

Item 11:**Approval of Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards
Advisory Committee Members****DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve the membership of the standards advisory committee to develop Bilingual Special Education educator standards to implement House Bill (HB) 2256, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Texas Education Code, §§21.031(b), 21.040(3-4), 21.041(b)(4), and 21.04891.

The full text of statutory citations can be found in the statutory authority section of this agenda.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Board approval

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: At the April 29, 2022 meeting, the Board approved TEA staff to begin the process of soliciting applications and composing an educator standards advisory committee for the Bilingual Special Education certification field based to implement HB 2256, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: SBEC is statutorily authorized to ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse population of this state. SBEC is also statutorily required to appoint advisory committee members to recommend standards for each class of certificate.¹ The standards are the basis for the certification examinations and set the requirements for EPP curriculum and delivery. The development committees include practicing educators, school district personnel, experts, and EPP faculty. These individuals collaborate to draft educator standards or review existing educator standards to ensure that the educator standards align with the commissioner's educator standards, reflect best practices, and where applicable, align with the current versions of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) that are adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE).

HB 2256 Bilingual Special Education Certification Requirements

HB 2256, 87th Legislative Session, Regular Session, 2021 requires the SBEC to implement a new Bilingual Special Education educator certificate. The intent of the certificate is to ensure that there are teachers with special training in providing instruction to students of limited English

¹ The standard-setting advisory committees established under Texas Education Code §21.040 are exempt from the requirements of Texas Government Code Chapter 2110. Texas Education Code §21.040 states that the committee has to be "composed of members of that class to recommend standards for that class to the board," which conflicts irreconcilably with the requirement of Texas Government Code §2110.002 that an advisory committee be composed of diverse representation from industry and consumers. Since Texas Education Code §21.040 is special to the SBEC and has been amended more recently by the Legislature, it prevails as an exception to Texas Government Code Chapter 2110 in accordance with Texas Government Code §311.026.

proficiency with disabilities. HB 2256 specifies that to be eligible for the certificate, a candidate must complete educator preparation program coursework, with skills-based course of instruction on providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, including:

- the foundations of bilingual, multicultural, and second language special education;
- providing individualized education programs for students of limited English proficiency with disabilities;
- providing assessment of students of limited English proficiency with and without disabilities;
- developing teaching methods to recognize the intellectual, developmental, and emotional needs of students in dual language and transitional bilingual education settings;
- teaching fundamental academic skills, including reading, writing, and mathematics, to students of limited English proficiency; and
- creating partnerships with families and school professionals.

In addition, to be eligible for the Bilingual Special Education Certificate, HB 2256 requires that candidates perform satisfactorily on a Bilingual Special Education Certification exam prescribed by the Board.

Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee

At the April 29, 2022 meeting, TEA staff shared with the Board background context regarding HB 2256, 87th Legislative Session, Regular Session, 2021, and the Board approved TEA staff to begin the process of soliciting applications and composing an educator standards advisory committee for the Bilingual Special Education certification field.

This item provides the SBEC the opportunity to approve the Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee and to review the draft timeline for educator standards development.

TEA staff solicited committee member applications from the SBEC, Educator Preparation Stakeholder Group, professional organizations, educator preparation programs, teacher organizations, and other key stakeholders to ensure a pool of well-qualified candidates for selection. The application period began on May 2, 2022 and closed on June 1, 2022. TEA staff received 19 applications and utilized the below criteria in recommending the proposed standards advisory committee that is included in Attachment I:

- Diversity of Texas regions and professions
- Relevant field and professional experience
- Adequate articulation of vision regarding standards creation

The committee members approved by SBEC will provide considerations and potential issues related to the Bilingual Special Education field and will also have an opportunity to offer additional feedback on concerns specific to the certificate area. The standards developed by the committee will serve as the basis for the certification examination development and set the requirements for educator preparation program curriculum and delivery. The proposed timeline for the educator standards advisory committee meetings can be found in Attachment II.

TEA staff anticipates presenting the educator standards advisory committee's recommended standards for discussion at the December 2022 SBEC meeting.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public benefit anticipated as a result of the proposed educator standards advisory committee would be more rigorous, relevant, and reliable requirements for the preparation, certification, and testing of educators serving emergent bilingual students who receive special education services.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee as presented.

Staff Member Responsible:

Pam Wetherington, Director, Educator Preparation and Testing
DeMarco Pitre, Manager, Test Development

Attachments:

- I. Proposed Bilingual Special Education Standards Advisory Committee
- II. Draft Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee Timeline

ATTACHMENT I**Proposed Bilingual Special Education Standards Advisory Committee**

Name	Title/Role	District/Program	Region
Alma Contreras-Vanegas	Assistant Professor	Sam Houston State University	Region 6
Chara Christopher	EL/Sped Instructional Specialist	Dallas ISD	Region 10
Christa Schouweiler	English II / PAP English II / ESL Teacher	Comal ISD	Region 20
Esmeralda Salazar	Dean of Instruction	Brownsville ISD	Region 1
Leslie Correa	2 nd Grade Bilingual Teacher	Dallas ISD	Region 10
Dr. Lizdelia Pinon	Emergent Bilingual Education Associate	Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA)	Region 11
Margaret Gonzalez	Special Education Teacher	Leander ISD	Region 13
Minkowan Goo	Associate Professor of Special Education	Texas Woman's University	Region 10
Noemi Arnal Villalba	3 rd Grade Teacher	Dallas ISD	Region 10
Steve Przymus	Assistant Professor of Bilingual/Multicultural Education	Texas Christian University	Region 11

ATTACHMENT II**Draft Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee Timeline**

Date	Proposed Action
May 2, 2022	TEA staff distributed educator standard advisory committee applications. Application period opened.
June 1, 2022	Application period closed.
July 22, 2022	SBEC opportunity to appoint educator standards advisory committee.
July 25, 2022	Appointed committee members notified.
August 2022	TEA staff host the first educator standards advisory committee meeting.
September 2022	TEA staff host the second educator standards advisory committee meeting.
October 2022	TEA staff host additional committee meetings as needed.
December 2022	Committee-recommended standards presented to the Board for discussion.