

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA☐

Workshop

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Regular

☐

Special

(A)

☐

Report Only

☐

Recognition

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

(B)

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Action Items

Presenters(s): John Cox, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Jaime Gonzalez, Bilingual/Fine Arts/Title III, Part A Director

Briefly describe the action required.

Consider and take action to approve the District of Innovation Plan Renewal.

(C)

Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.

(D)

Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Samuel Mijares, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Jaime H. Gonzalez, _____
Bilingual/Gifted and Talented/Fine Arts/Title III, Part A Director

SUBJECT: District of Innovation Plan Renewal

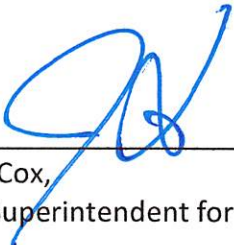
DATE: June 2, 2025

I am writing to formally request that an item be placed on the agenda for the upcoming board meeting regarding the renewal of our District of Innovation (DOI) Plan.

As you are aware, our current DOI designation is approaching its expiration, and in accordance with state requirements and district policy, the renewal process must be initiated to ensure continuity and compliance. Placing this item on the board agenda will allow us to present the proposed renewal plan, approved by our EPISD DWEIC on May 14, 2025, and seek approval to proceed with the necessary notification to TEA Commissioner and posting on the EPISD website.

Thank you for your consideration.

APPROVED: _____


John M. Cox,
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

JUN 02 2025



Eagle Pass Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan Renewal

2025 – 2030

Approved as Amended: TBD

The VISION shared by the stakeholders of Eagle Pass Independent School District is,

“All students equipped for Success.”

Eagle Pass ISD Mission Statement,

“Our school community will enable and inspire all students to achieve academic excellence preparing them for college, career and life.”

Introduction

The 84th Legislative Session resulted in the passage of House Bill (HB) 1842, permitting Texas Public School Districts to become Districts of Innovation by which they could obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code, TEC Chapter 12A.001.

The expected benefits of becoming a District of Innovation include:

- **Flexibility:** Our District will have the flexibility to implement practices that support local needs, namely exemption from the mandate concerning uniform school start date.
- **Local control:** Our District will decide which flexibilities best suit our local needs.
- **Autonomy:** Our District must submit a District of Innovation Plan to the Commissioner of Education, but approval is not required.

On January 14, 2020 the Eagle Pass Independent School District’s Board of Trustees (“Board”) adopted a Resolution to explore the development of a District of Innovation Plan to increase local control over District operations and to support innovation and local initiatives. On February 11, 2020 the Board offered a public hearing concerning Eagle Pass ISD’s possible designation as a District of Innovation. The Board appointed a thirty-one (31) member, District Advisory Committee (DAC) comprised of a cross section of stake holders from our District including teachers, campus administrators, District leadership, parents, and various community members, all charged with the task of developing the local District of Innovation plan during the February 11, 2020 School Board meeting. The first meeting of the DAC was held on February 26, 2020 to familiarize the committee with the process and procedures for the development of the DOI Plan

Term

The term of the District of Innovation Plan is for five years to begin July 1, 2025 and end in June 30, 2030. These dates will remain in effect unless the Board terminates the Plan or until any amendment is applied according to the rules established or ended according to the law and authority given by the Commissioner of education. If the District determines to amend this plan to include further exemptions and flexibilities pursuant to HB 1842, the Board will appoint a new committee to consider and propose the additional amendments. Any amendments will need to be approved by the District Advisory Committee and a two-thirds majority vote of the Board. Any amendment adopted by the Board of the DOI Plan will not extend the term of the Plan.

Timeline of Events (Renewal)

June 12, 2024:	Research process for renewal of DOI.
January 6, 2025:	Discuss possible new areas of exemptions with district administrators.
January 10, 2025:	Research process for renewal of DOI. Compile adequate information to be presented to the DAC.
January 16, 2025:	Meeting One with DAC to discuss the DOI plan renewal process.
March 13, 2025:	Second Meeting with DAC to answers questions and concerns about the renewal of the DOI.
March 14, 2025:	Final version of the proposed plan published in Eagle Pass ISD website for at least 30 days.
May 14, 2025:	Present the DOI plan to DAC for approval.
June 10, 2025:	Present the DOI plan to the Board of Trustees for approval.
TBD:	Send notification letter to TEA Commissioner.
TBD:	Approved version of the DOI plan published in Eagle Pass ISD website.
TBD:	Provide a copy of (link to) the current DOI plan to TEA for posting on the agency website.

District Advisory Committee (DAC) (Renewal)

Department	Name
District Level Administrators	
Curriculum and Instruction (Chairperson)	John Cox
Federal and Student Programs	Rene Martinez
Bilingual	Jaime H. Gonzalez
English Language Arts	Rodolfo Musquiz
Mathematics	Rita Carreon
Science/Social Studies	Francisco Vielma
School Improvement/Curriculum/Acct./GT	Elizabeth Torres
Migrant	Laura Telles
Staff Development/Parent Involvement	Lana Harper
Instructional Services	David Camarillo
Special Education	Miriam Garcia
Career and Technical Education	Jose Villalobos
Instructional Technology	Timoteo Chaires
Federal Programs	Tracy Mynar
Non-Teaching Members	
Principal	Veronica Chacon
Counselor	Maria Chacon
Assistant Principal	Patricia Rodrigues
Dean of Instruction	Ana M. Barrera
Grade Level Representatives	
Pre-K	Armando Maldonado
Kinder	Rosario Willars
1 st Grade	Janelle M. Gonzalez
2 nd Grade	Elsa Garcia-Castells
3 rd Grade	Mireya Soriano
4 th Grade	Roberto Aguilar
5 th Grade	Priscilla Luna
6 th Grade	Yvette Valdez
Paraprofessional	Sandra Olivares
Paraprofessional	Ritza Roman
Secondary Mathematics	Mary Jo Rico
Secondary Social Studies	Jorge R. Olivas
Secondary Science	Blanca De Luna
Secondary ELA	Connie Valerio-Soto
Secondary Enrichment	Indira Barrera
Secondary Enrichment	L. Corina Dovalina

Department	Name
Business Members	
Business Member	Monica J. Cruz
Business Member	Kathryn Felan
Business Member	Juan Jose Mancha
Community Members	
Community Member	Asalia Casares
Community Member	Kina Mancha
Community Member	Olga Ramos
Parent Members	
Parent Members	Hector A. Bruno
Parent Members	Cynthia Castillon
Parent Members	Robert Coyle

Area of Innovation

With regard to the area of innovation Eagle Pass ISD is requesting exemption from, the District declares exemption from the listed statutory provision, as well as any implementing rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutory provisions by any state agency or entity, including but not limited to the Commissioner of Education, Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification and State Board of Education.

School Start Date

Exemption from: TEC § 25.0811: A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Related Board Policies: EB (LEGAL)

Manner in which statute inhibits the goals of the plan

The statute in its current form allows no flexibility for Eagle Pass ISD to design an annual calendar to meet the varied needs of all stakeholders. Exemption from this statute will provide our District the opportunity and ability execute the innovation strategies listed below:

- Increased local control of the instructional calendar will allow the District to be responsive to community needs as well as meeting scheduling needs of students by aligning the District calendar with those of local universities and local districts with shared service arrangements.
- Exemption from this statute will help support the creation of focused professional development in conjunction with the instructional minutes' requirement.
- This exemption will allow the District to approach balance between the fall and spring semesters and will offer increased instructional time and planning time before STAAR/EOC State assessments as well as National Assessments (SAT/ACT etc.)
- Instruction will begin no earlier than the third week in August.