

Charter for Commissioner of Education's Texas Accountability Advisory Group

House Bill 8 (HB 8) passed in the 89th Legislature 2nd Special Session, added Section 39.0534 Accountability Advisory Committee, to Chapter 39 of the Texas Education Code (TEC). This requires the establishment of an accountability advisory committee to advise the commissioner and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding any changes to the standards (cutpoints) or measures of the Texas accountability system. The committee shall be known as the Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG). This committee, per §39.002, is not subject to Chapter [2110](#), Government Code.

TAAG is required by §39.0534 to include educators, parents, and business and industry representatives, as well as legislative staff from the office of the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and a staff member from the office of each chair of a standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education.

I. Purpose

- a. The Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) was created to work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on matters related to the academic state and federal accountability systems. Specifically, §39.053(f) indicates the commissioner shall annually define and may modify the state standards for each state accountability indicator in consultation with the stakeholders TAAG represents. The commissioner shall increase the rigor that determines the overall ratings to continuously improve student performance.

II. Scope of Work

- a. The committee shall limit its activities to advising on matters that directly concern the state and federal academic accountability systems. The committee is charged with identifying broader potential improvements to the academic accountability system, bringing creative solutions and best practices to the group for discussion, and assessing the impact of legislation and stakeholder feedback on the academic accountability system.
- b. This project charter acknowledges that guidelines and requirements may evolve due to changes in state or federal policies, regulatory updates, or feedback from stakeholders. The project team will remain flexible and responsive to these changes, ensuring that all procedures and deliverables are adjusted accordingly. Any modifications to the guidelines will be communicated promptly to all stakeholders, and necessary adjustments will be documented and implemented to maintain compliance and project integrity.

III. Decision Making

- a. The committee shall have no decision-making responsibilities and is formed to give advice and recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and TEA. It cannot compel the Commissioner of Education or TEA staff to act on its recommendations or feedback.

IV. Membership

- a. Composition: Members will be selected and appointed by the Commissioner of Education following a nomination process to ensure members meet the qualifications specified in section V below. Committee members will constitute a cross-section of the Texas public education system.
- b. Term-length: Committee members commit to a three-year minimum term. After the third year, a committee member may be eligible to serve for two additional years at the discretion of the TEA. A member may not serve for more than five consecutive years.
- c. Attendance: Substitutes or designees are not permitted; members may not send a substitute in their place if they are unable to attend the meeting.
- d. Restrictions: The commissioner cannot appoint individuals to advisory committees if they are

Charter for Commissioner of Education's Texas Accountability Advisory Group

retained or employed by an accountability or assessment instrument vendor.

- e. Vacancies: If a membership becomes available due to lack of attendance or voluntary withdrawal, it is not transferred to another individual selected by the departing member. Instead, the membership nomination and recruitment process is reopened. Any vacancies are filled through this established process.

V. Qualifications for TAAG Committee Members

- a. The committee shall be comprised of individuals with a wide range of skills and experiences and will provide the Commissioner of Education and TEA with objective opinions about the academic accountability system and contribute input, skills, and knowledge towards specific details of this system.
- b. Qualifications include, but are not limited to:
 - Expertise in education: Committee members should possess a deep understanding of educational principles, practices, and policies relevant to the A-F accountability system.
 - Knowledge of assessment and evaluation: Committee members should be familiar with assessment methods, data analysis, and evaluation techniques.
 - Impartiality and fairness: Committee members should demonstrate objectivity and impartiality in their decision-making process, avoiding conflicts of interest.
 - Broad understanding of the entire system: Committee members should demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and insight that span multiple areas, ensuring their contributions reflect the overall goals and intent for all Texas public schools.
 - Communication skills: Committee members should possess strong communication skills that are necessary for effectively articulating decisions, explaining rationales, and facilitating discussions among panel members as well as Texas educators and additional stakeholders.

VI. Nomination and Selection Process

- a. An open call for nominations is communicated via the Performance Reporting bulletin.
- b. Once nominations are received, Performance Reporting will review the candidates based on their qualifications, breadth of system knowledge, and alignment with the purpose of the committee.
- c. A recommended list of qualified nominees is presented to the Commissioner of Education for selection of new committee members.
- d. Nominees are notified of selection or non-selection.

VII. Spokesperson

- a. Committee members shall act as an impartial channel of information to other stakeholders following TAAG meetings and discussions.
- b. Committee members shall not speak on behalf of the TEA. This includes speaking to the press or discussing confidential business matters with employees, clients, or vendors.
- c. Committee members may serve as a spokesperson on behalf of Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide recommendations to TEA.
- d. Committee members must be prepared to speak to and gather feedback from a wide range

Charter for Commissioner of Education's Texas Accountability Advisory Group

of stakeholders including legislative staff, school board members, superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and community members.

VIII. Procedural Rules

- a. Onboarding: Committee members must participate in an onboarding orientation before the inaugural meeting. The orientation will consist of meeting norms, required reading, expectations for outcomes, and answering any questions members may have.
- b. Meetings: The committee will meet at least three to four times per year. Written notices of upcoming meetings will be emailed to members at least thirty days before a meeting, where possible. Committee members are expected to complete a review of required reading and relevant data prior to each meeting. All meetings will be available virtually. If an in-person option is pursued by the members, travel costs shall be assumed by the member.
- c. Minutes: Minutes for each meeting will be kept and publicly posted. An electronic copy will be emailed to the Committee for review within two weeks after a meeting. In accordance with Section 39.0534, the minutes of each committee meeting will be provided to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education.
- d. Recommendations and Reports: Committee materials, recommendations, and any reports will be shared publicly. Documents will include both suggested action and justification for suggestions.
- e. Dismissal: Committee members who are absent without reasonable cause or notice from two meetings annually will be considered to have resigned their seats. TEA will move to fill the position following the TAAG nomination process.