

San Antonio ISD

San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) is situated in the urban hub of a historically and culturally rich community of neighborhoods and businesses, including the downtown central district, historic sites, museums, galleries, live theaters and several institutes of higher education. San Antonio ISD encompasses 79 square miles with a total population of 306,943 (2010 U.S. Census). Most of SAISD is within San Antonio, but also serves parts of the cities of Olmos Park and Balcones Heights and a small unincorporated area of east Bexar County. The District ranks third in student population among the 15 county-area school districts and is the 13th-largest district in the state.

The District serves approximately 53,000 students in pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade, in 90 schools, employing more than 7,000 teachers and staff.

In 2015, San Antonio ISD developed aggressive five-year goals to redefine excellence, and in doing so, transform the District into a national-model urban school district. It became one of the first in the state to secure a District of Innovation designation to allow for greater flexibility to be creative in its efforts to increase student performance. The District embraces innovation by planning for outside-the-box offerings and more quality choices for families, including in-district charter schools, single-gender academies and laboratory schools in partnership with local universities.

Voters approved two separate ballot propositions in 2016 to support school building renovations, 21st-century classrooms and increased academic support. Both the \$450 million bond and the Tax Ratification Election (TRE) to raise the District's Maintenance & Operations tax rate by 13 cents passed with more than 70 percent voter approval.

Pedro Martinez joined San Antonio ISD as superintendent in June 2015, bringing to the District a laser-like focus on improving academic achievement so that many more students are performing at higher levels and are well-prepared for college and career.

In his first State of the District address, in January 2016, he unveiled the San Antonio ISD Blueprint for Excellence: Target 2020, which outlines the strategies that the District plans to use in achieving the 10 academic goals it has set by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The plan is supported by five pillars: Academic Excellence, Talent Management, Culture Shift, Stakeholder Engagement and Fiscal Management.

In December 2016, Martinez was named a member of the education reform group Chiefs for Change. And in January 2017, the San Antonio ISD was one of 16 Texas school districts whose superintendents and cabinet members were invited to apply to be among the first

cohort of the new Holdsworth Center for Excellence in Education, founded by H-E-B Chairman and CEO Charles Butt.

Before coming to San Antonio ISD, Martinez was Superintendent-in-Residence for the Nevada Department of Education and was responsible for advising the Governor's office and the State Superintendent of Instruction on education policy decisions. Prior to that, he served as superintendent for the 64,000-student Washoe County School District, covering the Reno, Nevada area.

While in Washoe County, Martinez improved graduation rates and increased the percentage of students participating in and passing the Advanced Placement exam. He also previously served as Chief Financial Officer at Chicago Public Schools, the nation's third-largest school district, under the leadership of Arne Duncan, the former U.S. Secretary of Education. His employment history reflects that he is a data-driven leader with a strong financial background and in-depth knowledge of academic reform strategies.

Martinez has more than 20 years of experience in the private, nonprofit and public education sectors. He holds an MBA from DePaul University and a bachelor's from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also is a graduate of the Broad Superintendents Academy.

A statement from Dr. Martinez regarding the Texas Urban Council:

"I look forward to discussing the areas of greatest opportunity and challenge facing urban school districts with my colleagues on the Texas Urban Council of Superintendents. Together we will successfully lead change for our high-need schools because every student can learn and achieve at high levels."