MINUTES

DATE: June 4, 2026
9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Stephanie Jenkins, Laura Colangelo, Rachel Stimely, Jessica Kelly, Pamela Evans, Samantha Burrow, Carrie Matthews, Valerie Buhidar

Members Absent

Lisette Allen, Melody Collier, Mia Hall, Kathy Davila, Merideth Dodd, Alexis Neumann, Juan Amaya, Maria E. Anzualda, Stephanie Norris, Brenda Faz-Villarreal

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Jaime Huerta, Victoria Rivera, Vivian Smyrl, Idalia Ibanez, LaNetra Guess, Gerardo Ramirez

Call to Order

Victoria Rivera provided an overview of the virtual meeting norms for both members and guests, including legal disclaimers. At 9:02 a.m., Jayne Tavenner called the meeting to order.

Welcome

Welcome and Roll Call

Jayne Tavenner, Committee Chair, welcomed all. For roll call, Ms. Tavenner instructed members to type their names and the school system or organization they are affiliated with in the Zoom chat.

Committee Discussion Items

Ed-Flex Updates

Vivian Smyrl – State Director – reminded the committee that they also serve as the Ed-Flex committee and presented information on the ESSA Waivers granted to other states like Iowa, which received ESSA waivers providing flexibility in federal funding requirements, including waiving the limitation concerning transition services under Title I, Part D, Subpart 1, and eliminating the Title IV, Part A percentage requirements for the content areas. These waivers will enable LEAs to better address local priorities and respond more effectively to immediate program needs. In their letter to Iowa, the USDE indicated that the state could request similar waivers under the Ed-Flex authority.

Ms. Smyrl said that TEA is exploring the option to extend similar waivers to LEAs under Texas's Ed-Flex authority. The Iowa waiver letter did not specifically address the limitation on Title IV, Part A spending related to technology infrastructure. That is an additional waiver that we may consider bringing to the committee. We would like to gather additional ideas and input at the September meeting with COP stakeholders.

Title II, Part A State Reservations Stakeholder Consultation

Jaime Huerta – Division Director – reminded the committee that TEA must engage in required stakeholder consultation on the use of Title II, Part A state activity funds to address a USDE monitoring finding, supported by an existing statewide committee that represents diverse stakeholders. The purpose of the Title II, Part A state activity funds is to improve educator quality and effectiveness, increase access to effective teachers and school leaders, and promote equitable educational outcomes for all students.

Mr. Huerta also reviewed preliminary funding tables from USDE, noting that final grant award amounts for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 school years will be confirmed after September 1, with approximately $230 million allocated and specific reservations for school systems, state administration, principals and school leaders, and state activities. He also provided a breakdown of state activities for 2025–2026, including noncompetitive grants and contracts, outlined key projects, and requested committee feedback to inform planning for 2026-2027; no feedback was provided. He shared that an updated plan for 2026–2027 will be shared at the upcoming meeting scheduled for September.

FPC Division Updates

Jaime Huerta – Division Director – shared USDE Dear Colleague letters on funding transferability and REAP AFUA shared by USDE to notify states and LEAs of the flexibilities available. He provided an overview of the Program Monitoring Validation (PMV) process for 2025-2026, which included compliance results (met requirements, approaching compliance, or improvement needed) for the two rounds of reviews that have been completed under the current 6-year cycle. Key deadlines were also shared, including June 10 for updated PMV status notifications, June 30 for the Gun-Free Schools report and resource postings, September 3 for ESSA Consolidated Application submissions, and September 30 to finalize compliance reporting.

Mr. Huerta provided an overview of the initiatives that will support ESSA program implementation in the 2026–2027 grant year. In addition to the ESC ESSA Basic Services grants that are awarded to all 20 regional Education Service Centers, these efforts also include statewide initiatives led by selected ESCs to strengthen capacity building, parent and family engagement, migrant support, and professional development for LEAs across all regions.

Lastly, Mr. Huerta also shared dates for some upcoming statewide virtual training opportunities, the dates for the GCA Con, and the proposed COP meeting dates for the 2026-2027 school year, which will more than likely be finalized and sent out to the committee by August.

Committee Action Items

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Jayne Tavenner, Committee Chair, confirmed with the members that they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, which was held on April 29, 2026. A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting was made by Jessica Kelly; a second motion was made by Pamela Evans. Ms. Tavenner called for a vote from members. The motion to approve the minutes as written was passed with no objections.

Ms. Tavenner concluded the meeting and reminded attendees that the next meeting for the 2026-2027 school year is scheduled for September 22, 2026.

Adjourn

Jayne Tavenner, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.