

(Revised 6/01)

## **BISD RESEARCH PRIORITIES**

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The research priorities listed below have been selected by BISD staff as important questions which, when answered, will significantly benefit BISD in planning for future student success. Research proposals that address a research priority topic will have a greater likelihood of approval than research proposals that do not.

- **ADVANCED LEARNING OPTIONS**  
This topic includes the issues of college bound curriculum, magnet level programs, and Advanced Placement courses. Questions related to these programs include: are the participants enrolled in these courses reflective of the community; how is BISD responding to the needs of limited English proficiency and children of poverty enrolled in these courses; and how are these children responding in these programs?
- **BILINGUAL EDUCATION**  
BISD is particularly interested in Spanish literacy models.
- **DROPOUTS**  
BISD is particularly interested in identifying and implementing programs that effectively reduce number of students that dropout out of school with emphasis at the ninth (9) grade level.
- **INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES**  
Research is needed on which instructional techniques are the most effective with different ages and/or types of student learners.
- **LITERACY**  
BISD is always working to increase student reading. Have the literacy initiatives been effective in increasing student achievement in reading?
- **MATHEMATICS**  
BISD is working to increase student achievement in mathematics through the implementation of standards based curriculum and instruction. How have these standards affected the teaching and learning of mathematics?
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITIONS**  
Research is needed concerning effective high school and middle school transition strategies. Are mandatory courses for freshman effective? What strategies help the 60% of freshman that are failing one or more courses?

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/APPRaisal SYSTEMS**  
In an effort to retain teachers, BISD has implemented a peer mentoring strategy for new teachers, particularly with teachers in the Alternative Certification Program (ACP). More experienced teachers serve as mentors to new teachers.
  - **SERVICES TO SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**  
What changes has IDEA 1997 had on the way students are served in BISD?
  - **STUDENT HEALTH**  
BISD has entered into a student health care management agreement with Health Care Centers. What effect has the agreement had on the health of students in BISD?
  - **SCHOOL TO CAREER**  
The transition of students from school to the work force has been a significant focus for BISD. What has been the effect of the career academies, career counseling, and other school to career programs?
  - **SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION (CHANGE MANAGEMENT)**  
Research is needed concerning the outcomes of School Based Decision Management (SBDM). What are effective leadership strategies?
  - **TECHNOLOGY AND STUDENT LEARNING**  
The construction of BISD's fiber-optic network provides an excellent opportunity to research the impact of this type of technology on student learning. The fiber-optic network will, in the future, allow students to learn from almost anywhere.
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