San Antonio ISD Parent FAQ

Staffing and Teachers

Will the current staff stay at the school?
Current staff will have the first opportunity to apply to continue working at the school through TFS. Those who choose not to join TFS will work with the district to seek placement at another campus, subject to district availability and discretion.

Do teachers need a teaching certificate?
Under the Texas Education Code 1882 partnership, TFS is not required to mandate traditional teacher certification. We prioritize high-quality educators who are enthusiastic about learning and implementing the TFS instructional model.

What is the staffing turnover rate?
Across the TFS network, staff retention averages approximately 94%.

Bilingual and Language Support

How will bilingual students learn?
All students receive core instruction in English. Our instructional model reinforces the five domains of language acquisition: reading, writing, listening, speaking, and comprehension. Additional language support is provided as needed.

Curriculum and Instruction

What is the focus of the curriculum?
TFS emphasizes teaching students how to think critically, problem-solve, and apply learning across all subject areas.

How can parents view the curriculum?
Parents may request to see sample lessons at any time. Families are also welcome to observe instruction by Zoom.

Grading and Assessment

What is the grading system?
Students receive:

- Ten grades every nine weeks
- At least two grades per week: one Demonstration of Learning (DOL) and one Lesson-Specific Assignment or Exit (LSAE)
- Traditional A–F grading aligned to mastery

Students continue to receive progress reports and report cards on a regular schedule.

Special Education and Student Support

Will IEPs still be followed for students in general education classes?
Yes. As a district partner, TFS is required to implement all IEPs and 504 plans.

How does the school support special education students?
TFS follows all IEPs and provides targeted interventions. Students may also attend the "5th Quarter" summer program to become familiar with the instructional model and meet staff.

How are behavior or emotional needs addressed for students with IEPs?
If an existing plan is working, it will continue to be implemented. If not, the IEP team will reconvene to adjust supports and develop new strategies.

How do teachers identify students who may need an IEP?
Special education teachers hold appropriate certifications, and TFS follows all federal and state Child Find requirements to identify and evaluate students who may need services.

How are students supported if they struggle academically?
Students performing below grade level receive small-group intervention and reteaching. Additional supports are added until students demonstrate mastery.

How are students supported if they are above grade level?
The instructional model allows for acceleration at every grade level, including kindergarten. Students may work on advanced lessons, next-grade-level content, or enrichment projects.

The “5th Quarter” Summer Program

What is the 5th Quarter?
The 5th Quarter is a four-week summer program typically held from mid-June through mid-July. 5th Sometimes TFS has an optional summer program the first year (2026). Q5: It:

- Provides training for new teachers
- Gives students an academic head start
  Is open to all district students

It is summer program for students who do not make academic progress or have attendance issues. This is typically the 2nd year of the partnership. After the first year of the partnership, students may be required to attend.

What is the daily schedule for 5th Quarter?
7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., with a focus on reading and math.

School Day and Enrichment

What are the regular school hours?
7:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. These times may change slightly depending on district transportation routes. At sites where we have Pre-K and Kindergarten, those students are dismissed earlier.

What does before- and after-school care include?
Before school, students may read in the library or receive academic support. After school, clubs and enrichment activities are offered.

Does TFS keep traditional school events?
Yes. Schools may continue traditions such as book fairs, clubs, and showcase events. Parent volunteer opportunities remain available. Instructional time remains the top priority, and activities that significantly interrupt learning may be limited.

STEM and Enrichment Opportunities

Does TFS offer hands-on STEM programs?
Yes. The TFS Dyad program provides students with hands-on learning experiences in STEM fields.

Funding and Governance

How is TFS funded for this partnership?
Funding includes:

- A state grant for 1882 partnerships
- Average daily attendance funds
- Per-pupil operational funding

Why did this partnership occur?
The partnership was prompted by the campus's academic performance over the past three years, particularly STAAR results.

Is TFS taking over the district?
No. TFS partners with districts to operate specific campuses—it does not run the entire district.

What happens if the school does not improve?
If campus performance metrics are not met, the school would return to district management.

Could the Texas Education Agency take action?
Yes. If academic outcomes across the district do not improve, the Texas Education Agency has the authority to intervene at the district level.

What would the transition back to the district look like?
After three years, the campus would transition gradually back to district leadership unless the partnership is extended based on results.

Communication With Families

Will parents have open communication with the school and district?
Yes. Schools use communication apps to stay in contact with families, host open-instruction days throughout the year, and hold parent-teacher conferences twice annually.

School Climate and Student Experience

How will TFS make our school comfortable for students?
Students learn in a safe, structured environment built on consistency, clear expectations, and strong academic focus.