The Texas Education Agency (TEA) proposes an amendment to §100.1010, concerning open-enrollment charter schools. The proposed amendment would adopt in rule the 2020 Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF) Manual, which would be updated to comply with statutory provisions and clarify the operation of the CSPF to rate the performance of open-enrollment charter schools in Texas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: Section 100.1010 was adopted to be effective on September 18, 2014, and was last amended to be effective June 11, 2020. The rule is issued under Texas Education Code, §12.1181, which requires the commissioner to develop and adopt frameworks by which the performance of open-enrollment charter schools is measured. The performance frameworks (charter schools measured under standard accountability and charter schools measured under alternative education accountability) consist of several indices within academic, financial, and operational categories with data drawn from various sources, as reflected in the CSPF Manual adopted as a figure in the rule and updated every year.

The proposed amendment would replace the 2019 CSPF Manual with the 2020 CSPF Manual. The 2020 version of the manual would present no significant changes from 2019 except the following.

TEA received approval from the U.S. Department of Education on March 30, 2020, to waive statewide assessment and accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, for the 2019-2020 school year. Consequently, for 2020 state academic accountability all Texas districts and campuses will receive a label of Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster.

Throughout the manual, language would be revised with technical edits, including clarification of the way to which CSPF standards are referred.

FISCAL IMPACT: Kelvey Oeser, deputy commissioner for educator support, has determined that for the first five-year period the proposal is in effect there are no additional costs to state or local government, including open-enrollment charter schools, required to comply with the proposal.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT: The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code, §2001.022.

SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT: The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis, specified in Texas Government Code, §2006.002, is required.

COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS: The proposal does not impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government and, therefore, is not subject to Texas Government Code, §2001.0045.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, §2007.043.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT: TEA staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency; would not create a new regulation; would not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS: Ms. Oeser has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the proposal would be ensuring that statutorily required charter school performance frameworks data is gathered and used as accurately as possible. There is no anticipated economic cost to persons who are required to comply with the proposal.

DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT: The proposal would have no data and reporting impact.
PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: TEA has determined that the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public comment period on the proposal begins September 3, 2021, and ends October 4, 2021. A request for a public hearing on the proposal submitted under the Administrative Procedure Act must be received by the commissioner of education not more than 14 calendar days after notice of the proposal has been published in the Texas Register on September 3, 2021. A form for submitting public comments is available on the TEA website at https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/Commissioner_Rules_(TAC)/Proposed_Commissioner_of_Education_Rules/.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The amendment is proposed under Texas Education Code (TEC), §12.1181, which directs the commissioner of education to develop and adopt open-enrollment charter school performance frameworks; and TEC, §29.259, which directs the commissioner of education to establish an adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school program, including adoption of frameworks to measure the performance of such a school.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The amendment implements Texas Education Code, §12.1181 and §29.259.

§100.1010. Performance Frameworks.

(a) The performance of an open-enrollment charter school will be measured annually against a set of criteria set forth in the Charter School Performance Framework [Frameworks] (CSPF) Manual established under Texas Education Code (TEC), §12.1181. The CSPF Manual will include measures for charters registered under the standard accountability system and measures for charters registered under the alternative education accountability system as adopted under §97.1001 of this title (relating to Accountability Rating System).

(b) The performance of an adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school will be measured annually in the CSPF against a set of criteria established under TEC, §29.259.


Figure: 19 TAC §100.1010(c) [Figure: 19 TAC §100.1010(c)]