

# LISD Destination Imagination FAQs – Parents

## 1. Do Kids really do the work?

Yes. This is the most important rule in DI. All team members and managers sign a *Declaration of Independence* form stating that the team created the solution and that no one outside the team contributed to the ideas or the finished product.

## 2. Do the kids really have to make the solution, or just describe it?

DI is NOT a pencil and paper or quick recall contest. Team members work together to solve real challenges, learning practical skills to design and build theatrical sets, costumes, props, structures, technical devices and to solve community problems.

## 3. What does it cost?

Each challenge has a spending cap (\$200 or less), which helps them learn to be creative with inexpensive materials. There are additional costs for student workshops, which are optional.

## 4. How is it funded?

The team manager and other team parents decide how to split the cost of team expenses. However, LISD pays for all DI membership and tournament fees for its students.

## 5. Does DI support what students are learning in school?

Yes. The information and skills needed to create and complete a DI solution span the entire curriculum and enhance critical thinking skills essential to excel in the classroom. Through participation in DI, students become better thinkers, better team players and more self-sufficient.

## 6. I'm not creative; how can I help kids to be creative?

LISD and the TVNC Region support new and returning team managers by providing training sessions. With your team's membership, you receive a comprehensive team manager's handbook that has meeting-by-meeting lesson plans and other tools to help you work with your team. DI believes that creativity can be developed in adults as well as kids!

## 7. What is the Team Manager's job?

To be a team planner, facilitator, motivator and cheerleader! You will help kids meet deadlines, teach problem-solving skills and you will set up "instant challenges" to train them to think quickly "on their feet." You can also assist them in learning the required skills they need and in gathering materials.

## 8. Isn't this a lot of work for a competition?

Yes, but there are huge rewards! DI's purpose is to build life-long skills in every individual, and the focus is on the process, not the winning!

## 9. How much time does it take to manage a team?

In addition to meeting 1-1/2 to 2 hours weekly, there are several team manager training sessions and 2 student workshops. Rising Stars teams usually have shorter meetings. Additional time will be needed to read the challenges and other DI materials and prepare for the meetings – about an hour per meeting.

## 10. Who can be a team manager?

Any adult willing to help, but most team managers are parents. Two people often co-manage a team. LISD requires that all team managers pass the volunteer background check every 3 years. High school students may be assistant team managers.

## 11. How are teams formed?

Most teams are school based, although some cross school boundaries. They are loosely grade based: Rising Stars (non-competitive) is grades K-2; Elementary is 3-5; Middle is 6-8 and Secondary is 9-12.

## 12. What if there aren't enough team managers?

There are up to 7 team members on a team and if there aren't enough volunteers, some kids won't be able to participate. Serving as a team manager assures your child will be on a team!

## 13. How do I sign up to be a team manager?

Contact your school's DI Coordinator or LISD's DI Coordinator, Robin Napier at [napierr@lisd.net](mailto:napierr@lisd.net) or 469-948-8201.

# LISD Destination Imagination

## FAQs - Students

### 1. What is DI?

It's a fun team activity that takes place outside of school. Teams solve 1 of 7 problems (we call them challenges) in their own way. Students work on their challenges from early fall to late winter.

### 2. What kind of challenges?

There is something for every interest – technical, science, fine arts, improvisation, engineering, and community service. Designing, building, writing and performing are some of the skills showcased in DI.

### 3. Wow! Can I get help solving the challenge?

Adults can teach you skills that you will need, but only team members can come up with ideas and do the work from the very beginning to the final performance. You will be amazed at how creative you are!

### 4. How many people are on a DI team?

From 2 to 7, but most teams have at least 4.

### 5. When do teams meet?

Teams meet after school, in the evening or on the weekend – whatever works for them. Most teams meet at least 1-1/2 to 2 hours a week. More may be required prior to tournament. Rising Stars team usually have shorter meetings – about 1 hour.

### 6. What do teams do at meetings?

They work on their team challenge solution – writing a story and script, making scenery and costumes, perhaps making technical devices and building structures, or performing a community service project, depending on the chosen challenge. Also, teams practice Instant Challenges that help them think “on their feet”.

### 7. What happens in early spring?

LISD is part of the Trinity Valley North Central (TVNC) region. All TVNC DI teams showcase their challenge solutions at a tournament at the end of February or beginning of March.

### 8. What if my team doesn't have the right answer?

If you follow the rules of DI and the requirements of the challenge, there are no wrong answers. Some solutions are more creative than others, but no answer is “wrong”.

### 9. What happens if my team has the best solution?

Top performers at Regional present their solutions at the Affiliate Tournament in April and top Affiliate teams advance to DI Global Finals in late May.

### 10. Will it really take several months to solve the challenge? Absolutely!

### 11. What if I join a team and later decide to quit?

Team members cannot be replaced after the team has begun work on its challenge solution. DI takes more time than some activities, so please think carefully before joining a DI team.

### 12. Do I have to be an “A” student to do DI?

No!! The only requirement is wanting to work hard on a DI challenge with other kids your age.

### 13. How do I join?

Fill out a DI Sign-Up form and return it to your school office. If you don't have a form, have your parents contact Robin Napier – phone and email address are at the bottom.

### 14. Who is in charge of the team?

Most team managers are parent volunteers, but some teachers manage teams. Team managers must be at least 18 years old and have graduated from high school. Many times, 2 adults manage a team together. High school students can be assistant team managers.

### 15. What if there aren't enough team managers?

Unfortunately, some kids who want to do DI will not be able to participate if there aren't enough adults willing to volunteer.

### 16. I still have questions. Who can I ask?

Talk to your school's coordinator or have your parents **contact Robin Napier, LISD's DI Coordinator, at [napierr@lisd.net](mailto:napierr@lisd.net)**.