

Laredo Independent School District
District of Innovation Plan

District of Innovation Plan Amendment
TEC 102.1313 Amendment, Rescission, or Renewal

Amendment
Approved by LISD Trustees, January 16, 2019

Original Plan
Approved by LISD Trustees, May 25, 2017

All Additions Denoted in **Red**



Laredo Independent School District *District of Innovation Plan*

Background

The District of Innovation (DOI) concept was passed into law by the 84th Legislative Session as per House Bill 1842, *Texas Education Code, Chapter 12A.001*. The designation provides districts the opportunity to seek exemptions from certain sections of the Texas Education Code that have been determined by the District to inhibit the District from achieving its goals. These goals are outlined in a locally adopted Innovation Plan. The term of this designation is for five years, provided the district continues to meet performance requirements in both academics and finance.

In this regard, Laredo ISD has opted to primarily pursue modifications to its scholastic calendar in order to align calendar “start and end dates” with our sister district and local higher education institutions. As a District of Innovation, the Laredo Independent School District, will exercise greater local control and flexibility to maximize learning opportunities through an innovative instructional calendar, addressing the unique needs of LISD students and staff.

Synopsis

On November 16, 2016, district staff met to discuss the District of Innovation process and the possible positive outcomes that could result from this designation. It was determined that several statutes under the Texas Education Code restrict the district from achieving the various systemic and academic goals that have been set to provide students with a wide array of meaningful learning experiences, preparing students for college and career readiness. Of significant importance was the fact that Laredo ISD’s scholastic calendar did not align with the proposed calendars of our sister district, TAMIU, and LCC.

After several presentations and discussions were held to inform stakeholders of the District’s interest in seeking a DOI designation, a District survey was posted to gather input regarding two scholastic calendar options, one requiring DOI status. Together with the District Educational Improvement Council, a majority of District personnel approved Scholastic Calendar Option B. A Resolution to Initiate the Process of a District of Innovation was approved by the Board of Trustees on April 13, 2017.

Board Resolution

Approved on April 13, 2017



Resolution to initiate the Process of Designation as a District of Innovation

WHEREAS, the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees is committed to our mission of motivating and preparing students who will meaningfully and successfully contribute to our global community and excel in life as confident, self-motivated critical thinkers and effective problem solvers.

WHEREAS, Texas Education Code 12A, enacted by HB 1842 of the 84th Legislative Session, provides that a district is eligible for designation as a "District of Innovation" if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a District of Innovation may be initiated by a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS, the most recent performance rating of Laredo ISD ("the District") under Texas Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance;

WHEREAS, the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees believes we will be able to achieve our mission more effectively by increasing local control over District operations; and

WHEREAS, Texas Education Code 12A requires districts seeking to be designated as Districts of Innovation develop a local Innovation Plan providing for a more comprehensive educational program and identifying the requirements imposed by the Texas Education Code that inhibit the goal of the local Innovation Plan;

WHEREAS, the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees will not seek under District of Innovation, exemptions from any existing laws relating to teacher contracts including salary of days of employment; teacher schedules, specifically: planning periods, duty free lunches; employee complaint procedures (grievance policies); or any other existing laws except as proposed below:

- (1) the law prohibiting the District from beginning instruction before the fourth Monday in August;

WHEREAS, Texas Education Code Section 25.0811 prohibits the District from beginning instruction before the fourth Monday in August;

WHEREAS, flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year enabling the District to align instruction with local, state and federal accountability mandates by balancing the amount of instructional time per semester, thus allowing teachers to better pace and deliver instruction before and after the first semester;

WHEREAS, flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable the District to create a calendar that is more student and employee centered;

WHEREAS, flexibility to begin instruction earlier in the calendar year will enable teachers and students to have more instructional time prior to state mandated assessments;

WHEREAS, flexibility to start and end the school year earlier, will enable students to enroll in college courses that start in early June, thereby increasing college and career readiness;

WHEREAS, the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees believes that any local Innovation Plan, if adopted, should be developed in collaboration with the community and District stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, before considering the creation of a local Innovation Plan, the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing to receive feedback from the community and District stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees on ____, 2017, initiates the process of exploring and considering designation of the District as a District of Innovation under Texas Education Code Section 12A.

Adopted this 13 day of April, 2017, by the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees.



Dr. Cecilia M. Moreno, Board President



Mr. Ricardo Garza, Board Secretary

Process to Become a District of Innovation
Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 12A

The following timeline depicts possible dates to complete the DOI process and submit a DOI plan to the Board of Trustees for approval.

April 7th	Intent of District of Innovation was presented to the Board of Trustees during Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting.
April 10th	DEIC informational meeting regarding the resolution proposing the District's intent of becoming a District of Innovation. DEIC voted for Calendar Option B with a 26:3 majority vote. District will proceed with DOI intent.
April 13th	Resolution to initiate DOI was approved by Board of Trustees. Board appointed DOI Committee to develop plan with: (1) comprehensive educational program with innovations, and (2) list of Education Code provisions to be exempt
April 24th	District Advisory/District of Innovation Committee holds public meeting to develop and approve plan with a majority vote to pass.
April 25th	Plan is posted online for 30 days. Notify Commissioner of Education and TEA of the District's intent to become a District of Innovation (no approval required).
May 22nd	Post notice of Public Hearing and Board Meeting to approve DOI final plan.
May 25th	School board approves final plan by 2/3 majority.
August 2017	Plan is in effect for up to 5 years (2017-2018 to 2021-2022).

District of Innovation Amendment Timeline

The following timeline depicts dates to complete an amendment for the District's current District of Innovation as per Texas Administrative Code Chapter 102.1313

102.1313. Amendment, Rescission, or Renewal.

(a) A district innovation plan may be amended, rescinded, or renewed if the action is approved by a majority vote of the district-level committee established under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §11.251, or a comparable committee if the district is exempt from that section, and a two-thirds majority vote of the board of trustees.

(1) Amendment. An amendment to an approved plan does not change the date of the term of designation as an innovation district. Exemptions that were already formally approved are not required to be reviewed.

January 9, 2019	Presentation to School Board Curriculum and Instructional Committee.
January 9, 2019	Meetings with high school campus leadership teams to discuss proposed amendment.
January 10, 2019	Meetings with the District's Human Resources Department to discuss proposed amendment.
January 14, 2019	Meeting with the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) to discuss proposed amendment.
January 14, 2019	The District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) approved proposed amendment.
January 16, 2019	School board approves amendment by 2/3 majority.

Laredo Independent School District

District of Innovation Plan

DOI PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2017-2018 through 2021-2022

LISD District of Innovation Committee members comprised of District stakeholders, including educators, administrators, parents and community members formed to develop the Local Innovation Plan (Plan). One exemption is included in the Laredo ISD Innovation Plan for the noted dates of implementation.

First Day of Instruction (School Start Date):

Texas Education Code Section 25.0811: A school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August.

Laredo ISD's DEIC/DOI Committee has determined that a school calendar that offers the option to begin the first day of instruction, prior to the fourth Monday in August as currently required by the TEC, will provide the District the ability to effectively meet the instructional needs of all students. Such a calendar will better prepare our students for college and career readiness and for focused professional development, in conjunction with the instructional minutes requirement.

Plan: To meet local and community needs, this plan will allow for balanced instructional days, prior to the state assessments administered during the Fall and Spring semesters.

1. Students will start school no earlier than the 3rd Monday in August.
2. District scholastic calendar will align with local universities/colleges and state assessment (i.e. STAAR) timelines;
3. This exemption will increase local control of the instructional calendar in order to be responsive to the needs of the LISD teaching and learning community.

District of Innovation Plan

DOI PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: January 2019 through 2021-2022

LISD District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) members comprised of District stakeholders, including educators, administrators, parents and community approved an amendment to the previously approved District of Innovation Plan on January 14, 2019 to include Teacher Certification for Career and Technical Education and Dual Credit.

Teacher Certification for Career and Technical Education and Dual Credit:

Texas Education Code Section 21.003 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.

Laredo ISD's DEIC Committee has determined that the availability of certified teachers limit the District's ability to hire teachers to teach hard-to-fill, Dual Credit and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses when certified teachers are not available. An exemption would allow Laredo ISD the flexibility to consider workforce professionals to teach CTE courses and Dual Enrollment courses.

Plan: Having the ability to recruit experts from the field and institutions of higher learning will enhance community partnerships and increase field-based opportunities for students.

1. Laredo ISD would have the flexibility to hire credentialed college or university instructors/professors in specific content areas in order to offer more students the opportunity to take these courses if certified teachers are not available to teach those courses.
2. Laredo ISD would have the flexibility to hire field-based experts. In many instances, these individuals are more qualified to teach Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Technology Application courses than certified educators.

Proposed Laredo ISD DOI Committee

High Schools		
Campus/Dept	Name	Email Address
Cigarroa High School	Perez, Gustavo Alan	gaperez1@laredoisd.org
Cigarroa High School	Pinzon, Gerardo	gpinzon@laredoisd.org
Cigarroa High School	Valdez, Gerardo	gvaldez@laredoisd.org
Martin High School	Pro, Guillermo	gpro@laredoisd.org
Martin High School	Trevino, Richard	rtrevino1001@laredoisd.org
Martin High School	Segura, Cristina	csegura001@laredoisd.org
Nixon High School	Flores, Jesus D	jflores@laredoisd.org
Nixon High School	Ramos, Alma	agramos@laredoisd.org
Early College High School	Ramirez, Karla	kramirez@laredoisd.org
Vidal Magnet Trevino	Rocha, Gilberto	grocha004@laredoisd.org
Vidal Magnet Trevino	Buckley, James	jbuckley004@laredoisd.org
Middle Schools		
Lamar Middle School	Carielo, Cheryl	ccarielo041@laredoisd.org
Lamar Middle School	Gonzalez, Lupita	lgonzalez043@laredoisd.org
Lamar Middle School	Segura, Norma	nsegura042@laredoisd.org
Lamar Middle School	Ibarra, Maria	mibarra@laredoisd.org
Memorial Middle School	De La Garza, Luis	ldelagarza044@laredoisd.org
Christen Middle School	Garcia, Ruben	rgarcia041@laredoisd.org
Elementary Schools		
Farias Elementary	Ibarra, Dalia	dibarra3@laredoisd.org
Kawas Elementary	Flores, Griselda	gcanales@laredoisd.org
Kawas Elementary	Martinez, Fernando	frmartinez122@laredoisd.org
Leyendecker Elementary	Ramos, Jose	joramos108@laredoisd.org
Leyendecker Elementary	Rodriguez, Diana	drodriguez108@laredoisd.org
Ligarde Elementary	Almanza, Elsa	ealmanza1124@laredoisd.org
Ligarde Elementary	Lancon, Rosalinda	rlancon@laredoisd.org
Macdonell Elementary	Salinas, Erica	epsalinas109@laredoisd.org
Macdonell Elementary	Vela, Jose	jvela109@laredoisd.org
Macdonell Elementary	Montemayor, Ramona	ramontemayor@laredoisd.org
C.L. Milton Elementary	Cisneros, Kristina	kcisneros042@laredoisd.org
C.L. Milton Elementary	Espinoza, Lina	lcardenas110@laredoisd.org
M.S. Ryan Elementary	Guardiola, Lizet	lguardiola105@laredoisd.org
M.S. Ryan Elementary	Gutierrez, Raquel	rgutierrez3112@laredoisd.org

M.S. Ryan Elementary	Puig, Judith	jpui@laredoisd.org
Santa Maria Elementary	Padilla, Luis	ladilla125@laredoisd.org
Santa Maria Elementary	Sandoval, Lourdes Y.	lysandoval@laredoisd.org
Santo Nino Elementary	Reed, Guadalupe	mgreed@laredoisd.org
Santo Nino Elementary	Prado, Sonia	saprado@laredoisd.org
H.B. Zachry Elementary	Nieto, Cordelia	cnieto@laredoisd.org

Parent/Community Members

Business Representative	Martinez, Rafael	ram@laredofcu.org
Business Representative	Perez, Alex	alexperezjrdistrict5@gmail.com
Business Representative	Sauceda, Rolando	n/a
Business Representative	Valadez, Fabian	grace_kb24@hotmail.com
Business Representative	Vargas, John	embroidermex@yahoo.com
Business Representative	Gonzalez, Cristina	ccavazos1116@laredoisd.org
Community Member	Garcia, Rosalinda	g_rosalinda@yahoo.com
Community Member	Ordonez, Juan	jordonez3@stx.rr.com
Community Member	Pawelek, Andrea	andrea.pawelek@tamiu.edu
Community Member	McCoy, Laura	lamtzmccoy@yahoo.com
Community Member	Huizar, Adrian	awizard49@yahoo.com
Parent Member	Mora, Jan	cjmora2015@gmail.com
Parent Member	Yeary, Norma	yearys00@laredoisd.org
Parent Member	Escamilla, Maria	escamilla13@sbcglobal.net
Parent Member	Ochoa, Viviana	vivijoe_1012@hotmail.com
Parent Member	Lopez, Gregorio	gregorio.lopez@mercy.net
Parent Member	Lopez, Diana	lopezdiana2121@gmail.com
Texas A&M Int'l University	Lindberg, Kevin	klindberg@tamiu.edu
Laredo Community College	Hernandez, Albert	ahernandez@laredo.edu

District Level Administrators

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment	Rios, Sylvia G.	sgrios@laredoisd.org
Student Services	Martinez, Elva M.	maggiem@laredoisd.org
Elementary Education	Ramirez, Myrtala	mramirez@laredoisd.org
Federal Programs/School Improvement	Cortez, Oralia	ocortez@laredoisd.org
Secondary Education	Perez, Oscar	operez@laredoisd.org
Assessment, Accountability & School Improvement	Alaniz-Ramos, Delma	cavela@laredoisd.org
Career & Technical Education	Garcia, Rogelio	rogarcia@laredoisd.org
Instructional Technology	Sandoval, Elizabeth	lizgarcia@laredoisd.org
Gifted and Talented/Advanced Academics	Degollado, Yvonne	ydegollado@laredoisd.org
Guidance and Counseling	Silva, Rosina	rsilva@laredoisd.org

Teacher Union Representatives

TSTA	Davila, Ernesto	ernestd@tsta.org
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