

Continuing Advisory Committee Members for the 2023-2027 Term

Aaron Bangor, Ph.D. of Austin is senior lead - user experience researcher at AT&T and vice chair of the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education. He is a member of the International Association of Accessibility Professionals and Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Additionally, he is chair of Disability: IN Central Texas, has served as a technical and policy expert for accessibility and disability issues with the Federal Communications Commission and Council of State Governments, and is active in national and international standards. He is board certified as both a human factors professional and an accessibility professional. Bangor received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering, and a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Factors Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Adrian Guerra, D.M.A. of Roma is the special education director for Roma ISD, where he previously served as federal programs director, performing arts director, and choir director at different times since 1997. He is a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators and the American Association of School Administrators and board member for the Starr County Hospital District. He also serves as Minister of Music for Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church in Roma. Guerra received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and a Master of Education in Education Administration from The University of Texas–Pan American and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education from Boston University.

Agata K. "Agatha" Thibodeaux of Katy is an executive assistant at the Frontline Group, LLC.

Amy Litzinger of Austin is a public policy specialist with Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P).

April Estrada Ed.D. of Wylie is the Director of Special Populations for Region 10 ESC. She is a member of Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, the Council of Women School Executives, and the Texas Association of School Administrators. Additionally, she is an adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University. Estrada received a Bachelor of Science from the University of North Texas and a Master and Doctorate in Education Leadership from Dallas Baptist University.

Claudia Cavazos of Pearland is the principal of a private school in Houston.

Diana Nelson of Martindale is the Special Education Coordinator for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

JoAnn Garza Wofford of New Braunfels is a retired vice president and senior fiduciary administrator for Wells Fargo Investment Fiduciary Services.

Juana "Janie" Melendez of Hidalgo is a teacher for Valley View Independent School District (ISD) in Pharr. She is a member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators and the McAllen Evening Rotary and treasurer for Objective Watchers of the Legal System. Melendez received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice, and a Master of Public Administration from The University of Texas–Pan American.

Kevin Markel is a Statewide Transition Program Specialist for the Texas Workforce Commission – Vocational Rehabilitation Division. He has worked for this agency for more than 20 years, and he holds an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of North Texas.

Lori Brown-Duncan received her degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Texas in Arlington and is employed by Austin Geriatric Specialists. She lives in Hutto with her husband of over 30 years and her special needs adult daughter. In Hutto she also serves on the Hutto Ethics Committee.

Marissa Esquivel of Beeville is the director of special education programs at St. Mary's Academy Charter School. She is a member of the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education and the Council of Exceptional Children. Esquivel received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from The University of Texas at Brownsville and a Master of Special Education from The University of Texas Permian Basin and is currently pursuing a diagnostician certification.

Sheryl Kubala of Austin is a parent and volunteer whose job titles include "nurse, neurologist, driver, household manager, GI specialist, reading buddy, short order cook, and medicine manger.

Susan Nichols of Carrollton is the Interim Executive Director at the University of North Texas Kristin Farmer Austin Center.

Tara Cevallos M. Ed., LDT, CALT-QI of Austin is the principal at St. Austin Catholic School. She is a member of the Academic Language Therapy Association, International Multisensory Structured Language Education Center, and Diocesan School Advisory Board for the Diocese of Austin and Finance Chair for the Dyslexia Center of Austin. She is a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist (LDT)/Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) and Qualified Instructor (QI) and a Co-founder of Dyslexia Center of Austin. Cevallos received a Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Education in Special Education from Midwestern State University, and a Catholic School Leadership graduate certificate from Creighton University.