

Texas Education Agency

Department of Special Populations

Division of Special Education

2018-2019 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

TEA seeks to develop an effective, state-level stakeholder engagement system that will lead to positive outcomes for students with disabilities. To successfully develop and implement support and services for those students, it is critical to have the active engagement of all stakeholders – students, families, educators, and communities. To broaden the reach of those who would like to be involved, both in-person and virtual opportunities to participate will be offered. There will also be opportunities for communities across the state to give their opinions and share their perspectives on special education topics and issues.

The 2018-2019 Stakeholder Engagement Plan took shape from the suggestions provided to TEA staff throughout the spring of 2018 when the Department of Special Populations staff participated in multiple meetings with a wide range of stakeholders such as students, parents, teachers, service providers, and administrators.

Stakeholders

For the purposes of this plan, TEA has identified the following categories of stakeholders each with a unique perspective but common goal – to improve outcomes for students with disabilities:

Category	Description
Students	Students with disabilities
Parents and Families	Those who are closest to the students and can speak to their needs and aspirations
Teachers and Practitioners	Teachers, service providers, and other staff whose work position them to identify and evaluate students with disabilities, their needs, and outcomes of services provided
Local Education Agency (LEA) and Educational Service Center (ESC) Leadership	Administrators (campus and LEA-level, ESC leaders, and superintendents who understand special education programming, funding and program administration
Professional Organizations	Educational professionals in the field of special education
Advocacy Organizations	Community of organizations that support parents and students with disabilities

Transparency

TEA recognizes the importance of transparency in building trust and will post on its website the meeting attendance, agendas, presentations, minutes, and schedules for all the focus groups and committee meetings outlined in this plan in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99).

The Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC) is subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act (OMA) and will comply with its requirements.

New Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Focus Groups

TEA will hold annual focus groups (one per region per year). The focus group will be held over a 2-day period and will include evening sessions to accommodate the schedules of the different stakeholders. Child care will be provided. Below is a sample schedule.

Stakeholder	Meeting Frequency
Students	Both days
Parents and Families	Both days with one held in the evening
Teachers and Practitioners	One held in the evening
LEA and ESC Leadership	One day

These focus groups meetings will allow for stakeholders to meaningfully participate and will be adjusted when demand exceeds capacity.

Stakeholder Committees

The following stakeholder committees will be established in the '18-19 school year and will hold their initial meeting in the fall of 2018. Details on membership and meetings dates will be posted on the Special Education section of TEA's website as soon as they are available.

Committee	Description	Meeting Frequency	Membership
Texas Continuous Improvement Steering Committee (TCISC)	Advise TEA in setting targets for the State Performance Plan. Additionally, the TCISC advises TEA on matters related to special education policy and programming	Bi-annually - Austin	20 individuals
Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)		Bi-annually - Austin	25 standing members who will serve for two years, with half of the membership to be replaced annually. The membership will represent the state both geographically and demographically.
Special Education Advocacy Community Roundtable (the Roundtable)		Quarterly - Austin	representing various perspectives within the special education community throughout Texas
Special Education Directors Council (SEDC)		Quarterly - ??	10 LEA directors of special education that represent geographic and demographic areas of the state e.g. large urban/suburban independent school districts (ISDs), medium- sized ISDs, small/rural ISDs, and charter schools

Virtual Town Hall Meetings/Webinars

To reach as broad an audience as possible TEA will host four virtual town halls on special education services and the Special Education Strategic Plan implementation using a webinar platform. Town halls will be held in the evenings in October 2018, January 2019, March 2019, and June 2019 and recorded so that they can be available for viewing on the TEA website.

Specific dates for these town halls will be posted to the TEA website along with participation information as soon as they become available.

Surveys

TEA will administer two stakeholder surveys in the 2018- 2019 school year to gain input from the larger special education community and to measure the impact realized by TEA's efforts to improve stakeholder engagement. One will be available in November 2018 with the other available in May of 2019. Survey data will be aggregated and posted to the TEA website.

Survey should be repeated at least twice annually thereafter.

Public Engagement Volunteers

TEA will have a network of volunteers around the state who are tasked with speaking to people representative of their communities. The purpose of this is to gather perspective and feedback on a variety of topics from communities across the state. The information gathered will be reflected back to the community members to help drive continued improvement. There will be a summit held twice per year where volunteers will engage in training/re-training, direction-setting, and feedback summaries.

Existing Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC)

The 17-member CAC is statutorily required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) IDEA-B (PL 101-476) and Texas Education Code § 29.006. It is directed to advise TEA on issues such as the unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities, developing evaluations and reporting on data, and setting standards related to significant disproportionality determinations. The CAC provides the public an opportunity to speak at committee meetings and encourages that participation.

For more information on the CAC, its mandate, membership, and meeting schedule or minutes, go to: [Home / Academics / Special Student Populations / Special Education / Programs and Services/ Continuing Advisory Committee](#)