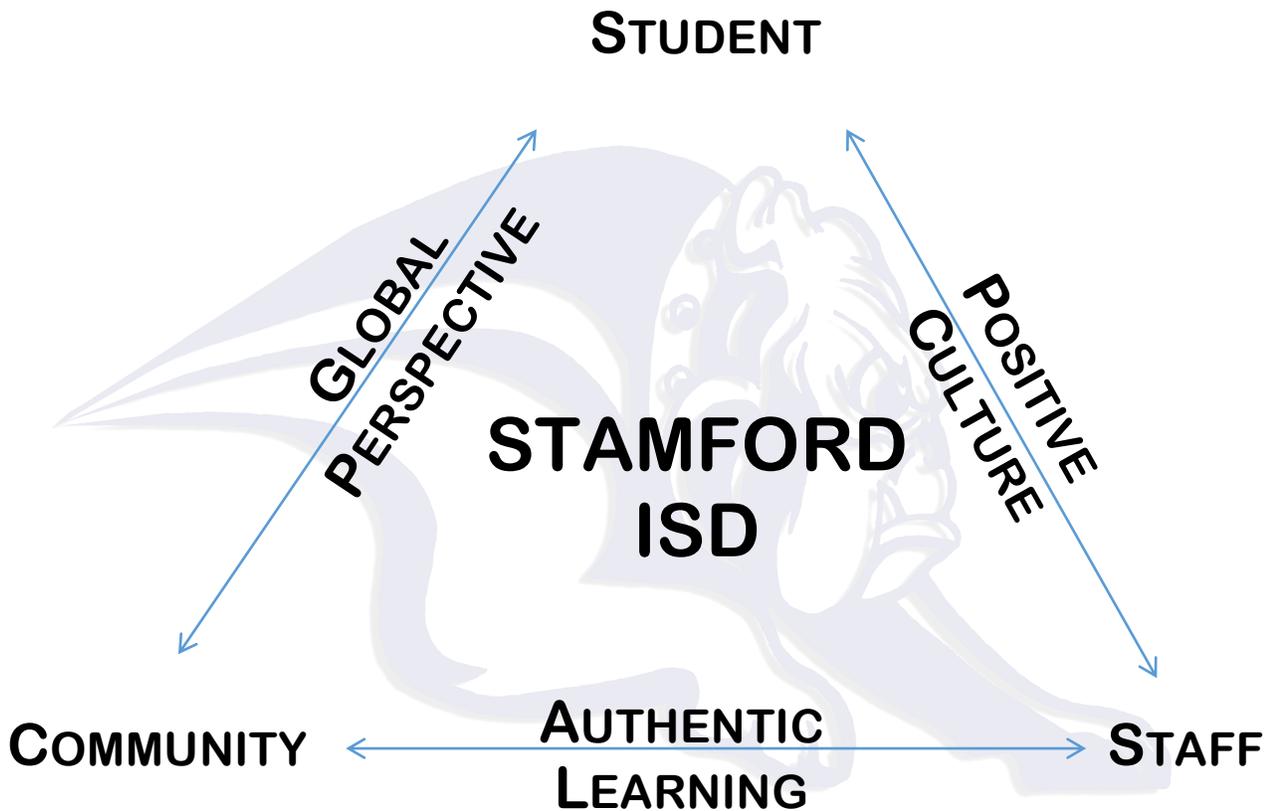


Stamford ISD District of Innovation Plan



**COMMITTED TO
EXCELLENCE!**

Plan Approved

District of Innovation Committee February 13, 2017
Stamford ISD Board of Trustees April 10, 2017

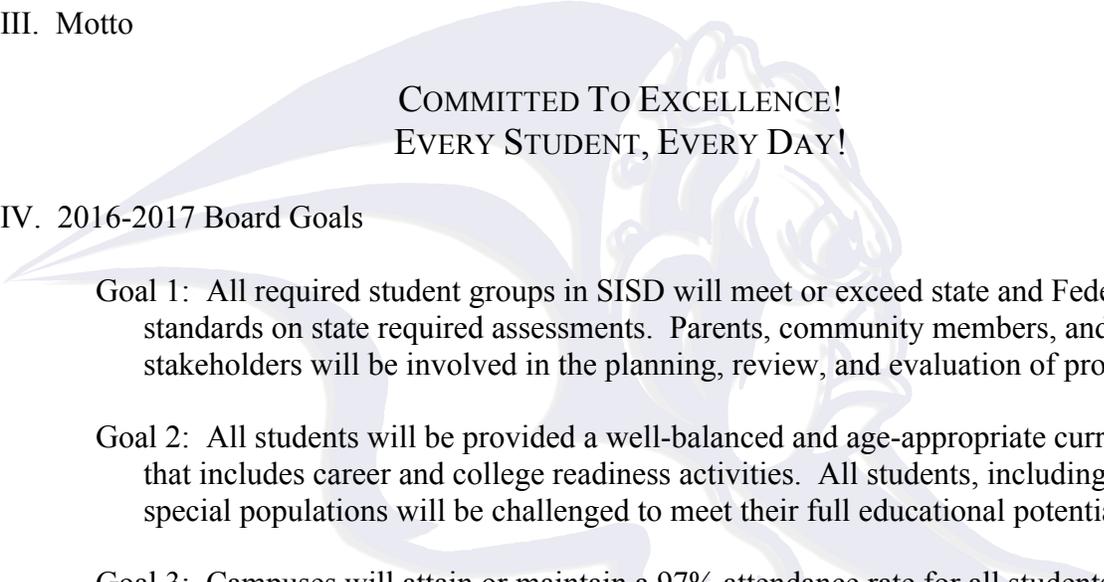
I. Introduction

The 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1842 which allowed traditional independent school districts the ability to access flexibilities which had previously been reserved for Texas' Open Enrollment Charter Schools. In order for an independent school district to obtain these flexibilities, districts must seek designation as a "District of Innovation." On Thursday, January 19, 2017, the Stamford ISD Board of Trustees initiated this process by adopting a resolution to pursue a "District of Innovation" designation.

II. Mission

Stamford ISD will develop a positive staff culture that is intent on creating an atmosphere based on student centered authentic learning with a global perspective.

III. Motto



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE!
EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY!

IV. 2016-2017 Board Goals

Goal 1: All required student groups in SISD will meet or exceed state and Federal standards on state required assessments. Parents, community members, and other stakeholders will be involved in the planning, review, and evaluation of programs.

Goal 2: All students will be provided a well-balanced and age-appropriate curriculum that includes career and college readiness activities. All students, including those in special populations will be challenged to meet their full educational potential.

Goal 3: Campuses will attain or maintain a 97% attendance rate for all students, and for each student group, and will work to improve dropout prevention efforts by encouraging all students to remain in school until they obtain a high school diploma.

Goal 4: SISD will provide high-quality, on-going staff development opportunities focused on technology integration and Project Based Learning (PBL) instruction techniques while maintaining that all classes in core academic subject areas are being taught by highly qualified teachers.

Goal 5: SISD will integrate technology into classroom instruction, instructional management, staff development, and administration.

Goal 6: School campuses will maintain a safe and disciplined environment conducive to student learning. Appropriate programs will be provided to all students demonstrating need in suicide prevention, conflict resolution, violence prevention and intervention, and discipline management.

V. Timeline

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

- District Improvement Committee votes to petition the SISD Board of Trustees to pursue District of Innovation designation.

Thursday, January 19, 2017

- SISD Board of Trustees adopts a resolution to create a District of Innovation
- SISD Board of Trustees appoints the SISD District Improvement Committee as the District of Innovation Committee

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

- First meeting of the District of Innovation Committee

Monday, February 13, 2017

- Second meeting of the District of Innovation Committee
- District of Innovation Committee approve proposed District of Innovation Plan
- SISD Board of Trustees reviews proposed District of Innovation Plan
- SISD Board of Trustees notifies the Commissioner of Education of the SISD District of Innovation Plan and their intention to vote on the proposed plan

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

- SISD District of Innovation Plan is posted to district website at <http://www.stamford.esc14.net>

Monday, February 20, 2017

- District of Innovation Plan is presented to entire staff for review

Monday, April 10, 2017

- SISD Board of Trustees votes to approve final SISD District of Innovation Plan

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

- The final adopted Stamford ISD District Plan of Innovation is submitted to the Texas Education Agency and the Commissioner of Education.

V. Committee Members

1. Shaun Barnett, Ed.D.	Superintendent
2. Miranda Alvarado	Oliver Elementary Instructional Aide
3. Gwen Baker	Board Member
4. Cheyenne Bereuter	Business/Community Representative
5. Rebecca Blount	Stamford High School Teacher
6. Michael Burfiend	SISD Director of Technology
7. Kyle Chambers	Oliver Elementary Principal
8. Leslie Chambers	Stamford Middle School Teacher
9. Michael Copeland	Stamford High School Teacher
10. Delinda Ender	Oliver Elementary Teacher
11. Cindy Ford	SISD School Nurse
12. Alison Gardenhire	Oliver Elementary Teacher
13. Craig Gilbert	Stamford High School Teacher
14. Lindsay Hernandez	Oliver Elementary Teacher
15. Jennifer Hinds	Federal Program Coordinator
16. Jamie Jordan	Business/Community Representative
17. Sherri Locke	Stamford Middle School Teacher
18. Greg London	Stamford High School Principal
19. Tracy McMeans	Stamford High School Counselor
20. Gabriel Mendez	Oliver Elementary Parent
21. Lee Ann Mueller	Stamford Middle School Counselor
22. Patsy Richards	Stamford High School Parent
23. Staci Robertson	Assistant Superintendent
24. Stella Sanchez	Stamford Middle School Parent
25. Casey Smith	Stamford Middle School Teacher
26. Christina Speck	Stamford High School Instructional Aide
27. Kevin White	Stamford Middle School Principal
28. Reva York	Federal Programs Director

VI. Term of Plan

The term of the District of Innovation Plan, as constituted by the Texas Education Agency, will be five years beginning with the 2017-2018 school year and concluding with the 2021-2022 school year. The SISD Board of Trustees may terminate the District of Innovation Plan at any time with a majority vote. The District Improvement Committee will meet annually to review the plan and provide feedback to the Board of Trustees.

VII. Innovations

Uniform Start Date - Calendar (EB LEGAL, LOCAL) (TEC 25.0811)

Under current Texas state law, "...a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the fourth Monday in August" (TEC 25.0811)

Innovation Strategies

- School start date is an area in which the local district should be able to determine, on an annual basis, what is best for their community. Having the ability to modify the start date of school allows the local district the flexibility to balance semester days, align classes to college courses, and ease transitions by beginning school on a shortened week.

Teacher Certification (TEC 21.003 and 21.057)

- The campus principal may submit to the superintendent a request for a local certification that will allow a certified teacher to teach in a related field for which he/she is not certified. The principal must specify, in writing, the need for the request and provide adequate documentation of the credential(s) the certified teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the course.
- An individual with college teaching or industry experience could be eligible to teach a course through a local teaching certificate. The campus principal would make a request to the superintendent and provide adequate documentation of the credential(s) that would qualify this individual to teach the course. The superintendent would have the capability to hire this person on a local certification and the employee would obtain an at-will contract.

Length of School Day (TEC 25.081)

State law currently requires that all school days must be 420 minutes long each day in order to count for ADA calculations and funding purposes, and to accumulate instructional minutes toward the 75,600 minutes required annually.

Innovation Strategies

- The opportunity to exempt from the 420-minute school day requirement will provide the district the opportunity to provide each campus the flexibility of creating a daily schedule that will better serve the students and teachers on each campus. This flexibility will give local control to the district in meeting the yearly requirement of 75,600 minutes in relation to the district calendar for each specific school year.
- This exemption will provide greater flexibility than the current six-day waiver maximum that relates to the length of the school day.
- This would allow the district the flexibility to schedule non-instructional days into the schedule to allow for teachers to analyze student data and engage in targeted, relevant professional development.

Teacher Contract Days (DCB LEGAL, LOCAL) (TEC 21.401)

State law currently requires educators employed on a 10-month contract to provide a minimum of 187 days of service.

Innovation Strategies

- With the passage of §25.081 which changed the required days of instruction to minutes, the law did not address contract days for 10-month contract employees. The determination of how many days are required to fulfill an employee's contract should be a local decision.
- In an attempt to align the required contract days for a teacher to the 75,600 minutes required of students, the district would have the option to reduce the amount of contract days for teachers with no effect on their salary.

Probationary Contracts (DCA LEGAL) (TEC 21.102)

Current State law requires that a probationary contract may not be for a term exceeding one school year. The probationary contract may be renewed for two additional one-year periods, for a maximum permissible probationary contract period of three school years, except that the probationary period may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment by the district. (TEC 21.102)

Innovation Strategies

- For experienced teachers, counselors, librarians, or nurses new to the district that have been employed as a teacher, counselor, librarian, or nurse in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a probationary contract may be issued for up to two years from the first day of employment with Stamford ISD.
- This would allow Stamford ISD more time to adequately evaluate the effectiveness of a contracted employee and to provide appropriate professional development to promote and ensure an environment of learning.