

Public Meeting

District of Innovation Plan Renewal
December 11, 2024
1050 Chicken Ranch Road
5:00 pm

Soaring to Excellence



Public Meeting – Posted on District's Website



San Elizario Independent School District
A Proud Community of Champions – Soaring to Excellence

Calendar Family ▾ Staff ▾ [JOBS@SEISD](#)

Departments Superintendent SEISD Board Required Postings Military Families Pathway of CHAMPIONS



Public Meeting
to Discuss the District of Innovation Plan Renewal
December 11, 2024, at 5:00 PM
1050 Chicken Ranch Road
San Elizario, TX 79849
#CommitmentValorYCorazon

Public Meeting

REGISTRATION TIP LINE VISIT APPLY

|| < >

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Background

In the summer of 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature passed HB 1842, allowing public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to gain exemptions from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation - §102.1303. Eligibility

- (a) A district is eligible for designation as an innovation district if the district's most recent performance rating under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §39.054, is **at least acceptable performance**, as indicated in the applicable year's academic accountability manual adopted under §97.1001 of this title (relating to the Accountability Rating System).
- (b) A board of trustees may not vote on the final approval of the innovation plan **if the district is assigned either a final or preliminary rating below acceptable performance**, as indicated in the applicable year's academic accountability manual adopted under §97.1001 of this title. In the event the preliminary rating is changed, the board of trustees may then vote to become an innovation district.

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Background

School districts may NOT exempt themselves from the following:

- (1) a state or federal requirement applicable to an open-enrollment charter school operating under Subchapter D, Chapter 12;
- (2) Subchapters A, C, D, and E, Chapter 11, except that a district may be exempt from Sections 11.1511(b)(5) and (14) and Section 11.162;
- (3) state curriculum and graduation requirements adopted under Chapter 28; and
- (4) academic and financial accountability and sanctions under Chapters 39 and 39A.

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation - Process

Board adopts resolution to develop Local Innovation Plan

- Board approves Local Innovation Committee members
- Committee develops Local Innovation Plan
- Notification to TEA of intention to vote on proposed Plan
- Final Plan posted on District website
- District Advisory Team (aka DAT) holds public meeting and votes on the Plan (majority required for approval)
- Board votes on Plan (2/3 of membership required)

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Background

On October 9, 2019, the SEISD Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution to consider becoming a Dol. The District Advisory Team (DAT) received a presentation from the administration explaining the rationale for becoming a Dol. On November 4, 2019, and November 13, 2019, SEISD held public hearings regarding the Dol 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 Dol committee membership. The Dol 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.

The DAT is meeting again today to adopt the renewal of the DOI plan

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Review of Last Amendment (08/01/2024)

Soaring to Excellence





District Advisory Team (DAT) Meeting
Thursday August 1, 2024
3:00 PM—4:00 PM; Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 241 449 409 417

Passcode: ygKGZE

1. Welcome—Dr. Segovia
2. District Advisory Team—Purpose and Commitment—Ms. Renegar
3. (VOTING ITEM) District of Innovation (DOI) Plan—90% Rule—Dr. Segovia
4. (VOTING ITEM) Class Size Ratio—Ms. Cruz, Mr. Rivas
5. Open Forum / Closure
6. Upcoming Meetings
 - Next DAT Meeting—Friday August 16, 2024; 3:00 PM—4:30 PM (online)

DAT Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025

All meetings will be online from 3:00 PM—4:30 PM

August 1, 2024
August 16, 2024
September 19, 2024
November 20, 2024
January 17, 2025
February 21, 2025
April 23, 2025
May 22, 2025

Soaring to Excellence



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.

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.

2. *Teacher Certification (current law)*

Revised
4/14/21

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.

TEC Sec. 21.053. Presentation and recording of certificates. (a) A person who desires to teach in a public school shall present the person's certification for filing with the employing district before the person's contract with the board of trustees of the district is binding.

No
Changes

Soaring to Excellence



New
4/14/21

4. Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade (current law)

TEC § 25.092 contains the provision of law commonly referred to as “the 90 percent rule,” which applies to a student in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12.

This section conditions credit or a final grade for a class on a student’s attendance for at least 90 percent of the days a class is offered.

Benefits of Exemption from TEC § 25.092

The ninety percent rule is an arbitrary percentage based on seat time rather than content mastery.

- The San Elizario Independent School District uses the flexibility of this exemption to utilize options such as blended learning, flipped classrooms, and HyFlex instruction with both face-to-face and online instruction and resources.
- This will allow the district to take advantage of these educational innovations in method, locations, and times of instruction delivered to students, thereby accommodating students with legitimate scheduling conflicts, reducing dropouts, and increasing the number of qualifying graduates.
- The SEISD would award students credit for courses based on content mastery, not the amount of “seat time” students spend in the classroom. The district would not penalize students who miss class due to University Interscholastic League (UIL) academic and athletic activities or extenuating circumstances.

Removed

Soaring to Excellence





5. 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**, 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 37.008.

Benefits of Exemption from TEC § 37.006

- San Elizario ISD's commitment to comprehensive education and wellness
- New statutory provisions mandate DAEP placement for e-cigarette possession.
- Discrepancy in consequences for e-cigarettes
- District's preference for educational support over immediate DAEP removal
- Primary objective: Keep students with the general population with support.



Soaring to Excellence





**District Advisory Team (DAT)
Attendance and Voting—August 1, 2024**

	Position / Location	Member Name	Vote #1—DOI Attendance	Vote #2—Class Size Ratio
1	Superintendent / Administration	Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez	Non-Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
2	Associate Superintendent-Chairperson / P & I	Dr. Rogelio Segovia	Non-Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
3	Administrator—Research and Evaluation / P & I	Ms. Lisa Renegar	Non-Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
4	PEIMS Coordinator—Technology Dept.	Ms. Melissa Urenda	Non-Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
5	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Joanne Barba	Yes	No
6	Teacher—Loya	Ms. Ivonne Ballesteros	Yes	No
7	Instructional Specialist—Loya	Ms. Maribel Vallejo	Yes	No
8	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Rachel Quinones	Yes	Yes
9	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Joselyn Zuniga	Yes	Yes
10	Teacher—Alarcon	Ms. Claudia Murphy	Yes	Yes
11	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Ruth Ramirez	Yes	No
12	Teacher—Borrego	Mr. Enrique Santiesteban	Yes	No
13	Teacher—Borrego	Ms. Whitney Surrat	Yes	No
14	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Alyssa Padilla	Yes	No
15	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Valerie Martinez	Yes	No
16	Teacher—Sambrano	Ms. Norma Villasenor	Yes	No
17	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Nancy Sullivan	Yes	No
18	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Idania Rodarte	Yes	No
19	Teacher—GEMS	Ms. Soledad Gonzalez	Yes	Yes
20	Teacher—SEHS	Mr. Francisco Munoz	Not Present	Not Present
21	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Jasmine Lozano	Yes	Yes
22	Teacher—SEHS	Ms. Pat Villarreal	Yes	Yes
23	Campus--Based Non-Teaching Staff	Ms. Gabriela Castro	Did not Vote	Did not Vote
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	Yes	No
27	Business/Community Member	Ms. Ruth Torres	Not Present	Not Present

Vote #1 Tally (Attendance): 18 yes votes out of 18 voting members present = **PASSED**

Vote #2 Tally (Class Size): 18 voting members present, 12 voted no (66%), 6 voted yes (33%) = **DID NOT PASS**



Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Plan Renewal

Soaring to Excellence

District of Innovation Exemption 1 of 4

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.

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Exemptions 2 of 4

2. Teacher Certification (CTE and Fine Arts)

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.

~~TEC Sec. 21.053. Presentation and recording of certificates. (a) A person who desires to teach in a public school shall present the person's certification for filing with the employing district before the person's contract with the board of trustees of the district is binding.~~

Benefits of Exemption from TEC, Sections 21.003 and 21.053:

- 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**

CTE or Fine Arts Teachers who do not have SBEC certificates will not receive contracts. However, the District does not want to be exempt from 21.053 because certified teachers must present their certificates to the District so the District can contract with them under Chapter 21.

Soaring to Excellence



Local Guidelines:

- The district's goal will always be to hire SBEC-certified CTE 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, 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 also complete identified TEA-approved training for select CTE courses. These trainings are identified in the State Board for Educator Certification 19 TAC §231 document.
- 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**

- Clarifies that only CTE and Fine Arts Teachers are the only areas under local procedures for which noncertified teachers may be hired and issued a non-chapter 21 contract.
- Clarifies that we must follow federal and state grant compliance as applicable.
- Clarifies the need for a criminal background check for Non-SBEC certified teachers in CTE and Fine Arts, which aligns with the district's administrative procedures.

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Exemptions 3 of 4

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(a):

- 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.

- Clarifies the notification timeline

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Exemptions 4 of 4

New
10/11/23

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.**
- ~~New statutory provisions mandate DAEP placement for e-cigarette possession.~~ 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 other provisions stated in Section 37.006 **including** the mandated removal to DAEP for possession of controlled substances like marijuana and THC.

- Specifies the exact section of TEC 37.006
- Clarifies the benefits of the exemption more clearly

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Renewal Summary

4 Exemptions :

1. First Day of Instruction

2. Teacher Certification for CTE and Fine Arts

3. Class Size

4. Removal for certain conduct for the use of e-cigarettes

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Renewal



Voting



Soaring to Excellence

District of Innovation Renewal – Board of Trustees

- The Board of Trustees will consider the approval of the DoI Renewal on January 15, 2025.

Soaring to Excellence



District of Innovation Website



The screenshot shows the SEISD website header with the district logo and name. The navigation menu includes 'Departments', 'Superintendent', 'SEISD Board' (highlighted), 'Required Postings', 'Military Families', and 'Pathway of CHAMPIONS'. Below this, a sub-menu lists 'Our Board of Trustees', 'Student Outcome Goals', 'District of Innovation' (highlighted), 'SEISD Attendance Boundary Changes', '2023 Board Election', and 'Policies'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'HOME > SEISD BOARD > DISTRICT OF INNOVATION' and a sidebar with links to 'Our Board of Trustees', 'Student Outcome Goals', 'District of Innovation' (with a minus sign), 'DoI Committee Members', 'Activities and Presentations', 'Term', 'Comprehensive Education Program', 'Student Outcome Goals', 'Innovations and Exemptions', and 'Members Signatures'. The main heading is 'District of Innovation'. Below it is a graphic with 'SEISD' and 'DoI' text over a blue background with circuitry and icons. The text explains that the District of Innovation (DoI) legislation passed in 2017 allows traditional independent school districts to access flexibilities available to Texas' open-enrollment charter schools. It states that SEISD seeks to become a district of innovation to better serve its students and stakeholders. A final paragraph mentions that on October 9, 2019, the SEISD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to consider becoming a DoI, and the District Advisory Team (DAT) received a presentation explaining the rationale.

San Elizario Independent School District
A Proud Community of Champions – Soaring to Excellence

Calendar Family Staff

Departments Superintendent **SEISD Board** Required Postings Military Families Pathway of CHAMPIONS

Our Board of Trustees Student Outcome Goals **District of Innovation** SEISD Attendance Boundary Changes 2023 Board Election Policies

HOME > SEISD BOARD > DISTRICT OF INNOVATION

District of Innovation

SEISD DoI

The District of Innovation (DoI) legislation 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 in an effort to better serve the needs of all of our students and stakeholders including staff, parents, and community members. This will allow SEISD increased 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 by administration explaining the rationale for becoming a DoI. On

<https://www.seisd.net/seisd-board/district-of-innovation>

Soaring to Excellence

