

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026 9:00 am

CAC Attendees: Amy Litzinger, Diana Nelson, Kevin Markel, Janie Melendez, Tara Cevallos, Aaron Bangor, Sheryl Kubala, Agatha Thibodeaux, Marissa Esquivel

CAC Members Absent: Adrian Guerra, Susan Nichols, Lori Brown-Duncan, April Estrada, Claudia Cavazos, JoAnn Wofford, Susan Nichols

Texas Education Agency (TEA): Laura Briones, Elyse Lieberman,, David Mapps, Brittany Brettschneider, Michelle Reeves

9:09 Begin Meeting - Amy Litzinger began meeting and reviewed member duties and responsibilities.

9:11 David Mapps gave an update on teacher-student ratio in Special Education classrooms.

- No statute specifies teacher-student ratios by instructional setting, disability or program type.
- There is no statutory requirement establishing rations for special education classrooms.
- Instructional arrangements and services are determined through ARD committee and IEP decisions.
- The Autism Supplement (19 TAC §89.1055)
 - Only applies to students with autism.
 - It is part of the Individualized Education Plan.
 - Does not establish numeric ratios.
 - Does not apply broadly to all SPED students or settings.
 - Only applies to students with autism.
- General Education classrooms have a student-teacher ratio not less than one teacher for 20 students.
- 22 students for grades prekindergarten through fourth grade.

9:23 Laura Briones gave an update on several commissioner of education amendments that are currently progressing through the rulemaking process.

Anticipated to be effective this spring:

- §89.1150 General Provisions (public comment 1/23-2/23)
- §89.1175 Representation in Special Education Due Process Hearings (public comment 1/23-2/23)
- §89.1195 Special Education Compliant Resolution (public comment 1/23-2/23)
- §89.1197 State Individualized Education Program Facilitation (public comment 1/23-2/23)

Anticipated to be effective this summer:

- §89.1150 The Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee
- §89.1155 Individualized Education Program
- §89.1096 Provision of Services for Students Placed by their Parents in Private Schools or Facilities
- §89.1053, Procedure for Use of Restraint and Time-Out

- New §101.1105 Procedure Related to Notification to a Student's Parent Regarding the Student's Mental, Emotional, or Physical Health or Well-Being

9:30 CAC Members reviewed rule amendments that are currently progressing through the rulemaking process.

- §89.1175 Representation in Special Education Due Process Hearings (public comment 1/23-2/23)
CAC recommends adding information on how families can seek assistance in the process.
- §89.1195 Special Education Compliant Resolution (public comment 1/23-2/23)
CAC members see this change as a proactive instead of a reactive solution and is a better approach to head off any potential dispute.
- §89.1197 State Individualized Education Program Facilitation (public comment 1/23-2/23)
CAC members agree this is a good idea since it gives both parties the option to get TEA provide a facilitator.

Sub Committee Members:

- Digital Access-Aaron Bangor, Kevin Markel, Claudia Cavazos
- Staffing- Janie Melendez, Marissa Esquivel, Adrian Guerra, April Estrada
- Behavior- April Estrada, Adrian Guerra, Marissa Esquivel, Diana Nelson, Amy Litzinger
- Educational Representative- Amy Litzinger, Agatha Thibodeaux, Lori Brown-Duncan
- Formatting- Amy Litzinger, Aaron Bangor, Agatha Thibodeaux
- Dyslexia- Tara Cevallos, Janie Melendez, Adrian Guerra, April Estrada
- Funding-Adrian Guerra, Amy Litzinger, Janie Melendez
- Justice-Amy Litzinger, Kevin Markel, Lori Brown-Duncan
- Health and Safety-Marissa Esquivel, Amy Litzinger, Janie Melendez

Sub-Committee Chairs will contact members.

Upcoming Topics

Request for TEA to give an update on fidelity of use of dyslexia programs

Introduce new members and duties and responsibilities

Make changes to sub-committees based on new members

Next CAC meeting is May 14, 2026

11:00 Sheryl Kubala moved for the approval of minutes. Kevin Markel seconded motion. CAC members approved minutes.

11:02 Aaron Bangor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Amy Litzinger seconded motion. CAC approved.