

**Laredo Independent School District
District of Innovation Plan**

Approved: _____



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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).

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.

Laredo ISD DEIC/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
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C.L. Milton Elementary	Cisneros, Kristina	kcisneros042@laredoisd.org
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M.S. Ryan Elementary	Puig, Judith	jpuig@laredoisd.org
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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
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Community Member	Huizar, Adrian	awizard49@yahoo.com
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Parent Member	Lopez, Gregorio	gregorio.lopez@mercy.net
Parent Member	Lopez, Diana	lopezdiana2121@gmail.com
Texas A&M Int't 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
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Assessment, Accountability & School Improvement	Alaniz-Ramos, Delma	cavela@laredoisd.org
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