

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2025 9:00 am – 10:32 am

CAC Attendees: April Estrada, Tara Cevallos, Aaron Bangor, Adrian Guerra, Diana Nelson, Amy Litzinger, Agatha Thibodeaux, Marissa Esquivel, Kevin Markel, Lori Brown-Duncan, Claudia Cavazos

CAC Members Absent: Sheryl Kubala, Susan Nichols, JoAnn Wofford, Janie Melendez

Texas Education Agency: Laura Briones, Kristin McGuire, Brittany Brettschneider

9:00 Begin Meeting - Amy Litzinger reviewed the meeting agenda and public comments criteria

9:03 Kristin McGuire introduced Laura Briones as the Special Populations Policy Director who is now the contact for the Continuing Advisory Committee Meetings for the Texas Education Agency.

Kristin McGuire gave updates on several bills regarding special populations.

- House Bill 2 Article 4 is specifically on special education.
- Educator raises and support staff allotment, state commitment for educator preparation and offer funding for certain education educator pathways.
- HB 2 added a provision that candidates that are taking their first attempt for either bilingual or special education certification exam fees will now be waived.
- Changes in early education statutes regarding early reading instruments for diagnostic to measure foundational literacy and numeracy skills in kindergarten to grade three. Require academic intervention for reading when a student has at-risk criteria in two consecutive attempts of the reading instruments. There will be funding associated with helping parents with outside tutoring.
- The State is changing how Special Education is funded for the 2026-2027 school year into a service intensity model.
- Changes in Chapter 37 relating to student discipline, expanding teacher authority to remove students from their classroom if they are disruptive.
- SB 2 Educational Savings Accounts will go into effect in 2026-2027. It will be administered by the Texas Comptroller. The Texas Education Agency will make sure that students that are applying are eligible to apply.
- SB 569 Virtual and hybrid learning allowing school districts to create and implement virtual and hybrid.
- HB 1481 Prohibiting the use of personal communication by students during the school day. Exception for students that may need to use them in accordance with their IEPs or their 504 plans.
- Bill that will require more data on chronic absenteeism and truancy.

9:28 Public Comments

- Stephen Aleman, Disability Rights Texas, discussed a recent contract request made by the Texas Education Agency regarding special education complaint investigations. He

asked that the CAC include a review of TEA's process for conducting these investigations, as well as their reasons for seeking external assistance, on a future meeting agenda.

- Maia Volk, Disability Rights Texas, addressed HB 2 and crisis prevention and intervention training, aimed at improving schools' ability to manage crisis situations and reduce incidents of restraint. She recommended that the CAC add an agenda item for a future meeting to review requirements for crisis prevention training and threat assessment team membership.
- Linda Litzinger, Public Advocacy Director at Texas Parent to Parent, discussed SB 57, which instructs TEA to require Local Education Agencies to develop a multi-hazard operations plan for individual students. She addressed the importance of teachers being aware of how many adults are needed for the safe transfer of students. The recommendation was made that a parent be present to observe the transfer to the rescue device.

9:40 Amy Litzinger gave update on 89th Legislative Session.

- SB2 Education Savings Account takes effect for the 2026-2027 school year.
- HB 1188 also known as the Caytlin Handley Act, takes effect for the 2025-2026 school year. This legislation requires school districts to provide families of special education students with information about state-funded intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services.
- SB 568 Funding moves from a setting-based model to a service-intensity model.
- SB 57 requires TEA to create guidelines for LEAs to create individualized multi-hazard emergency operations plans to ensure individualized student and faculty safety.
- SB 1952-HHSC has oversight of SHARS, and they must enter into an MOU with TEA to train staff and evaluate readiness.
- HB 6 school discipline management and access to telehealth mental health services in public schools.

49:55 Kristin McGuire HB 2 SB568 requires school districts to hold at least one board meeting per year to discuss the outcomes and the data of students receiving special education services. This also applies to charter schools.

- The special education transportation mileage reimbursement was increased from \$1.08 to \$1.13.
- The State will give \$1000 to offset initial special education evaluations.
- Supplemental Special Education services (SES) now called the Parent Directed Special Education Services program. This is the \$1500 grant for parents of students receiving special education services. The funding stayed at 30 million dollars each year of the biennium.

10:30 Amy Litzinger proposed next CAC meeting for Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Kevin Markel seconded motion. Motion approved by members.

10:33 Meeting Adjourned.