (Alarcon, Borrego, GEMS) (cafeteria)
2/19/2021	DAT Virtual Meeting at 1:00 pm

## Introduction

The District of Innovation (DoI) legislation was passed in 2017, allowing traditional independent school districts most of the flexibilities available to Texas’ open-enrollment charter schools. The San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD) seeks to become a district of innovation to better serve the needs of all of our students and stakeholders, including staff, parents, and community members. This will allow SEISD to increase local control over district operations.

On October 9, 2019, the SEISD Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution to consider becoming a DoI. The District Advisory Team (DAT) received a presentation from the administration explaining the rationale for becoming a DoI. On November 4, 2019, and November 13, 2019, SEISD held public hearings regarding the DoI and solicited input from those in attendance. Finally, on November 13, 2019, the Board of Trustees decided to proceed with this initiative and unanimously approved the DoI committee membership. The DoI Committee is charged with drafting a Local Innovation Plan (LIP) that will focus on seeking exemptions that will benefit the students at SEISD and its stakeholders.

## Term

The SEISD’s DoI plan will be in effect for five years beginning on the date of adoption: **January 15, 2025**. The local innovation committee will monitor the DoI's effectiveness throughout the five years and provide progress updates to the SEISD Board of Trustees annually.

## Comprehensive Education Program

### Mission Statement

San Elizario ISD's vision is to graduate students with skills to meet the demands of a changing world by promoting student success as non-negotiable, channeling resources to match the learning needs of students, employing and retain a quality staff so that San Elizario is a proud, innovative and academically superior district

### San Elizario ISD's Student Outcome Goals

This plan revises certain components of the current comprehensive educational program through specific identified innovations and exemptions from certain Texas Education Code provisions to achieve SEISD's Mission and Vision and meet the student outcome goals below.

- 1. Student outcome Goal 1:** The percentage of all 3rd grade students that score at the Approaches level on STAAR mathematics will increase from 58% in June 2022 to > 85% by June 2028. **(REVISED June 2024)**
- 2. Student Outcome Goal 2:** The percentage of 3rd grade students that score at the Approaches level on STAAR reading will increase from 57% in June 2022 to > 80% by June 2028. **(REVISED June 2024)**
- 3. Student Outcome Goal 3:** SEISD will increase the percentage of College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) points earned annually by SEHS seniors from 30% in May 2023 to > 88% by June 2028 as measured by the A-F Accountability System. **(June 2024)**

Each exemption and planned innovation is discussed in the following sections.

### Innovations and Exemptions

The following section discusses certain statutory requirements of the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goals of the plan from which SEISD will be exempt upon adoption:

#### *1. First Day of Instruction (current law)*

TEC Sec. 25.0811. First Day of Instruction. (a) Except as this section provides, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

*Benefits of Exemption from TEC, Sec. 25.0811:*

- Teachers would have more days before the STAAR/EOC to prepare students to be successful.
- Semesters and 9-week periods are balanced.
- Decreases summer slide.
- Breaks would be more frequent.

*Local Guidelines:*

- Remediation would be provided to students during intersession.
- Instructional time would be balanced in the semesters.



Revised  
4/14/21

## 2. *Teacher Certification (current law)*

TEC Sec. 21.003 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.

*Benefits of Exemption from TEC, Sections 21.003:*

- Students will benefit from high-demand CTE programs within San Elizario ISD
- Will allow the District to continue to promote career and technology courses
- The District will be able to find personnel in hard-to-fill positions within CTE programs
- This exemption will allow qualified industry-certified individuals to work in the district before attaining certification via alternative certification
- **Students will benefit from Fine Arts programs within San Elizario ISD – ADDED 4/14/21**
- **Will allow the District to continue to promote Fine Arts courses – ADDED 4/14/21**
- **The District will be able to find personnel in hard-to-fill positions within Fine Arts programs – ADDED 4/14/21**
- **This exemption will allow qualified fine arts individuals to work in the district before attaining certification via alternative certification – ADDED 4/14/21**

*Local Guidelines:*

- The district's goal will always be to hire SBEC-certified CTE and Fine Arts teachers.
- The district may hire non-SBEC-certified CTE and Fine Arts teachers pursuant to the DOI.
- Non-SBEC-certified CTE and Fine Arts teachers will not receive Chapter 21 contracts.
- All other instructional staff are required to hold SBEC certificates and will receive Chapter 21 contracts in accordance with state law.
- This exemption does not apply to Federal and state grants that may require certified teachers within certain programs.
- Except for CTE credentials identified in 19 TAC §233.13, all CTE instructors, regardless of Texas Teaching Credential attainment, must submit to a criminal background check and present the appropriate and required Educational and Work-based experience as identified in 19 TAC §233.14. CTE instructors will also be required to complete proper training in state and federal requirements regarding work-based learning and safety and complete identified TEA-approved training for select CTE courses. These trainings are identified in the State Board for Educator Certification 19 TAC §231 document.
- Non-SBEC Certified Fine Arts Teachers must submit to a criminal background check.
- The district could consider out-of-state certified teachers for positions upon a local review of experience, education, and credentials.
- The district will continue to provide support to CTE non-certified teachers.
- The CTE non-certified teachers will be required to pursue their SBEC certification via an approved alternative certification program and personally assume all costs this may entail.
- All special education and bilingual teachers must continue to be SBEC certified.

- The district’s goal will always be first to hire SBEC-certified Fine Arts teachers. – **ADDED 4/14/21**
- The district could consider out-of-state certified teachers for positions upon a local review of experience, education, and credentials. - **ADDED 4/14/21**
- The district will continue to provide support to Fine Arts non-certified teachers. **ADDED 4/14/21.**
- The Fine Arts non-certified teachers will be required to pursue their SBEC certification via an approved alternative certification program and personally assume all costs this may entail. **ADDED 4/14/21.**

### 3. *Class Size (current law)*

TEC Sec. 25.111. Student/Teacher Ratios. Except as provided by Section 25.112, each school district must employ a sufficient number of teachers certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, to maintain an average ratio of not less than one teacher for every 20 students in average daily attendance.

TEC Sec. 25.112. Class size. (a) Except as otherwise authorized by this section, a school district may not enroll more than 22 students in a kindergarten, first, second, third, or fourth-grade class.

TEC Sec. 25.113. Notice of Class Size. (a) A campus or district that is granted an exception under Section 25.112 (d) from class size limits shall provide written notice of the exception to the parent of or person standing in parental relation to each student affected by the exception. (b) The notice required by Subsection (a) must be provided not later than the 31st day after (1) the first day of the school year or (2) the date the exception is granted if the exception is granted after the beginning of the school year.

*Benefit of Exemption from TEC, Sections 25.111, 25.112(a), and 25.113:*

- Financially, resources could be allocated to other areas.
- The benefit of the class size waivers would be that students do not need to be moved once a new classroom has been set up due to hiring a new teacher.

*Local Guidelines:*

- The district’s first option is to maintain a 22:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- The PreK 3 and PreK 4 classrooms will remain at 22:1 with a permanent instructional aide.
- The district will consider the 15:1 student-to-teacher ratio once all K-4 sections are at the 30:1 capacity. This will be accomplished by placing a permanent instructional aide in K-4 classrooms over the 24:1 teacher-to-student ratio.
- The District Cabinet currently monitors the need for class size waivers, and that practice would still ensure that our class ratios remain low to support our students best.





#### ***4. Removal for certain conduct***

In accordance with Texas Education Code § 37.006, San Elizario ISD is obligated to act when a student is found in possession of, using, selling, giving, or delivering an **e-cigarette** (§37.006(a)(2)(C-2), as defined by Section 161.081 of the Health and Safety Code. Per this provision, the district is required to consider placing the student in a disciplinary alternative education program, as outlined in Section 37.006.

##### *Benefits of Exemption from TEC §37.006(a)(2)(C-2)*

- Allows San Elizario ISD's commitment to comprehensive education and wellness guide consequences for e-cigarette SCOC violations.
- Allows SEISD's administrative initiatives, as listed below, to guide consequences for e-cigarette SCOC violations and curb student use of e-cigarettes.
- Decrease discrepancy in SCOC consequences for e-cigarettes
- District's preference for educational support over immediate DAEP removal
- Primary objective: Keep students with the general population with support.

##### *Local Administrative Guidelines*

- San Elizario ISD's alignment with anti-e-cigarette disciplinary efforts
- Emphasis on more effective measures, including proactive education.
- Advocacy for alternative disciplinary options over mandatory DAEP
- Focus on enhanced wellness education for students with nicotine e-cigarettes.
- Goal: Allow students to remain with the general population with suitable consequences
- No request for exemptions from Section 37.006 provisions on any other controlled substances

Importantly, the district is **not** seeking exemptions from the provisions stated in Section 37.006, including the mandated removal to DAEP for possession of controlled substances like marijuana and THC.

## DAT Members – DOI Renewal

### Attendance and Voting—December 11, 2024

	Position / Location	Member Name	Signature	Date	Vote #1—DOI Attendance
1	Superintendent / Administration	Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez	Present	12/11/24	Non-Voting Member
2	Associate Superintendent-Chairperson / P & I	Ms. Blanca Cruz	Present	12/11/24	Non-Voting Member
3	Administrator—Research and Evaluation / P & I	Mr. Edgar Ponce	Present	12/11/24	Non-Voting Member
4	PEIMS Coordinator—Technology Dept.	Ms. Melissa Urenda	Not Present		Not Present
5	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Joanne Barba	Present	12/11/24	Yes
6	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Ivonne Ballesteros	Not Present		Not Present
7	Instructional Specialist—Loya	Ms. Maribel Vallejo	Present	12/11/24	Yes
8	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Rachel Quinones	Not Present		Not Present
9	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Joselyn Zuniga	Present	12/11/24	Yes
10	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Claudia Murphy	Present	12/11/24	Yes
11	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Ruth Ramirez	Present	12/11/24	Yes
12	Teacher—Borrego	Mr. Enrique Santiesteban	Present	12/11/24	Yes
13	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Whitney Surrat	Present	12/11/24	Yes
14	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Alyssa Padilla	Present	12/11/24	Yes
15	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Valerie Martinez	Present	12/11/24	Yes
16	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Norma Villasenor	Present	12/11/24	Yes
17	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Nancy Sullivan	Not Present		Not Present
18	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Idania Rodarte	Not Present		Not Present
19	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Soledad Gonzalez	Not Present		Not Present
20	Teacher—SEHS	Mr. Francisco Munoz	Not Present		Not Present
21	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Jasmine Lozano	Present	12/11/24	Yes
22	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Pat Villarreal	Not Present		Not Present
23	Campus--Based Non-Teaching Staff	Ms. Gabriela Castro	Not Present		Not Present
24	Parent	Ms. Yhadira Arriaga	Not Present		Not Present
25	Parent	Ms. Cristina Garcia	Not Present		Not Present
26	Business/Community Member	Mr. David Cantu	Not Present		Not Present
27	Business/Community Member	Ms. Ruth Torres	Not Present		Not Present

Vote #1 Tally (DOI): 11 yes votes out of 11 voting members present = **PASSED**

## Signature Page - DAT Members



### District Advisory Team (DAT) Attendance and Voting—December 11, 2024

	Position / Location	Member Name	Signature	Date	Vote #1—DOI Attendance
1	Superintendent / Administration	Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez	<i>Jeannie Meza-Chavez</i>	12-11	
2	Associate Superintendent-Chairperson / P & I	Ms. Blanca Cruz	<i>Blanca Cruz</i>		
3	Administrator—Research and Evaluation / P & I	Mr. Edgar Ponce	<i>Edgar Ponce</i>	12-11	
4	PEIMS Coordinator—Technology Dept.	Ms. Melissa Urenda			
5	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Joanne Barba	<i>Joanne Barba</i>		Yes
6	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Ivonne Ballesteros			
7	Instructional Specialist—Loya	Ms. Maribel Vallejo	<i>Maribel Vallejo</i>	12-11	Yes
8	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Rachel Quinones			
9	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Joselyn Zuniga	<i>Joselyn Zuniga</i>	12-11	Yes
10	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Claudia Murphy	<i>Claudia Murphy</i>	12-11	Yes
11	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Ruth Ramirez	<i>Ruth Ramirez</i>	12-11	Yes
12	Teacher—Borrego	Mr. Enrique Santiesteban	<i>Enrique Santiesteban</i>	12-11	Yes
13	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Whitney Surrat	<i>Whitney Surrat</i>	12-11	Yes
14	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Alyssa Padilla	<i>Alyssa Padilla</i>	12-11	Yes
15	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Valerie Martinez	<i>Valerie Martinez</i>	12-11	Yes
16	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Norma Villasenor	<i>Norma Villasenor</i>	12-11	Yes
17	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Nancy Sullivan			
18	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Idania Rodarte			
19	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Soledad Gonzalez			
20	Teacher—SEHS	Mr. Francisco Munoz			
21	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Jasmine Lozano	<i>Jasmine Lozano</i>	12/11	Yes
22	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Pat Villarreal			
23	Campus--Based Non-Teaching Staff	Ms. Gabriela Castro			
24	Parent	Ms. Yhadira Arriaga			
25	Parent	Ms. Cristina Garcia			
26	Business/Community Member	Mr. David Cantu			
27	Business/Community Member	Ms. Ruth Torres			



### Sign-In Sheet

<b>Meeting: DAT (Non-Members)</b>	<b>Meeting Date: 12/11/2024</b>
<b>Place/Room: Board Room</b>	<b>Meeting Time: 5:00 PM</b>

Print Name	Signature	Email Address	Department/School
1. Julissa C Esquivel	<i>[Signature]</i>	julesquivel@seisd.net	Loyal Primary
2. Jeannie Meza Chavez	<i>[Signature]</i>	jmeza-chavez@seisd.net	Supt
3. L. Roldes	<i>[Signature]</i>	lmendoza@seisd.net	Borrego
4. L. Sandate	<i>[Signature]</i>	lsandate@seisd.net	Sambrano
5.			
6.			
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15.			



**District Advisory Team (DAT) Meeting  
Wednesday December 11, 2024  
5:00 PM—6:00 PM; In Person, Board Room**

1. Welcome - Mrs. Cruz
2. District Advisory Team - Purpose and Commitment - Mr. Ponce
3. Voting item - District of Innovation Plan Renewal - Mrs. Cruz
4. Open Forum / Closure
5. Upcoming Meetings
  - Next DAT Meeting - Friday January 17, 2025; 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (online)