



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 th , 2023	Board appoints committee to create DOI plan
November 6 th , 2023	Notify committee members and take charge of creating the DOI plan
November 9 th , 2023	A plan is created with committee feedback
December 6 th , 2023	DOI & DAC Committee host a public meeting to vote and approve final plan
December 11 th , 2023	The proposed plan is posted on & displayed for 30 days
January 11 th , 2024	The proposed plan & voting intent notification are sent to the commissioner
January 16 th , 2024	The board votes and may or may not approve the final plan
January 30 th , 2024	District notifies commissioner of the adoption of approved plan within 14 days of approval
January 31 st , 2024	DOI Plan will be posted on the district's webpage
February 1 st , 2024	The district sends the plan to TEA



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

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.