

MINUTES

DATE: February 5, 2026

9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Juan Amaya, Stephanie Jenkins, Pamela Evans, Samantha Burrow, Carrie Matthews, Brenda Faz-Villarreal, Kathy Davila, Maria E. Anzualda, Alexis Neumann, Valerie Buhidar, Merideth Dodd, Stephanie Norris
Laura Colangelo

Members Absent

Lisette Allen, Melody Collier, Mia Hall, Jo Ann Gonzales, Jessica Kelly

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Staff Present

Jaime Huerta, Victoria Rivera, Vivian Smyrl, Gerardo Ramirez, Idalia Ibanez, Didi Garcia, Nez Paniagua – Jiménez, Matt Lashlee

Call to Order

Victoria Rivera provided an overview of the virtual meeting norms for both members and guests, including legal disclaimers, and acknowledged the division's role in hosting the COP meetings. At 9:06 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 name and the school system or organization they are affiliated with using the chat feature on Zoom.

Committee Discussion Items

FPC Division Updates

Jaime Huerta – Division Director shared that TEA has developed programmatic monitoring protocols that include requirements that are part of the program monitoring validations process, statutory requirement references, self-assessment compliance questions, and requested documentation aligned with items used by the U.S. Department of Education for programmatic monitoring. Title I, Part C protocols have been published, while protocols for Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D, Subparts 1 and 2; Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part A; and Private Nonprofit School Equitable Services remain under review. Mr. Huerta explained that, unlike self-check items, the programmatic monitoring protocols include the specific documentation TEA would request from school systems selected for validation.

Mr. Huerta also shared that TEA is required to consult with stakeholders on how Title II, Part A state activity funds are used. TEA proposed to USDE that TEA would meet this requirement by using the statutorily required Title I Committee of Practitioners to advise on Title II funds, rather than creating a separate committee. He reminded attendees that the purpose of Title II, Part A is to improve teacher and school leader effectiveness and increase equitable access to effective educators.

Mr. Huerta explained that for the 2025–2026 school year, TEA was awarded approximately \$239.4 million in Title II, Part A funds, with most of the funding distributed to school systems through subgrants as required by

the statute. Smaller portions are reserved for state administration and state-level activities, including support for principals and other school leaders, as required under ESEA Section 2101(c). The four percent of Title II, Part A state activities reservation funds a mix of noncompetitive grants and contract renewals supporting educator leadership, appraisal systems, data dashboards, ESC services, and equitable services for private nonprofit schools. The largest allocations support T-TESS appraisal hub services, teacher apprenticeship and leadership initiatives, strategic compensation, and statewide systems. The division is working to determine the amount for Private Nonprofit School Equitable Services for which reservation planning will be held at the next COP meeting.

Mr. Huerta provided an overview of upcoming trainings. A statewide virtual training series is planned for the spring. A statewide news bulletin will be sent out with the information and links to register. Information related to guidance documents that are currently being developed, including ESSA plan requirements and a stakeholder consultation and parent and family engagement (PFE) resource, was also shared. Information concerning the 2026-2027 ESSA Consolidated Application training will be shared through a statewide news bulletin in late March 2026, with a full-day training scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026, from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm within the eGrants environment using a new training delivery format informed by feedback surveys. The GCA Conference (GCA Con) will include a PFE strand and will be held November 10–12, 2026, at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio.

Lastly, Mr. Huerta shared that a new education funding bill has passed; while details are not yet available, allocations and entitlements will be shared once received. Carryover information is expected to be released in March, which is typically communicated through a statewide news bulletin from FFCR or Grants Administration.

Title I, Part A Updates

Vivian Smyrl – Program Director addressed several additions to the published 2025–2026 Self-Check Guide (Version 8.1), which outlines TEA’s response to proposed U.S. Department of Education monitoring protocols posted on the TEA website. The updates include revisions to the change history section; the addition of a statutory reference in the LEA program plan when a plan is deemed unsatisfactory to parents; guidance to add and document parent comments; and new parent and family engagement (PFE) references allowing LEAs to add or amend campus-level PFE policies to meet subsection requirements, including cases where a school-level policy applies to all parents and families. The guidance also clarifies parents’ right to know, specifies that required notifications and documentation must be provided in accordance with state law, and emphasizes that LEAs must use effective outreach methods to communicate with parents, including ensuring meaningful access for English learners through clear, uniform, and understandable language.

Ms. Smyrl also informed the attendees that there is also a revised item for the 2025-2026 Compliance Report in which the LEA Reservations section is now aligned with that of the grant application.

Finally, Ms. Smyrl reviewed updates to the SC5000 review process intended to improve clarity, data accuracy, and compliance. Revisions include removing total campus enrollment figures, collecting the number (rather than percentage) of low-income students by campus, streamlining Part A data to prepopulate from Part B, and eliminating outdated eligibility selections. Validation logic was corrected for campus assurances, Part B campus selection columns were reorganized, and clarification was provided that certain schools are exempt from the 125% special allocation rule. Additionally, reminders were shared regarding federal report card distribution requirements, including posting state, district, and campus report cards on district websites by March 11, 2026, for a minimum of three years, with direct links and parent notifications available in appropriate languages.

Title I, Part C Updates

Didi Garcia – Assistant Division Director, provided a summary on the Unexpended 2024–2025 Title I, Part C funds, which were discussed in relation to changes impacting ESC ESSA Basic Services. Two funding sources support this work: general ESSA Basic Services funds available to all ESCs (fund code 6150) and Consortium Incentive Grant funds provided through the Office of Migrant Education.

The consortium funding currently supports targeted initiatives at three ESCs, including the Identification and Recruitment of Migratory Children (IDRC) and ISOSY programs serving out-of-school youth, as well as a statewide initiative with four members participating in the grant on TEA's behalf. These funds are used to support migrant education initiatives and statewide coordination efforts aligned with Title I, Part C requirements.

Ms. Garcia also mentioned that, as part of TEA's corrective action review following federal monitoring, programmatic monitoring protocols and self-assessment tools have been developed to align with U.S. Department of Education expectations. Title I, Part C monitoring protocols have been published, making it the only ESSA program noted as fully available at this time, while protocols for other ESSA programs remain under review.

To support compliance and transparency, TEA published a Self-Check Guide that includes statutory references, compliance questions, and documentation expectations. While proposed responses and materials related to the corrective action have been developed and shared, TEA has not yet received a formal response from the U.S. Department of Education.

Title I, Part D Updates

Gerardo Ramirez – Deputy Program Management Director discussed proposed changes to the 2026-2027 ESSA Consolidated Application Program Schedule PS3102 for Title I, Part A (Neglected), and Title I, Part D, Subpart 2. Presentation included a reminder of how the current PS3102 pre-populates with data from SC9000 and allows school systems to report new facilities in Part I, Line 2. The proposed changes suggest removing the written agreement assurance due to redundancy, as school systems are already required to provide the date of signature for the formal agreement.

Ed-Flex Updates

Vivian Smyrl – Program Director reported on the 2024–2025 Ed-Flex Annual Report, which documents a statewide programmatic waiver of the Title I, Part A carryover limitation. Under this waiver, flexibility was granted to 132 local education agencies, with required reporting detailing the ESSA requirement waived, the duration of the waiver, and justification for approval. The statewide Ed-Flex waiver permits LEAs to carry over more than the standard 15% of Title I, Part A funds and has been associated with positive outcomes, including improved reading performance in 92 of 132 LEAs and improved math performance in 115 of 132 LEAs.

Ms. Smyrl added that for 2024–2025, Texas approved three statewide administrative Ed-Flex waivers that simplify application and recordkeeping requirements for federal funds, giving all LEAs added flexibility while reducing paperwork and helping free up time to focus on instruction and planning that supports better student outcomes. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, TEA shifted the schoolwide eligibility waiver away from Ed-Flex and now allows schools with less than 40% poverty to use statutory authority under ESSA Section 1114(a)(1)(B) to run schoolwide programs.

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 September 10, 2025. A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting was made by Alexis Neumann; a second motion was made by Carrie Matthews. 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 2025-2026 school year is scheduled for April 1, 2026.

Adjourn

Jayne Tavenner, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.