

District of Innovation



DOI Committee Meeting

March 9, 2017

6-7:30 pm

SSAISD CALL TO ACTION

All students will **enjoy** successful education experiences to empower them to make decisions and **enrich their lives in the future they create.**



Agenda

1. Opening and Call to Action
2. Approve Minutes from last meeting
3. Grand Prairie ISD visit: share-out
4. Presentation of DOI Plan & Committee Voting
5. Wrap Up/ Closing

Minutes from February 23rd

- Review (individually)
- Comments???

Grand Prairie ISD visit



innovate. educate. graduate.

Presentation of DOI Plan- The Process

- Outline of Document
 - Committee Members
 - Introduction
 - Term
 - Process Diagram
 - Continual Improvement
 - Innovations
- Review of Components

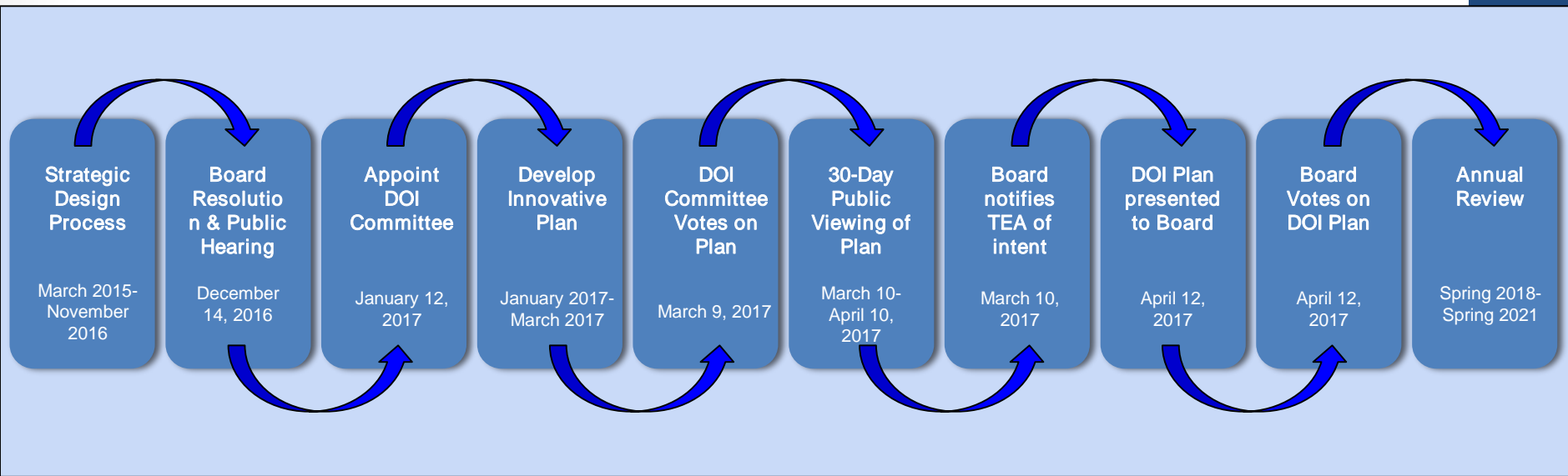
Critique Part 1- 7 minutes

Questions/ Comments/Concerns about:

- Committee Members
 - 21 Voting Members
 - 3 Ad-Hoc Members
- Introduction
 - HB 1842
 - Resolution on December 14, 2016
 - Appointment of DOI Plan Committee on January 12, 2017
 - DOI Committee Plan Development January- March 2017
 - Public viewing March 10-April 10, 2017
 - Board Voting April 12, 2017
 - Plan Adoption
- Term
 - Start: 2017-2018 School Year
 - End: 2021-2022 School Year
 - Amendments to plan
- Process Diagram



District of Innovation Process



Critique Part 2- 5 minutes

Questions/ Comments/Concerns about:

- Continual Improvement
 - Call to Action
 - Culture
 - Core Beliefs
 - Goals/ Strategies
 - Learner Outcomes



Critique Part 3- 7 minutes per...

- 3 minutes to read & review
- 4 minutes to discuss

- Questions/ Comments/Concerns about:

- Innovations

- A. *TEC §25.0811 and §25.0812 First day of Instruction and Last Day of Instruction*
- B. *TEC §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade*
- C. *TEC §25.081 Minimum Minutes of Instruction- 75,600 minutes/year, 420 Minutes/Day*
- D. *TEC §21.003 and TEC §21.051 Certification and Required Field-based Experience*
- E. *TEC §25.112 and §25.1113 Class Size and Notice of Class Size*
- F. *TEC §29.151 Free Kindergarten*

TEC §25.0811 and §25.0812

First day of Instruction and Last Day of Instruction

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

The District desires to design a **district calendar** that best meets students' and the school community's needs.

The District will have the flexibility to **start school one week early, the third Monday in August**. This will balance the two instructional semesters, setting exams prior to Winter Break, and allowing for **more instructional time before STAAR/EOC/ AP exams**.

Students enrolled in the **Early College High School** would be able to start and end their high school courses at the same time as their college courses. The balanced semesters will **better align with college semesters**; allowing for more opportunities for summer internships, summer courses at the colleges, and industrial certification opportunities.

Mirroring the college calendar would enable the District to **recruit highly qualified faculty** who desire to coordinate their work schedule with the local college.

Local Guidelines

The **District Educational Improvement Council**, comprised of teachers, administrators, support personnel, parents, and business and community leaders, serves as the District's calendar committee. This committee will develop several **instructional calendar options** and recommend a preferred option to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will then make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. In developing calendar options, the Committee will utilize the flexibility of having more **local control on the school start date**.

TEC §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD


Currently, students who have already **mastered course material**, yet have unique attendance issues are required to re-take the course for **“seat time” credit**. Additionally, students who are able to advance more rapidly, due to the **ability to work above grade level**, are not allowed to do so. Students are required to earn “seat time” regardless of their level of content mastery. The District will need an exemption from the **90% “seat time” attendance rule**.

The District strives to implement **innovative ways for learners to learn**. Virtual classroom learning opportunities and service learning opportunities are examples of innovative learning. Additionally, students will be afforded the opportunity to pursue potential career passions.

TEC §25.081 Minimum Minutes of Instruction- 75,600 minutes/year, 420 Minutes/Day

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

The District seeks to establish an **alternative education program** designed to meet the needs of **non-traditional students**. Students who are overage and who are at risk of dropping out need **customized learning plans** to meet their needs, and exempting the District from the minimum minutes of instruction requirement would allow the necessary flexibility to help these students. Students will only attend school for the classes they are lacking, or to **complete the requirements** for passing STAAR/EOC exams. The goal is to **provide an opportunity** for students who may have difficulty being successful in a traditional school setting due to special circumstances.

In order to better meet the needs of individual students, the District requests the flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction. This exemption will provide educational advantages to students by **promoting innovative learning** with flexible methods, locations, and times instruction may be delivered to students. 

TEC §21.003 and TEC §21.051 Certification and Required Field-based Experience

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

The teacher certification requirements enacted in these statutes inhibit the District's ability to hire **highly-skilled individuals** to teach dual credit, career and technological education courses, STEM courses, as well as courses taught in languages other than English. The **availability of teachers** who are certified to teach these courses is limited, which causes the District to **limit course offerings** that support the 21st Century Learner.

SSAISD is committed to establishing and sustaining the middle schools as **magnet schools**—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Fine Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, and Public Services. In order to best serve SSAISD students, decisions on certification will be handled locally. Henceforth, students will be afforded **greater course options**, fluidity in scheduling and exposure to specialized practitioners (i.e. college professors, public service professionals and other expert personnel).

Local Guidelines

The campus principal may submit to the Superintendent a request to allow a teacher to teach a course in a **highly specialized or hard-to-fill area**. The superintendent will make a determination as to whether the applicant is qualified to teach such a course or vocational skill through a **local teaching certificate**. Local teaching certificates will be for one year. The employee will receive a non-Chapter 21 contract. The Superintendent will then report this action to the Board of Trustees.

TEC §25.112 and §25.1113 Class Size and Notice of Class Size

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

While we acknowledge that the **student-teacher ratio** impacts the classroom and student achievement, the **mobility rate** of South San Antonio ISD must be considered along with the challenge of hiring quality staff in a timely manner to be in compliance. Also, the addition of one or two students beyond the recommended ratio may not hinder the learning environment; however, moving students can be detrimental to the **continuity and stability** of their academic and emotional growth.

Local Guidelines

South San Antonio ISD **strives to adhere to the current Texas Education Code (TEC)**, §25.112 of the 22:1 ratio in grades K-4. The District requests flexibility to make the best possible decisions regarding the **academic and emotional needs of our students**. In the event a classroom exceeds the 22:1 ratio in grades K-4, **campus and district administration in collaboration with the teacher** would request an exemption from the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will then report to the Board of Trustees the number of exemptions granted. At any time, the Board may request that the Superintendent bring the exemptions for Board approval.

TEC §29.151 Free Kindergarten

Benefit of Exemption for SSAISD

In order to best serve the students of Southlake, the priority of which would be considered economically disadvantaged, the district would welcome the opportunity to **provide educational services as early as possible to ensure long-term academic success**. Research says the sooner students are served in an appropriate setting, the gaps they potentially come with could be eliminated.

The current statute states that children must be **five years old by September 1st** in order for them to **begin Kindergarten** in a public school district **eligible to receive state funding**. Children **mature and learn at varying rates**. Many miss the cut-off-date to start school and would benefit from attending school sooner instead of waiting another academic year to begin.

Local Guidelines

The district requests **flexibility in determining readiness for Kindergarten** by allowing students who are not age 5 by September 1 to meet **locally established eligibility requirements** and to optionally enroll with all the same district financial benefits as those students who are 5 years old by September 1st. The district will **establish a local committee** comprised of various stakeholders (e.g., teachers, campus administrators, district staff) to develop and recommend **local criteria for Kindergarten readiness** to the Superintendent/Board of Trustees, as appropriate. Students who are ready for school can develop a strong **foundation of literacy and numeracy** to **prevent potential gaps** in achievement and accelerate their learning.

Kindergarten update

As per TEA conversation today...

TEC 29.151 can be exempted- allowing students under the age of 5 to begin kindergarten

HOWEVER... the district will not receive funding for these students

UNLESS... as per TEC 42.003

- the child passes a 3rd grade STAAR
- AND the district has developed a policy for such circumstances
- **this action does not require an exemption**

Options for Kindergarten

1. Do not include in the current Plan

OR

1. Do not include in the current Plan and re-visit next Spring if necessary

OR

1. Include in the current Plan, but do not act on the exemption for the 2017-18 school year

Voting on Plan

- Majority Vote is needed to Approve the Plan
- Any questions prior to voting?
- Part 1 of Voting- Kinder exemption decision
- Part 2 of Voting- Plan recommended with chosen change to kinder exemption

Wrap Up/ Closing

Next Steps:

- Friday, March 10, 2017
 - Plan will be posted on district website for public viewing and comments
 - Plan will be made available to Board of Trustees
 - TEA Commissioner will be notified of Board of Trustees intention to vote on DOI Plan
- Wednesday, April 12, 2017- Board of Trustees will vote on DOI Plan
- April-June 2017- District Admin and Legal Counsel will review current local policy and identify areas for revision
- August 2017- South San ISD will officially hold the designation of District of Innovation

“It takes a village to raise a child”
- African Proverb

