

School actions are bold strategies districts can take to create, redesign, or restart schools that meet the unique needs of their community.

Create a New School as an SEN Middle School

What Is a New SEN Middle School?



A new district middle school with an innovative team teaching model that reimagines the classroom experience and school day and leverages the talent in your district to help students succeed. SEN provides ESF-aligned, high-quality curricula in all core subjects including daily lesson plans and weekly coaching meetings.

Why Create an SEN Middle School?

- Introduce a new middle school option that better meets community and student needs and expands options for students enrolled in struggling schools
- Offer an innovative model with research-based design elements: a low teacher-student ratio, a prioritization of data and individualized support, and a focus on collaborative team teaching and planning.
- Utilize the SEN staffing model to leverage your strongest teachers and increase community representation in school staff

What are the Core Components of the SEN Model?

- **Teaching teams:** Six instructors, composed of an expert teacher and five associate teachers, collaborate to support each cohort of students.
- **Career pathway for educators:** The associate teacher position provides an alternate path to enter teaching, leading to greater community representation in the classroom. The expert teacher position leverages and compensates effective teachers, helping retain great educators.
- **Strategic scheduling:** An extended school day, engaging core classes, collaborative data-analysis and planning blocks, and rich extra curricular offerings for all students.
- **Centrally designed, high-quality lesson plans and coaching:** SEN curriculum experts produce all instructional materials and meet weekly with teaching teams to support effective lesson. execution.



**To learn more about School Actions and your schools contact the
CSA at csa@tea.texas.gov**

School actions are bold strategies districts can take to create, redesign, or restart schools that meet the unique needs of their community.

How to Plan and Implement this Action Type

1) Identify the Need

- ❑ Create a communications and engagement plan
- ❑ **Engage with families and students and determine if the SEN model aligns with community priorities**

2) Choose a Leader

- ❑ **Consider high-performing entrepreneurial school leaders in your district and select a leader for the new SEN middle school**
- ❑ Ensure release time is available for the leader to participate in the SEN training program during the planning year
- ❑ Establish a point person on district staff to support the implementation of this model

3) Create a Plan

- ❑ **Through the SEN training program, prepare to implement the SEN middle school model.**
- ❑ Identify a facility and **plan for building remodeling based on SEN middle school model** specifications (e.g. 12 large rooms, breakout spaces)
- ❑ Establish a university partnership to support the school's associate (beginner) teachers in progressing towards certification.

4) Launch School

- ❑ **SEN provides summer professional development for leadership teams, associate teachers, and teacher teams prior to opening**
- ❑ School leader and staff begin student recruitment and professional development
- ❑ If applicable, apply for School Action Fund Continuation Funding
- ❑ **New school opens** with summer bridge program and extended day.
- ❑ **Receive SEN support for three years**, including curriculum and weekly instructional coaching and on-site coaching for leadership teams.