

**Item 12:**  
**Consideration of and Opportunity to Approve A Panel of  
Experts for Dyslexia Educator Preparation Required in Texas  
Education Code §21.044 (b)(c)(1)(2)**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) the opportunity to approve the proposed panel of experts for dyslexia educator preparation. The proposed panel would be necessary as a result of Senate Bill (SB) 866, 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature, First Called Session, 2011, which requires a panel of experts from institutions of higher education to create modules addressing characteristics of dyslexia, the identification of dyslexia, and effective multisensory strategies for teaching students identified with dyslexia.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority to appoint an expert panel is Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.044 (b)(c)(1)(2).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon Board approval.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:** None.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:** Since 1985, the state has mandated that Texas classroom teachers detect and remediate students with dyslexia. The SBEC is statutorily authorized to approve a panel of experts to address dyslexia training for institutions of higher learning. Under TEC §21.044, Subsection (b), a panel expert must be employed by an institution of higher education and must be approved by the SBEC. The statute states that instruction must include information on the characteristics of dyslexia, identification of dyslexia, and effective, multisensory strategies for teaching students with dyslexia.

The proposed panel of experts presented to the Board for approval includes a former regional state dyslexia consultant currently teaching at Texas A&M University, a former state dyslexia coordinator for Texas Education Agency (TEA), professors and lecturers from Texas A&M University, Southern Methodist University, and Midwestern State University who currently provide undergraduate and graduate degrees in dyslexia training. Many have been classroom teachers, reading specialists, and educational diagnosticians and are members of the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), a professional association for dyslexia therapists. Several of the proposed panel members contributed to the writing of the TEA Dyslexia Handbook.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the approval of the expert panel will strengthen educator preparation programs and certification in the state to ensure that students identified with dyslexia have teachers trained to detect and provide a quality education.

**PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:** None.

**LOCALLY MAINTAINED PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**OTHER COMMENTS AND RELATED ISSUES:** The panel of experts will meet throughout the academic year with multiple committees who will advise and make recommendations to the Division of Educator Certification and Standards about training of future educators.

**ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend that the State Board for Educator Certification approve the panel of experts for dyslexia educator preparation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Smisko, Ph.D.  
Associate Commissioner  
Educator Leadership and Quality

**Staff Member Responsible:** Janice Lopez, Ph.D., Director  
Educator Certification and Standards

**Attachment:** Proposed Panel of Experts Members

**Proposed Panel of Experts for Dyslexia Educator Preparation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Avrit, Karen	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital - President-Elect, Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA)	karen.avrit@tsrh.org
Groce, Jeanetta	Texas A&M University	jeanetta_groce@tamu- commerce.edu
Macik, Helen	Southern Methodist University, President/Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA)	hmacik@smu.edu
Peterson, Kay	Literacy, Education & Academic Development	kfp@leadabcd.com
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