

Texas Education Agency
Revised Exceptional Items Request 2014-2015
Senate Finance Committee
Commissioner Michael L. Williams
January 23, 2013

Priority	Item/Description	Excep 2014	FTEs	Excep 2015	FTEs	Total Request	Total FTEs Request
1	Professional Development and Support <i>Funds are needed for continuing TEA's Professional Development efforts focusing on student academic success and postsecondary readiness. Professional development provided via Project Share must be maintained and updated. Implementation of scientifically-validated and research-based instructional strategies is essential in preparing students to achieve the STAAR standards in grades 3-8, to meet the end-of-course standards in high school, and to ensure postsecondary readiness in all core content areas. These funds will also be used to incorporate the college and career readiness standards, English Language Proficiency Standards, and strategies for gifted and talented education, as well as response to intervention for struggling students. Additionally, this funding provides support for teachers accessing the extensive online professional development content.</i>	\$ 12,000,000		\$ 12,000,000		\$ 24,000,000	
2	Restore Agency Administrative Reduction <i>The introduced SB1 reduced agency general revenue by \$2.6 million for the biennium. Due to budget reductions last session and the resulting agency RIFs, the agency cannot absorb another reduction of this magnitude. This funding request will help TEA maintain current staffing levels.</i>	1,300,000		1,300,000		2,600,000	
3	Information Technology/Texas Student Data System (TSDS) <i>Funds to cover the implementation of and transition to TSDS, which is needed to resolve the capacity limits of the current PEIMS system. Implemented in the mid-1980s, the PEIMS system has been the agency's method of collecting, organizing, validating, and protecting legislatively mandated data collections from school districts and charters. \$5.2 million is to support the Data Center Services (DCS) hosting and software costs under the TSDS/DCS capital budget, and \$5.4 million is staffing costs to support the ongoing implementation and support.</i>	5,627,953	24	5,027,956	24	10,655,909	24
4	Assessment Costs <i>Additional funds to cover the contracted costs for the state assessment program required under current statute. This increase does not reflect an overall increase in the cost of the assessment contract over what was expected, but it does reflect general revenue reductions from the last biennium that were replaced with federal funds carried over that are no longer available. Without additional funding, it will not be possible to fulfill all state and federal testing requirements.</i>	10,016,026		12,122,392		22,138,418	
5	Windham <i>Funds to cover 59 teachers that are not supported by the current appropriation, provide GED testing materials, and mobile testing stations in order to be ready for computer-based GED testing beginning in January 2014. Also, Windham is requesting to reinstate literacy services at six prison locations that currently do not have education. These facilities house offenders that are close to release.</i>	5,806,319		4,806,319		10,612,638	