

Weslaco Independent School District



District of  
**INNOVATION PLAN**

**2024 - 2029**



**ESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Dr. Richard Rivera, Superintendent of Schools*

319 W. Fourth Street / P.O. Box 266, Weslaco, TX 78599-0266  
(956) 969-6503 Fax (956) 969-0201



**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER DESIGNATION AS DISTRICT OF INNOVATION**

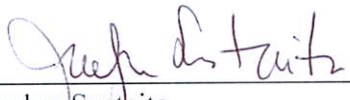
**WHEREAS**, Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation as a District of Innovation if the district’s most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance, and that consideration of designation as a District of Innovation may be initiated by a Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the district; and

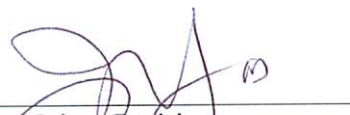
**WHEREAS**, the Weslaco Independent School District’s most recent performance rating under Education Code 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Weslaco Independent School District by adoption of this Resolution initiates the process under Education Code Chapter 12A to become a District of Innovation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that after this resolution is signed by the Board of Trustees, a Public Hearing shall be held within 30 days to consider whether the District should develop a local innovation plan for the designation of the District as a District of Innovation and that within 30 days of the Public Hearing the Board of Trustees of Weslaco Independent School District will appoint an Innovation Plan Committee to develop a local Innovation Plan or decline to pursue designation as a District of Innovation.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2024, by the Weslaco ISD Board of Trustees.

Presiding Officer:   
Jaclyn Sustaita  
President, Board of Trustees

Secretary:   
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez  
Secretary, Board of Trustees



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Weslaco ISD District of Innovation

### District Representation:

Dan Budimir	Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership & Instruction Secondary
Beatriz Solano	Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership & Instruction Elementary
Juanita Ybarra-Rodriguez	Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Claudia Martinez	Instructional Programs Manager
John Garlic	Director of External Funding, State & Federal
Carlos Robledo	Executive Director for Communications
Elias Trevino	Director of Assessment & Accountability
Erica Garcia	Community Engagement & Workforce Development Coordinator
Desi Rodriguez	Athletics Director
Chris Fernandez	Fine Arts Director
Melissa Mora- Rodriguez	Advanced Academics Coordinator

A department representative may stand in.

### Campus Representation:

Elementary campus administration
Middle School Campus Administration
High School Campus Administration
Elementary Teacher
Middle School Teacher
High School Teacher
Elementary Parent
Middle School Parent
High School Parent
Community Members

### Timeline:

October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Board appoints committee to create DOI plan
November 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Notify committee members and take charge of creating the DOI plan
November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	A plan is created with committee feedback
December 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	DOI & DAC Committee host a public meeting to vote and approve final plan
December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	The proposed plan is posted on & displayed for 30 days
January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	The proposed plan & voting intent notification are sent to the commissioner
January 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	The board votes and may or may not approve the final plan
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	District notifies commissioner of the adoption of approved plan within 14 days of approval
January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	DOI Plan will be posted on the district's webpage
February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	The district sends the plan to TEA
March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	The DOI Committee approves the Amendment to Interdistrict Transfers Policy FDA(Local)
March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	Board met to adopt amendment on Interdistrict Transfers
May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	District notifies commissioner of the Amendment to the DOI Plan
May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	District posted a copy of the proposed amendment on the district's webpage



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Introduction:**

The 84th Legislative Session passed House Bill 1842, allowing Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and thus permitting exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. To better serve and accommodate the diverse needs of all members, Weslaco ISD seeks to become a District of Innovation. This distinction allows the District to increase local control over the District calendar to improve the quality of services benefiting all Stakeholders.

Currently, our district follows Policy **EB (Legal)** which states the following on the School Start Date:

*A district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August unless the district operates a year-round system.*

We are proposing the following exception on 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.*

Exempting from the requirements of the Texas Education Code provisions listed above will provide the following benefits to our WISD community.

**Benefits -**

- Allow for flexible PD opportunities throughout the year.
- More instructional days before STAAR/EOC
- Instructional days are aligned with Institutions of Higher Education
- Address Attendance patterns and concerns
- Minimize stress by implementing wellness days/ fall break
- Reduce Summer Learning Loss
- Grade Reporting will be balanced per semester
- More time to complete our PEIMS coding before the Fall (Snapshot) submission.
- Flexibility of start and end times for daily schedules while still complying with the 75,600 instructional minutes
- Provides the flexibility to allow more time for classroom preparation time to ensure high-quality instruction



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Introduction:**

The 84th Legislative Session passed House Bill 1842, allowing Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and thus permitting exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code. To better serve and accommodate the diverse needs of all members, Weslaco ISD seeks to become a District of Innovation. This distinction allows the District to increase local control over Interdistrict Transfers.

Currently, our district follows Policy **FDA(LOCAL)** which states the following on Transfer Agreements:

*A transfer must be for a period of one year and therefore a transfer agreement cannot be terminated midyear.*

We are proposing the following exception on **TEC §25.036: TRANSFER OF STUDENT**

**Transfer Agreement:** *A transfer student shall be notified in the written transfer agreement that he or she must follow all rules and regulations of the District. Violation of the terms of the agreement may result in a transfer request not being approved the following year or **immediate removal within the approved school year.***



District Name: WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CDN: 108913

Term of Plan: August 12 2024 to June 30 2029  
(month) (day) (year) (month) (day) (year)

Plan applies to:  Entire District  
 Campus (list) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 11 – School Districts

### Subchapter D. Powers and Duties of Board of Trustees of Independent School Districts

- §11.1511 (b)(5), (14) Specific Powers and Duties of Board
- §11.162 School Uniforms

### Subchapter F. District-Level and Site Based Decision-Making

- §11.251 Planning and Decision-Making Process
- §11.252 District-Level Planning and Decision-Making
- §11.253 Campus Planning and Site-Based Decision-Making
- §11.255 Dropout Prevention Review

## Chapter 21 – Educators

### Subchapter A – General Provisions

- §21.002 Teacher Employment Contracts
- §21.003 Certification Required
- §21.0031 Failure to Obtain Certification; Contract Void

### Subchapter B – Certification of Educators

- §21.051 Rules Regarding Field-Based Experience and Options for Field Experience and Internships.
- §21.053 Presentation and Recording of Certificates
- §21.057 Parental Notification

### Subchapter C – Probationary Contracts

- §21.102 Probationary Contract

### Subchapter H – Appraisals and Incentives

- §21.352 Local Role
- §21.353 Appraisal on Basis of Classroom Teaching Performance
- §21.354 Appraisal of Certain Administrators
- §21.3541 Appraisal and Professional Development System for Principals

### Subchapter I – Duties and Benefits

- §21.401 Minimum Service Required
- §21.402 Minimum Salary Schedule for Certain Professional Staff
- §21.4021 Furloughs
- §21.4022 Required Process for Development of Furlough Program or Other Salary Reduction Proposal

- §21.403 Placement on Minimum Salary Schedule
- §21.4031 Professional Staff Service Records
- §21.4032 Reductions in Salaries of Classroom Teachers and Administrators
- §21.404 Planning and Preparation Time
- §21.405 Duty-Free Lunch
- §21.406 Denial of Compensation Based On Absence for Religious Observance Prohibited
- §21.407 Requiring or Coercing Teachers to Join Groups, Clubs, Committees, or Organizations: Political Affairs
- §21.408 Right To Join or Not To Join Professional Association
- §21.409 Leave Of Absence for Temporary Disability
- §21.415 Employment Contracts

**Subchapter J – Staff Development**

- §21.451 Staff Development Requirements
- §21.452 Developmental Leaves of Absence
- §21.458 Mentors

**Chapter 22 – School District Employees and Volunteers**

**Subchapter A – Rights, Duties, and Benefits**

- §22.001 Salary Deductions for Professional Dues
- §22.002 Assignment, Transfer, or Pledge of Compensation
- §22.003 Minimum Personal Leave Program
- §22.006 Discrimination Based on Jury Service Prohibited
- §22.007 Incentives for Early Retirement
- §22.011 Requiring or Coercing Employees to Make Charitable Contributions

**Chapter 25 – Admission, Transfer, and Attendance**

**Subchapter C – Operation of Schools and School Attendance**

- §25.0811 First Day of Instruction
- §25.0812 Last Day of School
- §25.083 School Day Interruptions
- §25.092 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit or Final Grade

**Subchapter D – Student/Teacher Ratios; Class Size**

- §25.111 Student/Teacher Ratios
- §25.112 Class Size
- §25.113 Notice of Class Size
- §25.114 Student/Teacher Ratios in Physical Education Classes; Class Size

## **Chapter 37 – Discipline; Law and Order**

### **Subchapter A – Alternative Setting for Behavior Management**

- §37.0012 Designation of Campus Behavior Coordinator
- §37.002 Removal by Teacher

## **Chapter 44 –Fiscal Management**

### **Subchapter B – Purchases; Contracts**

- §44.031 Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0331 Management Fees Under Certain Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- §44.0352 Competitive Sealed Proposals
- §44.042 Preference to Texas and United States Products
- §44.043 Right To Work
- §44.047 Purchase or Lease of Automated External Defibrillator

### **Subchapter Z – Miscellaneous Provisions**

- §44.901 Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- §44.902 Long-Range Energy Plan to Reduce Consumption of Electric Energy
- §44.908 Expenditure of Local Funds

## **Chapter 45 – School District Funds**

### **Subchapter G – School District Depositories**

- §45.205 Term of Contract
- §45.206 Bid Or Request for Proposal Notices; Bid and Proposal Forms
- §45.207 Award of Contract
- §45.208 Depository Contract; Bond
- §45.209 Investment of District Funds

### **Other**

An adopted exemption from Texas Education Code for which there is no corresponding checkbox above must be added to this section.

TEC §25.036 Transfer of Student