

Item 18:

Discussion of Educator Preparation Advisory Committee (EPAC)

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) the opportunity to discuss the membership and process of forming the Educator Preparation Advisory Committee.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for the appointment of advisory committee members is Texas Education Code, §21.040(1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC is statutorily authorized to approve members of advisory committees. The Educator Preparation Advisory Committee (EPAC) meets to provide input on issues related to educator preparation programs (EPPs) in Texas.

Educator Preparation Advisory Committee

The EPAC was initially approved at the March 2006 SBEC meeting and is codified in the SBEC Board Operating Policies and Procedures (BOPP), as the only standing advisory committee to the Board. The BOPP specifies the following:

- Educator Preparation Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to advise the agency and the Board on matters relating to the educator preparation programs in Texas. The committee shall reflect the proportionate representation of the various types of programs that have been approved by the Board and reflect the diverse population of Texas.

Past EPAC memberships have included professional organizations, school district representatives, teachers, and counselors to provide various perspectives on policies relating to educator preparation. At the December 2017 SBEC meeting, the Board was provided with a recommendation to solely appoint educator preparation program representatives to EPAC, citing the difficulty of school-based members to consistently participate in committee meetings. Since that time, the membership of the EPAC has been comprised solely of EPP representatives.

Given the broad impact of the content reviewed by this committee and the fact that this is the only standing advisory committee specified in the Board Operating Policies and Procedures, TEA staff would like to explore updating the number of members, the roles represented, and the process through which membership is determined. Staff recommends seeking representatives of organizations that represent educator preparation stakeholders to serve as EPAC members. A committee constituted along these lines could serve as foundation for specialized subcommittees of stakeholders and advise in implementation, along with discussion, proposal, and adoption of SBEC rulemaking. This would benefit the Board and staff by enlarging and diversifying the perspectives represented, enabling greater engagement by members and the

groups they represent, and facilitating committee members in serving as a liaison between their peers and the Board.

Staff recommends seeking a representative from each of the following professional organizations, to be identified by the organization:

- The Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (TACTE)
- Texas Alternative Certification Association (TACA)
- Texas Consortium of Educator Preparation Programs for ESCs (TCEPPE)
- Education Deans of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (EDICUT)
- Texas Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (TACCTEP)
- Associate and Assistant Deans and Directors of Texas (ADoT)
- The Texas Association of Certification Officers (TACO)
- Texas Coordinators for Teacher Certification Testing (TCTCT)
- Texas Directors of Field Experiences (TDFE)
- Texas Association of Teacher Educators (TxATE)
- Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)
- Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)
- Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP)
- Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA)
- Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators (TASPA)
- Texas School Counseling Association (TSCA)
- Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA)
- Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA)
- Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)
- Texas American Federation of Teachers (Texas AFT)
- Teach Plus

In addition, TEA staff recommends 5 additional at-large members from EPPs, who would be sourced from nominations and approved for membership by the SBEC, and 5 additional at-large members who are not directly associated with an EPP, who would also be sourced from nominations and approved for membership by the SBEC. Of the 5 additional at-large members, at least 2 would be practicing teachers. Staff will seek diverse geographical representations as well as differing EPP types.

The current membership for EPAC was approved at the October 2018 meeting and can be found in Attachment II. As proposed, the new EPAC would consist of up to 31 members. This is an increase from the 26 members currently on the EPAC. The utilization of virtual meetings allows for easier coordination of larger groups, reducing the need for travel and increasing the possibility for intermediate meetings and the creation of targeted, issue-specific subcommittees.

Staff is seeking input from the Board to move forward in seeking a more representative membership for the EPAC. Staff will use a nomination process and bring proposed members for SBEC approval at the February 2021 meeting. Attachment III contains the draft components of the nomination form.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the Educator Preparation Advisory Committee would be to strengthen educator preparation in the state to ensure that students have highly effective educators.

Staff Members Responsible:

Mark Olofson, Director, Educator Data and Preparation Program Management

Jessica McLoughlin, Director, Educator Standards and Testing

Tam Jones, Director, Educator Preparation

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. Current Educator Preparation Advisory Committee
- III. Draft components of the Nomination Form

ATTACHMENT I

Statutory Citations Related to Educator Preparation Advisory Committee

Texas Education Code §21.040, General Powers and Duties of Board (excerpt):

The board shall:

- (3) appoint the members of any advisory committee to the board;

ATTACHMENT II

Current Educator Preparation Advisory Committee Membership

Term	Name	Organization	Title	Route	Region
2019	Viveca Grant	Texas Southern University	Department Chair and Certification Officer	U/PB	4
2019	Fay Lee	Lone Star College—CyFair	Lead Faculty/Professor of Education	A	4
2019	Veronica Galvan	Excellence in Teaching	Director of Curriculum & Instruction	A	1
2019	Laura Allen	Trinity University	Chair of the Department of Education	PB	20
2019	Donna Brasher	Texas Tech University	Associate Director for Student Services/Certification Officer	U/PB/A	17
2019	Frank Dykes ^c	University of Texas—Tyler	Interim Director of the School of Education	U/PB/A	7
2019	Brian Ralson ^a	ESC 7	Coordinator of Leadership Development and Educator Certification	A	7
2019	Freddie Litton	University of Houston—Victoria	Dean	U/PB/A	3
2020	Criselda Garcia	University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley	Associate Dean	U/PB/A	1
2020	Regina Hillis	ESC 20	Educator Certification Coordinator	A	20
2020	Joyce Alexander	Texas A&M University	Dean	U/PB/A	6
2020	Rae Queen	ACT—San Antonio	Director of Alternative Certification	A	20
2020	Octavia Brown ^b	Texas College	Chair of Education	U/PB/A	7
2020	Roy Hurst	University of Texas—Permian Basin	Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction	U/PB/A	18
2020	Barbara Amaya	ESC 19	Director of Alternative Certification	A	19
2020	Patrice Werner	Texas State University	Associate Dean	U/PB/A	13
2020	Beth Maloch	University of Texas—Austin	Associate Dean	U/PB/A	13
2021	Matthew Capps	Midwestern State University	Dean	U/PB/A	9
2021	Janet Bakondy	ESC 4	Senior Education Specialist	A	4
2021	Zach Rozell	iteach Texas	Director of Operations	A	11
2021	Alexandra Leavell	University of North Texas—Denton	Associate Dean for Teacher Education	U/PB/A	11

2021	Daniella Varela	Texas A&M—Kingsville	Certification Officer	U/PB/A	2
2021	Shelley Harris	Texas A&M—San Antonio	Assistant Dean	U/PB/A	20
2021	Rebecca Weinbaum	Lamar University	Associate Dean	U/PB/A	5
2021	Deborah Sells	Western Governors University	Program Mentor\ Coordinator	A	13
2021	Janet Williams	Sam Houston State University	Director of Educator Preparation Services	U/PB	6

^a Brian Ralson replaced Regina Davis as the representative from ESC 7 ^b Octavia Brown replaced Lisa Taylor as the representative from Texas College ^c Frank Dykes replaced Wes Hickey as the representative from University of Texas at Tyler

Term indicates the academic year through which a committee member will serve (2017–2018, 2018–2019, 2019–2020, or 2020–2021)

Region indicates the region of the state of the physical address of the entity

Type indicates the certification route(s) the program is approved to offer **U** = Undergraduate, **PB** = Post-Baccalaureate, and **A** = Alternative (non-degree seeking)

ATTACHMENT III

Draft Components of a Nomination Form

The preparation of educators is central to all elements of our education systems. An influential and diverse advisory committee that is informed by and connected throughout these systems will both provide strong insight to the board and facilitate conversations among the Board, TEA, and the field.

The sections below will provide important perspective on the nominee's experiences, connections, and background to ensure a balanced group to provide insight for the Board. The personal information section will allow staff and the Board to understand other connections and networks in which the individual is involved to support the Board in meeting the principle that all Texas stakeholder input is essential. The background in PK–12 education section will allow staff and the Board to identify potential members who will have a student-centered perspective. The educator preparation program background section will allow staff and the Board to understand the individual's experience with and perspective on high standards and continuous improvement for certification programs. Finally, the additional information section will allow staff and the Board to identify individuals with unique or underrepresented perspectives.

Proposed Categories:

Personal Information

- Contact information
- Education Background
- Current Employer and Position
- Other related affiliations
- Participation in existing or prior SBEC, SBOE, and/or TEA committees

Educator Preparation Program Experience

- Experience participating in an EPP
- Experience preparing educators at an EPP

PK–12 Experience

- Teaching experience
- Other PK–12 experiences

Additional Information

- Experience areas
- Unique perspective
- Additional connections to the field

Nominator Information