

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
Thursday, April 13, 2023**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 9:06 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Room #1-111 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, and Lewisville Independent School District (ISD), Administrative Center (Conference Room), 1565-A West Main Street, Lewisville, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Will Hickman, chair (Lewisville ISD); Staci Childs; L.J. Francis; Julie Pickren

Absent: Rebecca Bell-Metereau

Non-committee members present: Aicha Davis; Marisa Perez-Diaz

Public Testimony

The Committee on School Initiatives received no presentations of public testimony.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Adoption of Rule Review of 19 TAC Chapter 157, Hearings and Appeals, Subchapter A, General Provisions for Hearings Before the State Board of Education, and Subchapter D, Independent Hearing Examiners

(Board agenda page IV-1)

[Official agenda item #7]

Christopher Maska, director of hearings and appeals, legal services, informed the committee that proposed amendments to the rules would be conducted through a separate rulemaking process and could be presented at a future meeting for consideration.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Pickren, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education adopt the review of 19 TAC Chapter 157, Hearings and Appeals, Subchapter A, General Provisions for Hearings Before the State Board of Education, and Subchapter D, Independent Hearing Examiners.*

(Ms. Childs was absent for the vote.)

2. **Review of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter C, Assessment of Educators, §230.25, Test Exemptions for Persons with a Hearing Impairment**

(Board agenda page IV-7)

[Official agenda item #8]

Jessica McLoughlin, senior director, educator quality division, explained that the proposed amendment would create a carve-out for the Science of Teaching Reading (STR) examination, removing the requirement that a candidate be unable to process only written linguistic information to allow an exemption; would remove the requirement that to qualify for an exemption, a person who is already certified in another state and seeking a one-year certificate in Texas must have a recommendation from a State Board for Educator Certification- (SBEC) approved Texas educator preparation program (EPP); and would eliminate the limitation that persons who qualify for an exemption to one certification examination cannot ever take another certification examination unless they have regained their ability to process written linguistic information.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Pickren, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter C, Assessment of Educators, §230.25, Test Exemptions for Persons with a Hearing Impairment.*

(Ms. Childs was absent for the vote.)

3. **Review of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 233, Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates**

(Board agenda page IV-13)

[Official agenda item #9]

Marilyn Cook, senior director, educator preparation and certification division, explained that the proposed amendments would remove certificates no longer issued by SBEC; would strike, where applicable, language referencing deadlines for use of test scores for certificate issuance; would add three new special education certificates into rule; would update language specific to licensure requirements for cosmetology certification; and would propose the addition of a new foreign language certificate to the list of credentials issued by the SBEC. Technical changes would also provide clarification and consistent information related to the classroom teacher certificates issued by the SBEC.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Pickren, seconded by Mr. Francis, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 233, Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates.*

(Ms. Childs was absent for the vote.)

4. **Review of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, Subchapter B, School Librarian Certificate, and Subchapter D, Reading Specialist Certificate**
(Board agenda page IV-24)
[Official agenda item #10]

DeMarco Pitre, director, educator standards and test development, explained that the proposed revisions would update the standards for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certificates, would provide timelines for transitions for both certificates to the new standards for preparation purposes, and would provide technical edits as necessary. He explained that the proposed revisions reflect feedback provided by the SBEC-appointed advisory committees for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certificates.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Pickren, seconded by Mr. Francis, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education veto the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, Subchapter B, School Librarian Certificate, and Subchapter D, Reading Specialist Certificate.*

(Ms. Childs was absent for the vote.)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. **Discussion of Ongoing State Board for Educator Certification Activities**
(Board agenda page IV-61)

Emily Garcia, associate commissioner for educator preparation, certification, and enforcement, shared updates on current and upcoming SBEC activities and proposed SBEC rules and amendments.

6. **Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 28 Application Updates**
(Board agenda page IV-63)

Marian Schutte, executive director, authorizing division, presented information on the Generation 28 Open-Enrollment Charter Application process including goals, timeline, summary, and submission information.

7. **School Safety and Security Progress Report**
(Board agenda page IV-64)

Kathy Martinez-Prather, director of the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) provided the committee with an update related to the TxSSC biennial report. Dr. Martinez-Prather's update included an overview of the TxSSC and key school safety mandates.

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 11:51 a.m.