



Methodology for Determining Intensity of Poverty
San Antonio ISD Office of Continuous Improvement
Winter 2021

Socioeconomic Status (SES) Blocks were developed for SAISD mirroring the work from Dallas ISD and Chicago Public Schools. The SES Blocks divide the Census block groups into four levels based on a socioeconomic score, with Block 4 having the highest scores and Block 1 having the lowest scores. The indicators used to calculate the SES score are Median Household Income, Home Ownership, Educational Attainment, and Single-Family Households. The data was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Using Fall 2020-21 PEIMS enrollment, all students enrolled in SAISD were geocoded and joined to an SES Block. Counts of enrolled students were tallied by SES Block for each SAISD school. Then the percentage of enrolled students by SES Block was calculated. This calculation considers both students residing within and outside of the district boundaries.

To determine the intensity of poverty, the following multipliers were used:

- Block 1 – 0
- Block 2 - (1/3)
- Block 3 - (2/3)
- Block 4 – 1

After applying the multiplier to the percentage of students in each block, the results were summed to create an intensity of poverty value that ranges from 0% to 100%, with 0% being the lowest amount of poverty and 100% being the highest. For example, the intensity of poverty for a school with all students residing in Block 1 would be 0%. Conversely, the intensity of poverty for a school with all students residing in Block 4 would be 100%.