

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
Thursday, April 10, 2025**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in Room #2.027 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

Non committee members in the meeting: Keven Ellis; Aaron Kinsey; Marisa Perez-Diaz; Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Will Hickman

Public Testimony

The Committee on School Initiatives heard public testimony on agenda item(s) 4 and 5. Information regarding the individual who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

The items were considered in the following order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 8, 5, 6.

DISCUSSION ITEM

- 1. Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 30 Application and Texas Charter School Portfolio Updates**
(Board agenda page IV-1)

Marian Schutte, Deputy Associate Commissioner, provided updates on the Generation 30 application process. She shared detailed information about the standard process, including application submissions, timelines for application remedies, external reviews, and advancement notifications. She shared the number of applications moving forward to the capacity interview stage and that upon receipt of the notification to applicants that the no-contact period would end. She shared that SBOE members will receive an email with a list of applicants that are moving forward to the capacity interview stage.

ACTION ITEMS

- 2. Approval of 2025-2029 Rule Review Plan for State Board of Education Rules**
(Board agenda page IV-2)
[Consent agenda item #4]

Cristina De La Fuente-Valadez, director of rulemaking, presented this item and informed the committee that state law requires the four-year review of rules adopted in the *Texas Administrative Code*, including State Board of Education (SBOE) rules. Ms. De La Fuente-Valadez reported that the Proposed 2025-2029 Rule Review Plan for State Board of Education Rules reflects the next four-year schedule for the SBOE to review its rules. Ms. De La Fuente-Valadez pointed out that state law exempts the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills from the four-year rule review requirement. Ms. De La Fuente-Valadez provided the committee with the Status Report on the 2021-2025 SBOE Rule

Review Plan, which was updated to add a column noting that the review of each chapter began in accordance with the 2021-2025 SBOE Rule Review Plan (Attachment A). In response to questions, Ms. De La Fuente-Valadez clarified the separate rule review and rulemaking processes and noted that rule changes can be considered by the SBOE outside of the rule review schedule.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Pickren, seconded by Dr. Clark, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the Proposed 2025-2029 Rule Review Plan for State Board of Education Rules.*

ACTION ITEMS

3. Review of Adoption of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases

(Board agenda page IV-8)

(Official agenda item #14)

Sarah Wolfe, Senior Director, EPCE Law and Policy, presented the Adoption of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases to the committee.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Pickren, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the Adoption of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases.*

4. Review of Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter A, General Provisions, Subchapter B, Elementary School Certificate Standards, Subchapter C, Middle School Certificate Standards, and Subchapter D, Secondary School Certificate Standards

(Board agenda page IV-37)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

Name	Name of Organization
Hjamil Martinez	Teach Plus Texas
Kelly Waters	Vidor Independent School District
Veronica Yan	Individual
Ana Sepulveda	Individual
Robert McCraw	Harts Bluff Independent School District
Mollie Wright (late registrant)	Individual

Beth Burkhart, Director of Educator Standards and Testing, presented the Adoption of Proposed Revisions to Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter A, General Provisions, Subchapter B, Elementary School Certificate Standards, Subchapter C, Middle School Certificate Standards, and Subchapter D, Secondary School Certificate Standards to the committee.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Pickren, seconded by Mr. Hall, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the Proposed Revisions to Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter A, General Provisions, Subchapter B, Elementary School Certificate Standards, Subchapter C, Middle School Certificate Standards, and Subchapter D, Secondary School Certificate Standards.*

5. Review of Adoption of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter F, Special Education-Related Services Personnel Assignments

(Board agenda page IV-74)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

Name	Name of Organization
Dr. Andrea Chevalier	TCASE

DeMarco Pitre, Director of Educator Standards and Test Development, presented the Adoption of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter F, Special Education-Related Services Personnel Assignments to the committee.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Pickren and seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend that the State Board of Education veto the Adoption of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter F, Special Education-Related Services Personnel Assignments. Chair Francis, Member Pickren, and Member Hall voted in favor of the motion; Member Childs and Member Clark voted against, and the motion carried.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Discussion of Ongoing State Board for Educator Certification Activities

(Board agenda page IV-93)

Jessica McLoughlin, Associate Commissioner of Educator Preparation, Certification, and Enforcement, shared several updates on SBEC activities during their February meeting including the adoption of revisions to 19 TAC Chapters 249, 231, and 235. Ms. McLoughlin also shared updates around the upcoming adoption and proposal items for the April meeting of the SBEC.

7. Report by the Texas School Safety Center Related to the Statutorily Required Biennial Report

(Board agenda page IV-95)

Kathy Martinez-Prather, Director of Texas School Safety Center, presented the statutorily required biennial report that includes any findings made by the center regarding school safety and security and the center's functions, budget information, and strategic planning initiatives.

8. Update by the Texas Education Agency Office of School Safety and Security
(Board agenda page IV-96)

John Scott, Chief of School Safety and Security, and James Finley, Deputy Chief of School Safety and Security, presented an update related to the safety and security of public schools.

ACTION ITEM

9. Proposed Amendments to the “Framework for Governance Leadership” Required to be Adopted under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.159, Member Training and Orientation, and 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members
(Board agenda page IV-97)

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Pickren to recommend that the State Board of Education adopt the “Framework for Governance Leadership” as drafted by Mr. Hall. Chair Francis, Member Pickren, and Member Hall voted in favor of the motion; Member Childs and Member Clark voted against, and the motion carried.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Pickren to amend the “Framework for Governance Leadership” as drafted by Mr. Hall by adding a new bullet to Section V, Accountable Governance, which reads: “Utilizes Executive Session within the guidelines of the Texas Open Meetings Act to discuss the allowable items in relation to the effectiveness of the district efforts. To allow complete transparency within the board, the presence of the superintendent in an Executive Session is at the discretion of the board. The superintendent shall continue to make comments in open session on any agenda item.”*

Chair Francis, Member Pickren, and Member Hall voted in favor of the motion; Member Childs and Member Clark voted against, and the motion carried.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mrs. Pickren, and adopted without objection to amend the “Framework for Governance Leadership” as drafted by Mr. Hall by amending the fourth bullet in Section I, Vision and Goals, by striking “and” and inserting “that” so that the bullet reads: Establishes locally-developed, near-term measurable goals for student opportunities and experiences that support the board’s long-term vision.”*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Pickren to amend the “Framework for Governance Leadership” as drafted by Mr. Hall and amended by the Committee on School Initiatives. Chair Francis, Member Pickren, and Member Hall voted in favor of the motion; Member Childs and Member Clark voted against, and the motion carried.*

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

**Status Report on the 2021-2025 SBOE Rule Review Plan
(as of April 2025)**

Chapter Title	Review Approved by SBOE as Proposed	Review Approved by SBOE as Adopted	Began Review According to 2021-2025 Plan	Rules Should Continue?	Changes Adopted in Response to Review
Chapter 30. Administration	November 2024	January 2025	Yes	Yes	No changes identified.
Chapter 33. Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies, and Guidelines of the Texas Permanent School Fund	September 2023	November 2023	Yes	Yes	No changes identified.
Chapter 61, School Districts	April 2022	June 2022	Yes	Yes	No changes identified.
Chapter 66. State Adoption and Distribution of Instructional Materials	November 2023	February 2024	Yes	Yes	No changes identified. House Bill 1605, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, implemented significant changes to the instructional materials review and adoption process. Chapter 66 will remain for previous proclamations, while new Chapter 67 implements the new instructional materials approval process under HB 1605.
Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements	September 2021	November 2021	Yes	Yes, for Subchapters A-C, F, and G	The review found that Subchapters D and E contained outdated graduation requirements. The repeal of Subchapters D and E was adopted at the January 2022 SBOE meeting.
Chapter 89. Adaptations for Special Populations	January 2022	April 2022	Yes	Yes	No changes identified.
Chapter 100. Charters	January 2024	April 2024	Yes	Yes	No changes identified.
Chapter 101. Assessment	January 2025		Yes		Public comment period ended 3/25/25.

Attachment A

Chapter Title	Review Approved by SBOE as Proposed	Review Approved by SBOE as Adopted	Began Review According to 2021- 2025 Plan	Rules Should Continue?	Changes Adopted in Response to Review
Chapter 109. Budgeting, Accounting, and Auditing	January 2025		Yes		Public comment period ended 3/25/25.
Chapter 157. Hearings and Appeals	January 2023	April 2023	Yes	Yes	As a result of the review, the SBOE requested an amendment to §157.41 to modify the experience requirements for hearing examiners. The amendment was adopted at the April 2024 meeting.

Authorized Official
copy by: LJ Francis
4.10.2025

Framework for School Board Development

Preamble

The mission of the public education system of this state is to ensure that all Texas children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of our state and nation (Texas Education Code, §4.001).

The board of trustees is the governing body for Texas public schools and holds the ultimate responsibility for the district's success in educating students. Above all else, trustees owe the highest duty to students and their parents, and the board represents taxpayers, attempting to maximize learning outcomes while minimizing resources required. To effectively fulfill the mission of educating students, the board must provide leadership and direction, working in collaboration with the superintendent to implement the board's vision and goals. Each year, the board will self-assess its governing performance both as a corporate body and as individual trustees. On an ongoing basis, the board will monitor the progress of the district's superintendent in leading the district toward the achievement of the board's vision and goals. The board's governing performance is focused on five core areas:

- setting a clear vision and goals for students,
- evaluating the likely success of the superintendent's strategic plan, including its incorporation of effective systems and processes designed to meet the board's vision and goals,
- monitoring progress in the effective implementation of the plan and its critical systems and processes,
- ensuring transparency of goals, progress, processes, and resources,
- maintaining accountable governance to achieve the mission.

The Framework for School Board Development, approved by the State Board of Education, outlines the critical governing performance areas for all public school boards.

Framework

I. Vision and Goals—The board ensures creation of a shared and measurable vision and set of goals for student outcomes. The board:

- Prioritizes support for understanding and achieving state-identified outcomes goals for students
- Develops a measurable vision for what will be true for the district's students if the district is fully successful in its mission in the long term, attempting to ensure the vision is shared among the majority of the district's parents and taxpayers
- Adopts a reasonable number of specific, quantifiable, research-based, and time-bound student outcome goals that lead toward achieving the board's long-term vision
- Establishes locally-developed, near-term measurable goals for student opportunities and experiences ~~and~~ support the board's long-term vision

that also

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Framework for School Board Development

- Uses the vision and goals to drive all deliberations, decisions, and actions

II. District Strategic Plan—The board evaluates the superintendent's strategic plan to achieve the board's vision and goals for students, ensuring the plan's systems and processes appear sufficient to accomplish the vision and goals. The board:

- Ensures a plan is developed, includes appropriately prioritized actions, and describes key systems and process that support its execution
- Ensures the plan includes components designed to determine whether and how well it is implemented over time
- Approves a budget that aligns with the plan and maximizes efficient use of resources to ensure the plan can be successfully executed with a minimum of taxpayer dollars
- Takes steps to ensure adequate flexibility of the superintendent to adopt procedures that support the plan's execution, while clearly delineating when a policy must require board approval
- Ensures that the superintendent's planning and decision-making processes are designed to maximize the likelihood of success, including the need to make evidence-based decision, and where appropriate, incorporating key stakeholder engagement to support changes needed
- Ensures the plan incorporates components designed to support sound business and fiscal practices
- Ensures the plan incorporates components designed to maximize the talent, skill, growth, and efficacy of district personnel
- Verifies that the plan fulfills the statutory duties of the district, including all laws, rules, ethical procedures, and court orders pertaining to schools, school personnel, and school board members

III. Monitoring Progress—The board ensures the superintendent and leadership team provide a cadence of reports to facilitate the monitoring of progress of the district's strategic plan toward the achievement of student outcomes goals and the district's long term vision. The board:

- Coordinates with the superintendent to identify key measures of progress and performance tied to the district's strategic plan, and aligns on a format and calendar of reporting
- Ensures progress toward achievement of district goals through systematic, timely, and comprehensive reviews of relevant progress reports and performance data that illustrate progress toward the district's goals and vision.
- Consistently prioritizes board time and attention on the aspects of the strategic plan most likely to impact the board's student outcomes goals
- Annually reflects on summative the board's student outcomes goals and the relationship between improvement in reaching the long term vision for students and progress and performance measures reported from the district's strategic

Framework for School Board Development

plan

- Annually evaluates the superintendent on the implementation of the district's strategic plan and the achievement of the board's goals

IV. Transparency—The board promotes clarity for parents and taxpayers with regard to the performance of the district and the resources used. The board:

- Ensures the district's measurable student outcomes vision and goals are prominently and consistently communicated, both for internal staff and for parents and taxpayers
- Ensures that current student outcomes are well understood, by parents for their own children, by parents for their schools, and by taxpayers for the entire school district, and by staff
- Ensures the district's strategic plan is clear, readily accessible, and regularly communicated
- Ensures that district action plan progress reports are readily accessible
- Ensures district financial information, including district revenue and its sources, and district expenditures, are clear and readily accessible
- Ensures that district procedures of use by parents are clearly communicated and the district takes steps to ensure they are easy to follow

V. Accountable Governance —The board's duties are distinct from the superintendent and other district personnel, as the entity with ultimate responsibility to ensure the district is making progress in achieving its vision for students . The board:

- Works collaboratively with the superintendent and the superintendent's leadership team, providing sufficient autonomy to implement the district's strategic plan while establishing a tone at the top supportive of taking actions needed to achieve the district's vision for students
- Provides feedback when appropriate on perceived strengths and weaknesses of the district's strategic plan, while working to deeply understand the kinds of prioritized actions, systems and processes likely to make the most progress toward achieving the district's vision for students
- Provides recurring feedback on the sufficiency of progress in implementation, while working to ensure the superintendent and district leadership team are empowered to take actions needed to make sufficient progress
- Determines whether to renew or continue a superintendent's employment as the leader of the school system, and whether and how to reward or recognize a superintendent's significant progress in achieving the district's vision
- When it is necessary to hire a new superintendent, evaluates all available options

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Framework for School Board Development

to select a candidate with the greatest likelihood of making progress to achieve the district's vision for students

- Oversees the district's audit plan, and when appropriate the district's internal auditor, for the purpose of ensuring financial statements and other information provided to the board can be relied upon to make decisions
- Supports individual members to address constituent concerns by ensuring those constituents know how to avail themselves to district systems and processes designed to address their concerns
- Makes decisions as a whole only at properly called meetings and recognizes that individual members have no authority to take individual action in policy or district and campus administrative matters
- Respects the right of individual members to express their viewpoints and vote their convictions, while individual board members recognize they have an ethical duty to be bound by decisions of the board as a body corporate
- Establishes and follows local policies, procedures, and ethical standards governing the conduct and operations of the board, including the duties and responsibilities of the board president and board officers
- Is responsible for understanding and adhering to laws governing public education in Texas

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V. Accountable Governance - Amendment added to end

- Utilizes Executive Session within the guidelines of the Texas Open Meetings Act to discuss the allowable items in relation to the effectiveness of the district efforts. To allow complete transparency within the board, the presence of the superintendent in an Executive Session is at the discretion of the board. The superintendent shall continue to make comments in open session on any agenda item.

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