

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
Thursday, September 11, 2025**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 9:18 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2025, in room, #2.013 of the Barbara Jordan Building, 1601 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: LJ Francis, chair; Julie Pickren, vice chair; Staci Childs; Tiffany Clark, and Brandon Hall

Member Hall offered prayer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 31 Application Updates
(Board agenda page IV-1)

Marian Schutte, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Authorizing and Policy reported on the process for charter school applications. She noted that the application became available on August 15, and on August 19 and 26 mandatory information sessions were held, with 97 attending, an increase over prior years.

Optional support workshops are upcoming. Additionally, TEA holds monthly office hours during which applicants can call in and get assistance with applications.

The next major deadline is November 14, the application deadline, when the no-contact period ends.

Ms. Shutte then went over the application guidelines for high-performing entities: She noted that seven attendees had attended the mandatory information session.

Ms. Shutte answered questions from committee members.

2. Discussion of Ongoing State Board for Educator Certification Activities
(Board agenda page IV-2)

Jessica McLoughlin, Associate Commissioner, shared updates on current and upcoming State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) activities and proposed SBEC rules and amendments, including details on SBEC meeting dates, and discussion items related to 19 TAC Chapters 235 and 229. She noted that in July 2025, the SBEC adopted changes related to Chapter 235 which will be considered for review later in this CSI meeting. She also shared other topics which had been considered by SBEC at their July meeting, but which would require no review by this body.

Ms. McLoughlin then previewed upcoming meetings dates.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Review of Adoption of Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter F, Supplemental and Special Education Certificate Standards, and Proposed Repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher

Certification Standards, Subchapter F, Supplemental Certificate Standards, and Subchapter G, Special Education Certificate Standards

(Board agenda page IV-4)

[Official agenda item #7]

DeMarco Pitre, Director, Educator Standards and Test Development, and Ms. McLoughlin introduced the item, which would update the Texas Administrative Code related to Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, especially related to Supplemental and Special Education Certificate Standards. Mr. Pitre provided the background, history and rationale for the new language, particularly as it relates to “dually-identified students” – those who may be blind, deaf, dyslexic, gifted and talented, or special ed, and are also not English proficient.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Member Clark to recommend that the State Board of Education, take no action on the proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter F, Supplemental and Special Education Certificate Standards, and proposed repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter F, Supplemental Certificate Standards, and Subchapter G, Special Education Certificate Standards.*

The motion was adopted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Discussion of Required Parental Rights Training for School District Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-74)

Christopher Lucas, Director, Research, and Policy, Governance and Steve Lecholop, Deputy Commissioner, Governance, shared updates on parental rights school board training, a parental rights handbook, and related forms, as required by statute.

Mr. Lecholop defined the proposed timeline to meet the April 1, 2026, deadline. As part of that, SBOE school board training rules as defined in Rule 61.1 must be updated. Staff will present proposed revisions during the January 2026 meetings.

A member of the public provided testimony.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Recommendation for One Reappointment to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-78)

[Consent Agenda Item #2]

Steve Lecholop, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Governance and Christopher Lucas, Director, Research and Policy, Office of Governance introduced the item.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Member Hall to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Brigadier General Oakland’s recommendation, approve the reappointment of Mr. Aaron Braxton II, to serve a term of office from September 12, 2025, to September 11, 2027, on the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

The motion was adopted.

6. Recommendation for One Reappointment and One Appointment to the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-84)

[Consent Agenda Item #3]

Steve Lecholop, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Governance and Christopher Lucas, Director, Research and Policy, Office of Governance introduced the item.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Member Pickren to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Brigadier General Oakland's recommendation, approve the reappointment of Mr. Peter Duffy and the appointment of Mr. David Megeath to serve terms of office from September 12, 2025, to September 11, 2027, on the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

The motion was adopted.

7. Recommendation for Two Reappointments and One Appointment to the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-97)

[Consent Agenda Item #4]

Steve Lecholop, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Governance and Christopher Lucas, Director, Research and Policy, Office of Governance introduced the item.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Member Pickren to recommend that the State Board of Education, Based on Brigadier General Oakland's recommendation, approve the reappointments of Mrs. Jere M. Pace and Mr. John A. Sheehan and the appointment of Mr. Zachary S. Dean to serve terms of office from September 12, 2025, to September 11, 2027, on the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

The motion was adopted.

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 11:40 a.m.