

**Report of the State Board of Education  
Committee on Instruction  
April 16, 2015**

The State Board of Education Committee on Instruction met at 9:14 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015, in Room #1-100 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. All members of the committee were present, as follows:

Presiding: Sue Melton-Malone, chair; Geraldine “Tincy” Miller, vice chair; Barbara Cargill; Tom Maynard; Marisa B. Perez

**Public Testimony**

This item provides an opportunity for the public to present testimony at the time the related item comes up for committee discussion or action. The procedures for registering and taking public testimony at State Board of Education committee meetings and general board meetings are provided at [http://tea.texas.gov/About/TEA/Leadership/State Board of Education/SBOE Meetings/SBOE Operating Rules Amended 2-11-15/](http://tea.texas.gov/About/TEA/Leadership/State_Board_of_Education/SBOE_Meetings/SBOE_Operating_Rules_Amended_2-11-15/) or in the information section (yellow pages) of the agenda.

The Committee on Instruction heard public testimony on agenda items #2, #3, and #7. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

The Committee on Instruction considered items in the following order: Items #1; #3; #2; #4 through #7.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Proposed Approval of Innovative Courses**

(Board agenda page 11-1)

[Official agenda item #9]

Shelly Ramos, curriculum division director, provided an overview of the innovative course approval process and explained that three series of courses that do not fall within any of the subject areas of the foundation or enrichment curriculum are recommended for renewal: Gifted and Talented (G/T) Interdisciplinary Studies/Mentor Seminar I-IV, Logic I and II, and Path-College/Career Prep I-IV. Ms. Ramos explained that the committee has the authority to decide when the courses will expire.

**MOTION:** *It was moved by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Ms. Perez to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the renewal of the innovative courses that do not fall within any of the subject areas of the foundation or enrichment curriculum: Gifted and Talented (G/T) Interdisciplinary Studies/Mentor Seminar I-IV, Logic I and II, and Path-College/Career Prep I-IV.*

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Ms. Perez, and carried unanimously that the wording of the main motion be amended to state that the renewal period of the three series of courses under consideration be for a period of five years.*

**VOTE:** *A vote was taken on the original motion to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the renewal of the innovative courses that do not fall within any of the subject areas of the foundation or enrichment curriculum: Gifted and Talented (G/T) Interdisciplinary Studies/Mentor Seminar I-IV, Logic I and II, and Path-College/Career Prep I-IV, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.*

**2. Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 112, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science, Subchapter D, Other Science Courses**

(Second Reading and Final Adoption)

(Board agenda page II-5)

[Official agenda item #10]

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Margaret Davis

AFFILIATION: Texas International Baccalaureate Schools

Monica Martinez, associate commissioner for standards and programs, explained that this item provides the opportunity to update course titles for International Baccalaureate (IB) science courses to align with other foundation subject area IB courses. She noted that there had not been any comment received during the public comment period.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Ms. Perez, seconded by Mr. Maynard, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for second reading and final adoption proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 112, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science, Subchapter D, Other Science Courses, with an effective date of August 24, 2015.*

**3. Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter A, Required Curriculum, §74.2, Description of a Required Elementary Curriculum, and §74.3, Description of a Required Secondary Curriculum**

(First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page II-13)

[Official agenda item #11]

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Linda Fleetwood

AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Robert Floyd

AFFILIATION: Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education

Ms. Martinez explained that this item provides the opportunity to amend rules related to required elementary and secondary curriculum to align with changes to the fine arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Ms. Martinez explained that the proposed amendments would clarify expectations for fine arts requirements for grade six classrooms on elementary campuses and provide flexibility in implementation of the fine arts programs in middle schools.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Cargill, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education add new §74.3(a)(3) to read as follows:*

“A school district shall offer and maintain evidence that students have the opportunity to take courses in at least three of the four disciplines in fine arts. The requirement to offer three of the four disciplines in fine arts may be reduced to two by the commissioner of education upon application of a school district with a total middle school enrollment of less than 250 students.”

*and approve for first reading and filing authorization proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter A, Required Curriculum, §74.2, Description of a Required Elementary Curriculum, and §74.3, Description of a Required Secondary Curriculum.*

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**4. Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 111, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics, Subchapter C, High School, §111.43, Mathematical Models with Applications, Adopted 2012 (One-Half to One Credit)**

(First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page II-19)

[Consent agenda item #(1)]

Ms. Ramos explained that this proposal would eliminate language requiring a course sequence to align with the new graduation requirements and would adjust the credit for this course to eliminate the credit range.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Mrs. Cargill, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve first reading and filing authorization proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 111, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics, Subchapter C, High School, §111.43, Mathematical Models with Applications, Adopted 2012 (One-Half to One Credit).*

**5. Proposed Repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 127, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development, and 19 TAC Chapter 130, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education**

(First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page II-27)

[Consent agenda item #(2)]

Ms. Ramos explained that with the adoption of revised TEKS for career and technical education (CTE), the current CTE TEKS will need to be replaced effective with the implementation of the revised TEKS in the 2017-2018 school year.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Ms. Perez, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for first reading and filing authorization the proposed repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 127, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development, and 19 TAC Chapter 130, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education.*

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

- 6. Discussion of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter C, Other Provisions, §74.24, Credit by Examination, and §74.26, Award of Credit**  
(Board agenda page II-37)

Ms. Martinez highlighted some of the challenges students in substitute care face in earning credit toward graduation. Ms. Martinez explained that the proposed changes would provide additional support to students in substitute care. The committee directed staff to bring these proposed amendments to the SBOE for consideration for first reading and filing authorization at the next SBOE meeting.

**ACTION ITEM**

- 7. Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency**  
(Board agenda page II-35)  
[Official agenda item #12]

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Kathryn Thompson  
AFFILIATION: Self

The following proposers were invited to present to the committee:

NAME: Randy Trask, Brian Smith, and Martin Kehe  
AFFILIATION: GED Testing Service

NAME: Mike Johnson and Jake Parizek  
AFFILIATION: CTB/McGraw Hill

At 12:40 p.m. the committee took a lunch break. They reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

NAME: John Oswald and Amy Riker  
AFFILIATION: Educational Testing Service

Stacy Avery, Texas initiatives director, federal and state education policy division, briefed committee members regarding the evaluation of the responses to the RFP and explained that based on final scores the proposals were ranked as follows:

1. GEDTS
2. CTB/McGraw Hill
3. ETS

The committee took a recess at 2:45 p.m. They reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

The committee took a recess at 3:50 p.m. They reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Cargill, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the recommendation to award a contract to GED Testing Services as the test provider for the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency and to direct staff to begin the development of a new RFP to potentially identify multiple test providers.*

*(Ms. Perez was absent for the vote.)*

The meeting of the Committee on Instruction adjourned at 4:19 p.m.