

## Item 12:

# Discussion of SBEC Stakeholder Engagement

### DISCUSSION

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss current stakeholder engagement activities and processes and the option of potential rule amendments to implement SBEC advisory committees.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority for advisory committees is the Texas Government Code (TGC) Chapter 2110.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** This item will allow the SBEC to discuss current stakeholder engagement activities to solicit feedback and input from all interested stakeholders, and to decide to either continue with the current process of stakeholder engagement or to shift to adopting an official advisory committee into rule.

Stakeholder engagement is very important to the SBEC. The Board receives feedback and input from stakeholders regarding rule items during the official public comment period and through public testimony that is allowed on each agenda item. Additionally, TEA staff regularly convenes groups of stakeholders early in the process of drafting important upcoming discussion items that the Board will take action on at a future SBEC meeting. This allows the staff to better prepare for those items by ensuring that they understand the stakeholders' perspectives and positions on the issues or the draft rule text.

The Board has created a standing committee of stakeholders to advise TEA staff on educator preparation issues that it has called the Educator Preparation Advisory Committee ("EPAC"). Outlined below are the history and background of the EPAC as well as the process that currently exists.

#### EPAC History and Background:

- Established in **2006** with educator preparation program employees as the primary source of representation
- SBEC expanded membership in **2020** to include 32 representatives from the educational community that represents all areas of the Board's oversight to ensure all stakeholders have a voice when it comes to educator preparation. Attachment I includes the EPAC membership that the Board approved at the February 2020 SBEC meeting, excluding Dr. Veronica Galvan, who was appointed to the SBEC in 2021. The membership includes:
  - 22 members from organizations that represent educator preparation stakeholders (teacher organizations, non-teacher educator organizations, educator preparation organizations, education service center organizations, etc.)
    - Ø 8 members are employed by institutions of higher education (IHEs)
  - 5 members that









Twenty members provided recommendations for the SBEC’s consideration. Please see below for a summary of that feedback that staff received at the August 19 EPSG meeting when asked which option they would like for the SBEC to take. The full text of members recommendations and rationale is included in Attachment IV.

EPSG Members Wanting SBEC to Continue EPSG as a Stakeholder Group	EPSG Members Wanting SBEC to Create EPAC as Advisory Committee
18	2

In the interest of full transparency, even though EPSG members were only asked to provide the recommendation of continuing with EPSG as a stakeholder group or creating an EPAC as an advisory committee, TEA staff want to also share the additional feedback or considerations some members added when providing their recommendations that is outlined below.

**Consumers Includes Professional Organizations:** A few members wanted the rulemaking setting the composition of EPAC to include professional organizations as members representing consumers of educator preparation.

**Direct Reporting to SBEC:** A few members wanted to explore the option of EPSG more directly reporting to SBEC, but groups that directly advises the SBEC meets the definition of an advisory committee under the Texas Government Code. However, stakeholders have direct access to the SBEC in the forms of oral and written public testimony at an SBEC meeting, direct contact with the SBEC members, and public comment during the official public comment period. Members are welcome to share that they are members of the EPSG when communicating with the SBEC.

**Expanded Diversity and Inclusion:** One member recommended that we keep working to get the EPSG to a place that is representative of the diversity and inclusion of the state. If the Board does not create an advisory committee, TEA staff will seek to ensure that the stakeholders from which staff seeks input reflect all the stakeholders that the Board serves and oversees.

In addition to the feedback provided by the EPSG members at the August 19 EPSG meeting, there were questions posed by the members that are included below, along with the responses to those questions.

**EPSG Member Questions and Staff Responses:**

If SBEC chooses to maintain EPSG as a stakeholder group, could there be more efficient replacements in the event of vacancies and alternates who could attend meetings in the event of the member unable to attend?

- o Yes, the stakeholder group and TEA staff could determine the process of replacements and alternates to ensure full representation at every meeting.

If SBEC chooses to create an EPAC, would those advisory committee meetings need to be published in the *Texas Register*? Would a quorum be required to meet? Would they be required to adopt Robert’s Rules of Order?

- o No, whether the SBEC maintain the EPSG or create an EPAC, the meetings would not require the formality of publication, quorums, or adoption of rules of order.

If SBEC chooses to create an EPAC, could the Board determine different representation in the advisory committee than that which is proposed in the draft rule language, such as by including professional organization?

- Yes, the SBEC could choose to propose a different composition of the EPAC







Name	Representative	Title
Cynthia Savage	Education Deans of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (EDICUT)	Associate Dean/Associate Professor – Texas Christian University
Kristina Sterling	EPP Johns Hopkins University / Urban Teachers	Lead Clinical Faculty
Calvin Stocker	Texas Alternative Certification Association (TACA)	Senior Director of Operations & Strategic Initiatives – Texas Tech University (US PREP National Center)





**ATTACHMENT III**  
**Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC**

**Chapter 250, Administration**

**Subchapter B. Rulemaking Procedures**

**§250.30. Advisory Committees**

(a) The Board may appoint advisory committees from outside the Board's membership to advise the Board as it may deem necessary.

(b) The Board has established the Educator Preparation Advisory Committee (EPAC), which will continue in existence until January 1, 2028, unless the Board subsequently establishes a different date.

(1) The purpose and duties the EPAC are to advise the Board on issues and regulations that may have an impact on educator preparation in Texas



- (m) Advisory committees may organize themselves into subcommittees or workgroups. One member of each subcommittee or workgroup shall serve as the chairperson. Subcommittee or workgroup chairs shall make written reports regarding their work to the presiding officer of the advisory committee. A subcommittee or workgroup of an advisory committee may include members who are not members of the advisory committee, but must include at least one member of the advisory committee.
- (n) officer. All advisory committee meetings shall be recorded, and the recordings shall be made publicly available on the TEA website.
- (o) Monitoring of Advisory Committees and Records.
- (1) The Board shall monitor the activities of advisory committees.
  - (2) Agency staff shall record and maintain the minutes of each advisory committee and subcommittee meeting. The staff shall maintain a record of actions taken and shall distribute copies of approved minutes and other committee documents to the Board and to advisory committee members on a timely basis.





