

Item 10:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve 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 review, develop, and recommend educator standards for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist class of certificates.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Board approval.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: At the December 11, 2020 meeting, the Board approved TEA staff to begin the process of soliciting nominations and composing educator standards advisory committees for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certification fields based on public comment received during the 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, February 2020 rule review and feedback shared by the Texas Library Association (TLA).

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. 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).

The SBEC rules in 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, specify the requirements for certification and educator preparation program minimum standards for all student services. The student services certificates include School Counselor, School Librarian, Educational Diagnostician, Reading Specialist, and Legacy Master Teacher certificates.

During the rule review that the SBEC adopted at the February 21, 2020 meeting, TEA staff presented the Board with public comments that were received regarding the School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards stating the desire for the Board to update those standards in rule. In addition, the Texas Library Association (TLA) formally requested that the SBEC consider updating the School Librarian educator standards, citing the changes in professional practices and terminology and evolution in school library programs since the standards were last updated. At the December 11, 2020 meeting, the Board approved TEA staff

to begin the process of soliciting nominations and composing educator standards advisory committees for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certification fields.

This item provides the SBEC the opportunity to approve the School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards advisory committees and to review the draft timelines for educator standards development.

TEA staff solicited committee member nominations from the SBEC, professional organizations, educator preparation programs, teacher organizations, and other key stakeholders to ensure a pool of well-qualified candidates for selection. The nomination period began on December 15, 2020 and closed on March 1, 2021. TEA staff received 12 nominations for the School Librarian educator standards advisory committee and 22 nominations for the Reading Specialist educator standards advisory committee. The proposed committee membership for each committee is included in Attachment II.

The committee members selected will provide input on issues related to the two certificate areas and will also have an opportunity to offer additional feedback on concerns specific to each certificate area that were shared as part of the most recent four-year rule review for Chapter 239 and the TLA's letter of request. Because the role of each profession included in Chapter 239 is critical to student success and warrants focused attention, TEA staff anticipates holding individual meetings for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certificate areas. The proposed timeline for the educator standards advisory committee meetings can be found in Attachment III.

TEA staff anticipates presenting the educator standards advisory committee recommended standards for discussion at the December 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public benefit anticipated as a result of the proposed educator standards advisory committees would be more rigorous, relevant, and reliable requirements for the preparation, certification, and testing of student services educators upon entry into the profession and retention of these qualified professionals for years to come.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards advisory committees as presented.

Staff Member Responsible:

Jessica McLoughlin, Director, Educator Standards, Testing, and Preparation

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. Reading Specialist and School Librarian Standards Advisory Committees
- III. Draft Educator Standards Advisory Committee Timelines

ATTACHMENT I**Statutory Citations****Texas Education Code §21.031, Certification of Educators (excerpt):**

- (b) In proposing rules under this subchapter, the board shall ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

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;
- (4) for each class of educator certificate, appoint an advisory committee composed of members of that class to recommend standards for that class to the board;

Texas Education Code §21.041, Rules; Fees (excerpt):

- (b) The board shall propose rules that:
 - (4) specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate;
 - (2) a master science teacher certificate to teach science at middle school grade levels; and
 - (3) a master science teacher certificate to teach science at high school grade levels.

ATTACHMENT II

Reading Specialist Standards Advisory Committee:

| Name | Title/Role | District/Organization | Region |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|
| Dr. Amy Barnhill | Professor in the School of Education, Health Professions, and Human Development | University of Houston Victoria | 3 |
| Angie Durand | Program Coordinator for Language Arts and Reading | Houston Baptist University | 4 |
| Carolyn Mixon | Retired Reading Specialist/CALT | Austin ISD | 13 |
| Deborah Williams, Ed. | Associate Professor of Reading and Undergraduate Reading Program Coordinator | UT Arlington | 11 |
| Dr. Fernando Hernandez | Assistant Professor | A&M Kingsville | 2 |
| Ginger Earl | Assistant Professor College of Education | Dallas Baptist University | 10 |
| Gwynne Ash | Professor, Reading, Curriculum & Instruction | Texas State | 13 |
| Dr. Isela Almaguer | Literacy Specialization Lead for the College of Doctoral Program | UT RGV | 1 |
| Joanna Neel | Professor Undergraduate and Graduate Literacy | UT Tyler | 7 |
| Dr. Kathryn Pole | Literacy Studies Program Director | UT Arlington | 11 |
| Dr. Kelly Cordray | Reading Professor | A&M Texarkana | 8 |
| Dr. Lori Czop Assaf | Professor in Reading Education | Texas State San Marcos | 13 |
| Dr. Mark Martin | Program Director for Master of Education in Reading | Dallas Baptist University | 10 |
| Dr. Mellinee Lesley | Professor in the Language, Diversity & Literacy Studies Program | Texas Tech | 17 |
| Dr. Miriam Martinez | Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching Professor | UT San Antonio | 20 |

| Name | Title/Role | District/Organization | Region |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| Patricia Gonzales Durham | Professor of Literacy Methods, Master's Program Field Coordinator, Literacy Research Specialist | Sam Houston University | 4 |
| Roberta D Raymond, Ed.D | Assistant Professor of Literacy, Language Arts and Literature Studies | University of Houston Clear Lake | 4 |
| Dr. Tami Morton | Reading Masters Chair | A&M Commerce | 10 |
| Dr. Tara Wilson | Literacy Professor | UT Permian Basin | 18 |
| Tonja Gray | Reading Academies Cohort Leader | ESC 14 | 14 |
| Valerie Nesmith-Arechiga | Educational Leadership Doctorate Candidate | Corpus Christi ISD | 2 |
| Vivianne McGowan | PK–12 RLA Coordinator | Tyler ISD | 7 |

School Librarian Standards Advisory Committee:

| Name | Title/Role | District/Organization | Region |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Abby Moore | District Librarian | Breckenridge ISD | 14 |
| Amanda Galliton | MS Librarian | Burkburnett ISD | 9 |
| Barbara Jansen | School Librarian Certification Coordinator | University of Texas | 20 |
| Cristal Isaacks | District Librarian | Levelland ISD | 17 |
| Emma McDonald | District Librarian | Mesquite ISD | 10 |
| Katherine Counterman | EL Librarian | Katy ISD | 4 |
| Laura Sheneman | Professor, Library Media and Previous ESC 1 & District Librarian | ESC 1, University of West Georgia | 1 |
| Melissa Rippy | District Librarian | Pasadena ISD | 4 |
| Nicole Cruz | HS Librarian | Sharyland ISD | 1 |

| Name | Title/Role | District/Organization | Region |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Susanne Fleenor | District Librarian | Seagraves ISD | 17 |

ATTACHMENT III**Draft Educator Standards Advisory Committee Timeline**

| Date | Proposed Action |
|---------------------|---|
| December 15, 2020 | TEA staff distributed educator standard advisory committee nomination forms. Nomination period opened. |
| March 1, 2021 | Nomination period closed. |
| April 30, 2021 | SBEC opportunity to appoint School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards advisory committees. |
| May 3, 2021 | Appointed committee members notified. |
| June 2021 | TEA staff host the first School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards advisory committee meetings. |
| July 2021 | TEA staff host the second School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards advisory committee meetings. |
| August–October 2021 | TEA staff host additional committee meetings as needed. |
| December 2021 | Committee-recommended School Librarian and Reading Specialist standards presented to the Board for discussion. |