

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee of the Full Board
Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

The State Board of Education Committee of the Full Board met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, in room, #2.034 of the Barbara Jordan Building, 1601 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas.

Present: Aaron Kinsey, chair; Gustavo Reveles; LJ Francis; Marisa B. Perez-Diaz; Staci Childs; Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Will Hickman; Julie Pickren; Audrey Young; Keven Ellis; Tom Maynard; Pam Little; Brandon Hall; Tiffany Clark; Evelyn Brooks

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Commissioner's Comments
(Board agenda page I-66)

Education Commissioner Mike Morath presented the TEA Annual Report for 2025, focusing on the goal that, by 2030, at least 60% of Texans will have a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary credential of value as part of Building a Talent Strong Texas. He discussed strategic priorities, and discussed HB2 from the 89th Legislative Session, which resulted in \$4.1B of new public education annual funding in 2025-2026.

The Commissioner addressed the unique challenges that Texas faces: 382K teachers – more than every other state in the US; 5.5M students, the 2nd largest public school student population in the US; the most rural students in the US; 857K students served in special education; 60% of the students are economically disadvantaged; and the fact that 1 in 5 non-English speaking student in the US is in a Texas classroom.

To support these unique challenges, the Commissioner discussed a systemic approach to supporting teachers, including various educator preparation pathways; the Teacher Incentive Allotment Investment; and reading and math academies.

JROTC programs and military readiness were discussed, as were resource campus designations. He highlighted the increased enrollment in special ed, particularly those with dyslexia, and the increased funding for those programs.

He noted the drop in the number of D and F campuses, with a related growth in A-graded campuses, and then reviewed the results from the 2024 NAEP report card.

The Commissioner conclude his report with a comparison of Texas student results vs. those for the state of New York, which spends over twice as much per student as Texas does.

2. Discussion of Required Civics Training Program
(Board agenda page I-67)

Shannon Trejo, Deputy Commissioner, Office of School Programs, discussed content for the required civics training program. She pointed out that this was statutory requirement, required for teachers who teach civics. She introduced the Civics Advisory Board which oversees this process.

She noted that ESCs will provide the training, and each campus will designate 1 Teacher and 1 Administrator to participate in civics training. Each teacher will complete 12 hours of training and receive a stipend for participation. Each participant will demonstrate mastery of the training content via an assessment(s) to receive certification.

Dr. Trejo discussed the program content, and the timeline and next steps.

3. Discussion of Vocabulary Lists for Kindergarten-Grade 12 Reading Language Arts
(Board agenda page I-68)

Dr. Trejo discussed commissioner of education recommendations for vocabulary lists required to be taught in each grade level K-12. She reviewed the statutory language requiring this work, and pointed out the importance of language comprehension in how children learn to read, and discussed research on the number of words to master per year in grades K – 12, and the importance of reading volume and depth. She then defined the process used to build the list, and the academic and domain-specific language which would appear on the list, as well as vocabulary that would be derived from the literary works.

ACTION ITEM

4. **Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 110, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading, Subchapter A, Elementary, §110.10, Literary Works Lists, Kindergarten-Grade 5, Adopted 2026; Subchapter B, Middle School, §110.30, Literary Works Lists, Grades 6-8, Adopted 2026; and Subchapter C, High School, §110.70, Literary Works Lists, High School, Adopted 2026; and Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 128, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Spanish Language Arts and Reading and English as a Second Language, Subchapter A, Elementary, §128.10, Literary Works Lists, Kindergarten-Grade 5, Adopted 2026; Subchapter B, Middle School, §128.30, Literary Works Lists, Grade 6 and English Learners Language Arts (ELLA), Grades 7 and 8, Adopted 2026; and Subchapter C, High School, §128.70, Literary Works Lists, High School, Adopted 2026**
(First Reading and Filing Authorization)
(Board agenda page I-69)

Members of the public provided testimony.

Dr. Trejo presented lists of literary works to be taught in each grade level as required by House Bill (HB) 1605, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023. She noted that the SBOE is required to adopt a literary works list as an addendum to the ELAR TEKS, and the TEA is required provide the SBOE an initial draft of that literary works list. She discussed the characteristics of the literary works for elementary and secondary education. She noted the need to balance a common literary canon with the local autonomy to meet student needs.

Dr. Trejo noted that TEA performed extensive research and consultation in identifying titles for inclusion in a required literary works list. TEA also considered TEKS alignment; text complexity; suitability; cross-curricular connections; statutory requirements; multiple editions, versions, or adaptations; and groups of “anchor works” paired with shorter supportive literary works in grades 6-12; foundational literacy; and emergent bilingual support.

Dr. Trejo concluded her remarks by explaining the systemic interdependencies between TEKS, literary works, vocabulary and high quality instructional materials and assessments, and discussed the timeline.

MOTION: *It was moved by Member Little that the Committee of the Full Board recommend that the State Board of Education:*

Approve for first reading and filing authorization proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 110, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading, Subchapter A, Elementary, §110.10, Literary Works Lists, Kindergarten-Grade 5, Adopted 2026; Subchapter B, Middle School, §110.30, Literary Works Lists, Grades 6-8, Adopted 2026; and Subchapter C, High School, §110.70, Literary Works Lists, High School, Adopted 2026; and proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 128, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Spanish Language Arts and Reading and English as a Second Language, Subchapter A, Elementary, §128.10, Literary Works Lists, Kindergarten-Grade 5, Adopted 2026; Subchapter B, Middle School, §128.30, Literary Works Lists, Grade 6 and English Learners Language Arts (ELLA), Grades 7 and 8, Adopted 2026; and Subchapter C, High School, §128.70, Literary Works Lists, High School, Adopted 2026.

Member Hickman moved to amend the English language literary works lists as is attached, by keeping a total of 127, striking out a total of 168 works and adding 52 more, and asked that staff have an amendment prepared by Friday's SBOE meeting that is analogous to this amendment for the Spanish language literary works list.

Member Francis moved to recommend to the SBOE that this item be postponed to the next meeting.

The motion to recommend a postponement was adopted 13-1. The proposed amendment is attached to these minutes.

SEE ATTACHMENT COFB 3

5. Consideration of K – 12 Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Key Topics and Subtopics
(Board agenda page I-127)

The Content Advisors presented their key topics and subtopics to the COFB and answered questions.

MOTION: *It was moved by Member Hickman that the Committee of the Full Board recommend that the State Board of Education:*

Approve the Social Studies K – 12 TEKS Review and Revision Process Content Advisor Recommendations: Key Topics and Subtopics.

Without objection, further consideration of the motion was postponed until the Thursday meeting of the COFB.

6. Discussion of Pending Litigation
(Board agenda page I-201)

The committee did not discuss pending litigation; therefore, no executive session was held.

Chairman Kinsey adjourned the meeting at 9:44 pm.

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