

Chapter 33. Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies, and Guidelines of the Texas Permanent School Fund

Subchapter A. State Board of Education Rules

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter A issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(31) and (33), 43.001, 43.0031, 43.0033, 43.004, and 43.0052; Texas Government Code, §2263.004; Texas Natural Resources Code, §§32.012, 32.0161, 32.068, and 51.414; and Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5(a), (d), and (f), unless otherwise noted.

§33.1. Constitutional Authority and Constitutional Restrictions.

- (a) The Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) is comprised of the principal of investment assets and the principal arising from the sale of the lands set apart for the PSF, including dividends and other income to the fund. The total amount distributed from the permanent school fund to the available school fund:
- (1) must be an amount that is not more than 6.0% of the average of the market value of the permanent school fund, excluding real property belonging to the fund that is managed, sold, or acquired under the Texas Constitution, Article VII, §4, but including discretionary real assets investments and cash in the state treasury derived from property belonging to the fund, on the last day of each of the 16 state fiscal quarters preceding the regular session of the legislature that begins before that state fiscal biennium, in accordance with the rate adopted by:
 - (A) a vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the State Board of Education, taken before the regular session of the legislature convenes; or
 - (B) the legislature by general law or appropriation, if the State Board of Education does not adopt a rate as provided by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and
 - (2) over the 10-year period consisting of the current state fiscal year and the nine preceding state fiscal years, may not exceed the total return on all investment assets of the permanent school fund over the same 10-year period.
- (b) In managing the assets of the PSF, the State Board of Education (SBOE) may acquire, exchange, sell, supervise, manage, or retain, through procedures and subject to restrictions it establishes and in amounts it considers appropriate, any kind of investment, including investments in the Texas Growth Fund created by the Texas Constitution, Article XVI, §70, that persons of ordinary prudence, discretion, and intelligence, exercising the judgment and care under the circumstances then prevailing, acquire or retain for their own account in the management of their affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of their capital.

Source: The provisions of this §33.1 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective March 31, 2004, 29 TexReg 3174; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039.

§33.2. Distributions to the Available School Fund.

Each year, the State Board of Education (SBOE) shall determine whether a distribution to the Available School Fund (ASF) shall be made for the current state fiscal year. The SBOE shall determine whether such distribution is permitted under the Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5(a)(2). The annual determination for the current fiscal year shall include a projection of the expected total return of the Permanent School Fund (PSF) at the end of the current fiscal year and the realized returns during the nine preceding state fiscal years. Any one-year distribution to the ASF shall not exceed 6.0% of the average market value of the PSF, excluding real property managed, sold, or acquired under the Texas Constitution, Article VII, §4, as determined under the Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5(a)(1).

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §33.2 issued under the Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5(a)(2) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §33.2 adopted to be effective April 21, 2010, 35 TexReg 3027.

§33.5. Code of Ethics.

- (a) General principles. The Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) is held in public trust for the benefit of the schoolchildren of Texas. All those charged with the management of the PSF will aspire to the highest standards of ethical conduct. The purpose of the PSF code of ethics is to assist and help guide all such persons in the proper discharge of their duties and to assist them in avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.
- (b) Fiduciary responsibility. The members of the State Board of Education (SBOE) serve as fiduciaries of the PSF and are responsible for prudently investing its assets. The SBOE members or anyone acting on their behalf shall comply with the provisions of this section, the Texas Constitution, Texas statutes, and all other applicable provisions governing the responsibilities of a fiduciary.
- (c) Compliance with constitution and code of ethics. The SBOE members are public officials governed by the provisions of the Texas Government Ethics Act, as stated in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 572.
- (d) Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings.
 - (1) SBOE Member, for the purposes of the PSF code of ethics, means a member of the SBOE, and shall be deemed to include the SBOE Member or a person related to the member within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity.
 - (2) Person means any individual, corporation, firm, limited liability company, limited partnership, trust, association, or other legal entity.
 - (3) Investment manager or manager means a Person who manages and invests PSF assets and may be either an internal investment manager or an external investment manager.
 - (4) PSF Service Providers are the following Persons:
 - (A) any Person who is an external investment manager, as described in §33.20(c)(1) of this title (relating to Responsible Parties and Their Duties), or who is responsible by contract for providing legal advice regarding the PSF, executing PSF brokerage transactions, or acting as a custodian of the PSF;
 - (B) a member of the Committee of Investment Advisors;
 - (C) any Person who is Investment Counsel as described in §33.20(c)(4) of this title or provides consultant services for compensation regarding the management and investment of the PSF;
 - (D) any Person who provides investment and management advice to an SBOE Member, with or without compensation, if an SBOE Member:
 - (i) gives the Person access to PSF records or information that are identified as confidential; or
 - (ii) asks the Person to interview, meet with, or otherwise confer with a PSF Service Provider, Fund Manager, or TEA staff;
 - (E) any Person who is a member of the PSF staff who is responsible for managing or investing assets of the PSF, executing brokerage transactions, acting as a custodian of the PSF, or providing investment or management advice regarding the investment or management of the PSF to an SBOE Member or PSF staff;
 - (F) any Person who is a member of TEA legal staff who is responsible for providing legal advice regarding the investment or management of the PSF; or
 - (G) any Person who submits a response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ), or similar types of solicitations, while such response is pending. An applicant is not required to file reports under this section except as required in the RFP or RFQ process.

- (5) Expenditure, for purposes of this section, means any expenditure other than an expenditure made on behalf of an employee acting in the scope of their employment.
 - (6) Fund Manager means the Person, except the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or a member of the PSF staff, who controls a non-publicly traded investment fund or other investment vehicle (which, by way of example but without limitation, may include a partnership, a limited liability company, trust, association, or other entity) in which the PSF is invested, such as the Person who acts as the vehicle's sponsor, general partner, managing member, manager, or adviser. For purposes of this chapter, Fund Managers are not considered to be PSF Service Providers, external investment managers, consultants, or Investment Counsel.
- (e) Assets affected by this section. The provisions of this section apply to all PSF assets, both publicly and nonpublicly traded investments.
 - (f) General ethical standards.
 - (1) SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers must comply with all laws applicable to them, which may include one or more of the following statutes: Texas Government Code, Chapter 2263 (Ethics and Disclosure Requirements for Outside Financial Advisors and Service Providers), §572.051 (Standards of Conduct; State Agency Ethics Policy), §552.352 (Distribution or Misuse of Confidential Information), §572.002 (General Definitions), §572.004 (Definition: Regulation), §572.054 (Representation by Former Officer or Employee of Regulatory Agency Restricted; Criminal Offense), §572.058 (Private Interest in Measure or Decision; Disclosure; Removal from Office for Violation), §572.021 (Financial Statement Required), §2252.908 (Disclosure of Interested Parties), and Chapter 305 (Registration of Lobbyists); Texas Penal Code, Chapter 36 (Bribery and Corrupt Influence) and Chapter 39 (Abuse of Office); and Texas Education Code, §43.0031 (Permanent School Fund Ethics Policy), §43.0032 (Conflicts of Interest), and §43.0033 (Reports of Expenditures). The omission of any applicable statute listed in this paragraph does not excuse violation of its provisions. Fund Managers must comply with all applicable laws, including laws governing the investment vehicle, as provided in the governing documents of the investment vehicle.
 - (2) SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers must be honest in the exercise of their duties and must not take actions that will discredit the PSF.
 - (3) SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers shall be loyal to the interests of the PSF to the extent that such loyalty is not in conflict with other duties, which legally have priority. SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers shall avoid personal, employment, or business relationships that create conflicts of interest as defined in subsection (i)(1) of this section. Should an SBOE Member or a PSF Service Provider become aware of any conflict of interest involving himself or herself or another SBOE Member, PSF Service Provider, or Fund Manager, he or she has an affirmative duty to disclose the conflict to the SBOE chair and vice chair and the commissioner within seven days of discovering the conflict and, in the case of a conflict involving himself or herself, to cure the conflict in a manner provided for under this section prior to the next SBOE or committee meeting and such SBOE Member shall take no action nor participate in the RFP or RFQ process, or similar types of solicitations, that concerns the conflict.
 - (4) SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers shall not use nonpublic information gained through their relationship with the PSF to seek or obtain personal gain beyond agreed compensation and/or any properly authorized expense reimbursement. This should not be interpreted to forbid the use of PSF as a reference or the communication to others of the fact that a relationship with PSF exists, provided that no misrepresentation is involved.
 - (5) An SBOE Member shall report in writing the name and address of any PSF Service Provider, as defined by subsection (d)(4)(D) of this section, who provides investment and management advice to that SBOE Member. The SBOE Member shall submit the report to the commissioner of education for distribution to the SBOE within 30 days of the PSF Service Provider first providing investment and management advice to that SBOE Member.

- (6) SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers shall report in writing any action described by the Texas Education Code, §7.108, to the commissioner of education for distribution to the SBOE within seven days of discovering the violation.
- (7) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall not make any gift or donation to a school or other charitable interest on behalf of, at the request of, or in coordination with an SBOE Member. Any PSF Service Provider, Fund Manager, or SBOE Member shall disclose in writing to the commissioner of education any information regarding such a donation.
- (8) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall disclose in writing to the commissioner of education for dissemination to all SBOE Members any business or financial transaction greater than \$50 in value with an SBOE Member, the commissioner of education, or any member of PSF staff or TEA legal staff who is a PSF Service Provider within 30 days of the transaction. Excluded from this subsection are checking accounts, savings accounts, credit cards, brokerage accounts, mutual funds, or other financial accounts that are provided to the SBOE Member or to a member of the PSF staff or TEA legal staff under the same terms and conditions as they are provided to members of the general public.
- (9) An SBOE Member shall disclose in writing to the commissioner of education on a quarterly basis any business or financial transaction greater than \$50 in value between the SBOE Member, or a business entity in which the SBOE Member has a significant ownership interest, and a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager. A report shall be filed even if there has not been a business or financial transaction greater than \$50 in value between the SBOE Member, or a business entity in which the SBOE Member has a significant ownership interest, and a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager. Excluded from this subsection are checking accounts, savings accounts, credit cards, brokerage accounts, mutual funds, or other financial accounts that are provided to an SBOE Member under the same terms and conditions as they are provided to members of the general public. The reports shall be filed on or before January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 and shall cover the preceding three calendar months. The first report filed for each SBOE Member shall cover the preceding one-year period. Subsection (u) of this section does not apply to the first report filed. The commissioner of education shall communicate the information included in the disclosure to all SBOE Members.
- (g) Notification of disclosure. In order to preserve the integrity and public trust in the PSF, it is deemed necessary and appropriate to allow all SBOE Members a reasonable time to promptly review and respond to any disclosures or written inquiries made by applicants or made by PSF Service Providers as provided in SBOE operating procedures. In compliance with Texas Government Code, §2156.123, no SBOE Member or PSF Service Provider should publicly disclose any submission materials prior to completion of the RFP or RFQ process. For purposes of this subsection, an RFP or RFQ is completed upon final award of an RFP, or selection of qualified bidders for an RFQ, or closure without any selection. This subsection does not allow an SBOE Member to refrain from publicly disclosing a conflict of interest as required by subsections (f)(3) and (i)(4) of this section and Texas Government Code, §572.058.
- (h) Disclosure.
- (1) If an SBOE Member solicited a specific investment action by the PSF staff or a PSF Service Provider or a Fund Manager, the SBOE Member shall publicly disclose the fact to the SBOE in a public meeting. The disclosure shall be entered into the minutes of the meeting. For purposes of this section, a matter is a prospective directive to the PSF staff or a PSF Service Provider or a Fund Manager to undertake a specific investment or divestiture of securities for the PSF. This term does not include ratification of prior securities transactions performed by the PSF staff or a PSF Service Provider and does not include an action to allocate classes of assets within the PSF.
- (2) In addition, an SBOE Member shall fully disclose any substantial interest in any publicly or nonpublicly traded PSF investment (business entity) on the SBOE Member's annual financial report filed with the Texas Ethics Commission pursuant to Texas Government Code, §572.021. An SBOE Member has a substantial interest if the SBOE Member:
- (A) has a controlling interest in the business entity;

- (B) owns more than 10% of the voting interest in the business entity;
 - (C) owns more than \$25,000 of the fair market value of the business entity;
 - (D) has a direct or indirect participating interest by shares, stock, or otherwise, regardless of whether voting rights are included, in more than 10% of the profits, proceeds, or capital gains of the business entity;
 - (E) is a member of the board of directors or other governing board of the business entity;
 - (F) serves as an elected officer of the business entity; or
 - (G) is an employee of the business entity.
- (i) Conflicts of interest.
- (1) A conflict of interest exists whenever SBOE Members or PSF Service Providers have business, commercial, or other relationships, including, but not limited to, personal and private relationships, that could reasonably be expected to diminish their independence of judgment in the performance of their duties. For example, a person's independence of judgment is diminished when the person is in a position to take action or not take action with respect to PSF and such act or failure to act is, may be, or reasonably appears to be influenced by considerations of personal gain or benefit rather than motivated by the interests of the PSF. Conflicts include, but are not limited to, beneficial interests in securities, corporate directorships, trustee positions, familial relationships, or other special relationships that could reasonably be considered a conflict of interest with the duties to the PSF. Further, Texas Education Code, §43.0032, requires disclosure and no participation, unless a waiver is granted, when an SBOE Member or a PSF Service Provider has a business, commercial, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to diminish a person's independence of judgment in the performance of the person's responsibilities relating to the management or investment of the PSF. Such business, commercial, or other relationship is defined to be a relationship that is prohibited under Texas Government Code, §572.051, or that would require public disclosure under Texas Government Code, §572.058, or a relationship that does not rise to this level but that is determined by the SBOE to create an unacceptable risk to the integrity and reputation of the PSF investment program.
 - (2) Any SBOE Member or PSF Service Provider who has a possible conflict of interest as defined in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall disclose the possible conflict to the commissioner of education and the chair and vice chair of the SBOE on the disclosure form. The disclosure form is provided in this paragraph entitled "Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form."
[Figure: 19 TAC §33.5\(i\)\(2\)](#)
 - (3) A person who files a statement under paragraph (2) of this subsection disclosing a possible conflict of interest may not give advice or make decisions about a matter affected by the possible conflict of interest unless the SBOE, after consultation with the general counsel of the TEA, expressly waives this prohibition. The SBOE may delegate the authority to waive this prohibition. If a waiver is not granted by the SBOE or its delegate to an SBOE Member or a PSF Service Provider for a possible conflict of interest, the SBOE Member or PSF Service Provider may request an opinion from the Texas Ethics Commission as to a determination of whether a conflict of interest exists. An SBOE Member will be given the assistance of the TEA ethics advisor to help draft a request for an opinion, if such assistance is requested. When the SBOE Member or PSF Service Provider receives the opinion of the Texas Ethics Commission and if a waiver is still sought, the SBOE Member or PSF Service Provider shall forward the opinion to the SBOE chair and vice chair and the commissioner. An opinion of the Texas Ethics Commission that determines a conflict exists is final and the SBOE may not waive the conflict of interest. An opinion of the Texas Ethics Commission that determines that no conflict exists will automatically result in an SBOE waiver.
 - (4) If an SBOE Member believes he or she has a conflict of interest based on the existence of certain relationships described in Texas Government Code, §572.058, the SBOE Member shall publicly disclose the conflict at an SBOE meeting or committee meeting and the SBOE Member shall not

vote or otherwise participate in any decision involving the conflict. In accordance with Texas Government Code, §572.058, the SBOE may not waive the prohibition under this paragraph. This requirement is in addition to the requirement of filing a disclosure under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

- (5) Texas Government Code, §572.051, establishes standards of conduct for state officers and employees. SBOE Members and TEA employees shall abide by these standards.
- (j) Prohibited transactions and interests.
- (1) For purposes of this section, the term "direct placement" (with respect to investments that are not publicly traded) is defined as a direct sale of fixed income securities, generally to institutional investors, with or without the use of brokers or underwriters, primarily offered to Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) and not registered by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The term does not include offerings or sales of interests in investment funds or investment vehicles.
 - (2) For the purposes of this section, the term "placement agent" is defined as any third party, whether or not affiliated with a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager, that is a party to an agreement or arrangement (whether written or oral) with a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager for direct or indirect payment of a fee in connection with a PSF investment.
 - (3) No SBOE Member or PSF Service Provider shall:
 - (A) have a financial interest in a direct placement investment of the PSF;
 - (B) serve as an officer, director, or employee of an entity in which a direct placement investment is made by the PSF; or
 - (C) serve as a consultant to, or receive any fee, commission or payment from, an entity in which a direct placement investment is made by the PSF.
 - (4) No SBOE Member shall:
 - (A) act as a representative or agent of a third party in dealing with a PSF investment manager, Investment Counsel, or consultant in connection with a PSF investment; or
 - (B) be employed for two years after the end of his or her term on the SBOE with an organization in which the PSF invested, unless the organization's stock or other evidence of ownership is traded on the public stock or bond exchanges.
 - (5) A PSF Service Provider shall
 - not act as a representative or agent of a third party in dealing with a PSF investment manager, Investment Counsel, or consultant in connection with a PSF investment.
 - (6) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall, except as approved by the SBOE, not use a placement agent in connection with a PSF investment unless:
 - (A) the relationship of the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager with the placement agent, any compensation, and a description of the services provided by the placement agent in connection with a PSF investment are disclosed in writing to PSF staff;
 - (B) the placement agent is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) or, if not required to register with the SEC or FINRA, is registered with an applicable regulatory body;
 - (C) such placement agent does not share any fees with a non-registered person or entity; and
 - (D) in executed closing documents for the PSF investment, the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager contractually represents and warrants that the information provided about the placement agent is true, correct, and complete in all material respects, provided that information provided by the placement agent is, to the knowledge of the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager, true, correct, and complete in all material respects.

- (7) A placement agent shall file campaign contribution reports in the same manner as does a PSF Service Provider under subsection (o)(1) of this section for the period during which the placement agent provides services in connection with a PSF investment.
- (k) Solicitation of support. No SBOE Member shall solicit or receive a campaign contribution on behalf of any political candidate, political party, or political committee from a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager. The PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall report any such incident in writing to the commissioner of education for distribution to the SBOE.
- (l) Hiring external professionals. The SBOE may contract with investment managers to make or assist with PSF investments. The SBOE has the authority and responsibility to hire other external professionals, including custodians, Investment Counsel, or consultants. The SBOE shall select each professional based on merit and cost and subject to the provisions of §33.55 of this title (relating to Standards for Selecting Consultants, Investment Managers, Custodians, and Other Professionals To Provide Outside Expertise for the Fund).
- (m) Responsibilities of PSF Service Providers and Fund Managers. The PSF Service Providers and Fund Managers shall be notified in writing of the code of ethics contained in this section. Any existing contracts for investment and any future investment shall strictly conform to this code of ethics. The PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall report in writing any suggestion or offer by an SBOE Member to deviate from the provisions of this section to the commissioner of education for distribution to the SBOE within 30 days of the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager discovering the violation. The PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall report in writing any violation of this code of ethics committed by another PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager to the commissioner of education for distribution to the SBOE within 30 days of the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager discovering the violation. A PSF Service Provider or other person retained in a fiduciary capacity must comply with the provisions of this section.
- (n) Gifts and entertainment.
- (1) Bribery. SBOE Members are prohibited from soliciting, offering, or accepting gifts, payments, and other items of value in exchange for an official act, including a vote, recommendation, or any other exercise of official discretion pursuant to Texas Penal Code, §36.02.
- (2) Acceptance of gifts.
- (A) An SBOE Member may not accept gifts, favors, services, or benefits that may reasonably tend to influence the SBOE Member's official conduct or that the SBOE Member knows or should know are intended to influence the SBOE Member's official conduct. For purposes of this paragraph, a gift does not include an item with a value of less than \$50, excluding cash, checks, loans, direct deposit, or negotiable instruments.
- (B) An SBOE Member may not accept a gift, favor, service, or benefit from a Person that the SBOE Member knows is interested or is likely to become interested in a charter, contract, purchase, payment, claim, or other pecuniary transaction over which the SBOE has discretion.
- (C) An SBOE Member may not accept a gift, favor, service, or benefit from a Person that the SBOE Member knows to be subject to the regulation, inspection, or investigation of the SBOE or the TEA.
- (D) An SBOE Member may not solicit, accept, or agree to accept a gift, favor, service, or benefit from a Person with whom the SBOE Member knows that civil or criminal litigation is pending or contemplated by the SBOE or the TEA.
- (E) Except as prohibited in subparagraphs (A)-(D) of this paragraph and subject to the requirements for PSF Service Providers, Fund Managers, and lobbyists in subparagraph (F) of this paragraph, an SBOE Member may accept a gift, favor, service, or benefit if it fits into one of the following categories:
- (i) items worth less than \$50, but may not be cash, checks, loans, or negotiable instruments;

- (ii) item is given in the context of a relationship, such as kinship, or a personal, professional, or business relationship that is independent of the SBOE Member's official capacity;
 - (iii) fees for services rendered outside the SBOE Member's official capacity;
 - (iv) government property issued by a governmental entity that allows the use of the property; or
 - (v) food, lodging, entertainment, and transportation, if accepted as a guest and the donor is present.
- (F) In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (E) of this paragraph, the following provisions govern the disposition of an individual who is a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager or who is both a lobbyist registered with the Texas Ethics Commission and who represents a person subject to the SBOE's or the TEA's regulation, inspection, or investigation. A gift, favor, service, or benefit from a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager or lobbyist will not be considered a violation of the prohibition set forth in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.
- (i) An SBOE Member may not accept the following from a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager or lobbyist, even if otherwise permitted under subparagraph (E) of this paragraph:
 - (I) loans, cash, checks, direct deposits, or negotiable instruments;
 - (II) transportation or lodging for a pleasure trip;
 - (III) transportation or lodging in connection with a fact-finding trip or to a seminar or conference at which the SBOE Member does not provide services;
 - (IV) entertainment worth more than \$250 in a calendar year;
 - (V) gifts, other than awards and mementos, that combined are worth more than \$250 in value for a calendar year. Gifts do not include food, entertainment, lodging, and transportation if accepted as a guest and the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager or lobbyist is present; or
 - (VI) individual awards and mementos worth more than \$250 each if from a lobbyist or worth \$50 or more each if from a PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager.
 - (ii) An SBOE Member may accept food and beverages as a guest if the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager or lobbyist is present.
- (G) An SBOE Member may not solicit, agree to accept, or accept an honorarium in consideration for services that the SBOE Member would not have been asked to provide but for the SBOE Member's official position. An SBOE Member may accept food, transportation, and lodging in connection with a speech performed as a result of the SBOE Member's position in accordance with the rulings with the Texas Ethics Commission, which may place limitations on the type of entity that may fund such travel. An SBOE Member must report the food, lodging, or transportation accepted under this subparagraph in the SBOE Member's annual personal financial statement.
- (H) Under no circumstances shall an SBOE Member accept a prohibited gift if the source of the gift is not identified or if the SBOE Member knows or has reason to know that the gift is being offered through an intermediary.
- (I) If an unsolicited prohibited gift is received by an SBOE Member, he or she should return the gift to its source. If that is not possible or feasible, the gift should be donated to charity. The SBOE Member shall report the return of the gift or the donation of the gift to the commissioner of education.

- (J) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall file a report annually with the TEA's PSF office, in the format specified by the PSF staff, on or before January 31 of each year. The report shall be for the time period beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of the previous year. The expenditure report must describe in detail any expenditure of more than \$50 made by the Person on behalf of:
- (i) an SBOE Member;
 - (ii) the commissioner of education; or
 - (iii) an employee of the TEA or of a nonprofit corporation created under the Texas Education Code, §43.006.
- (K) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall file a report annually with the TEA's PSF office, in the format specified by the PSF staff, on or before January 31 of each year. The report will be deemed to be filed when it is actually received. The report shall be for the time period beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of the previous year. It shall list any individuals who served in any of the following capacities at any time during the reporting period:
- (i) all members of the governing body of the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager;
 - (ii) the officers of the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager;
 - (iii) any broker who conducts transactions with PSF funds;
 - (iv) all members of the governing body of the firm of a broker who conducts transactions with PSF funds; and
 - (v) all officers of the firm of a broker who conducts transactions with PSF funds.
- (L) This subsection does not apply to campaign contributions.
- (M) Each SBOE Member and each PSF Service Provider and Fund Manager shall, no later than April 15, file an annual report affirmatively disclosing any violation of this code of ethics known to that Person during the time period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the previous year which has not previously been disclosed in writing to the commissioner of education for distribution to all board members, or affirmatively state that the Person has no knowledge of any such violation. For purposes of this subparagraph only, "SBOE Member" means only the individual elected official.
- (o) Campaign contributions.
- (1) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager shall, no later than January 31 and July 31, file a semi-annual report of each political contribution that the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager has made to an SBOE Member or a candidate seeking election to the SBOE in writing to the commissioner of education. The report shall be for the six-month time period preceding the reporting dates and include the name of each SBOE Member or candidate seeking election to the SBOE who received a contribution, the amount of each contribution, and date of each contribution. Subsection (u) of this section does not apply to the first report filed. A report shall be filed even if the PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager made no reportable contribution during the reporting period to an SBOE Member or a candidate seeking election to the SBOE. The commissioner of education shall communicate the information included in the disclosure to all SBOE Members.
 - (2) Any person or firm filing a response to an RFP or RFQ relating to the management and investments of the PSF shall disclose in the response whether at any time in the preceding four years from the due date of the response to the RFP or RFQ the person or firm has made a campaign contribution to a candidate for or member of the SBOE.
- (p) Compliance with professional standards.

- (1) SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers who are members of professional organizations which promulgate standards of conduct must comply with those standards.
 - (2) To the extent applicable to them, PSF Service Providers must comply with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute.
- (q) Transactions involving PSF Service Providers or Fund Managers.
- (1) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager other than a PSF executing broker shall not engage in any transaction involving the assets of the PSF with a Person who is an SBOE Member, Investment Counsel, a consultant to the SBOE or to an SBOE Member, or a member of the PSF staff or TEA legal staff who is responsible for managing or investing assets of the PSF or providing investment or management advice or legal advice regarding the investment or management of the PSF.
 - (2) A PSF Service Provider or Fund Manager other than a PSF executing broker shall report to the SBOE on a quarterly basis all investment transactions or trades and any fees or compensation paid or received in connection with the transactions or trades with a Person who is an SBOE Member, Investment Counsel, a consultant to the SBOE or an SBOE Member, or a member of the PSF staff or TEA legal staff who is responsible for managing or investing assets of the PSF or providing investment or management advice or legal advice regarding the investment or management of the PSF.
- (r) Compliance and enforcement.
- (1) The SBOE will enforce this section through its chair or vice chair or the commissioner of education.
 - (2) Any violation of this section will be reported to the chair and vice chair of the SBOE and the commissioner of education and a recommended action will be presented to the SBOE by the chair or the commissioner. A violation of this section may result in the termination of the contract or a lesser sanction. Repeated minor violations may also result in the termination of the contract. With respect to Fund Managers, the recommended action, if any, shall be limited to a withdrawal or other disposition of the PSF's interest in the investment vehicle, each in accordance with the governing documents of the investment vehicle and laws applicable thereto.
 - (3) The PSF compliance officer under the direction of the TEA confidentiality officer shall act as custodian of all statements, waivers, and reports required under this section for purposes of public disclosure requirements.
 - (4) The ethics advisor of the TEA shall respond to inquiries from the SBOE Members and PSF Service Providers concerning the provisions of this section. The ethics advisor may confer with the general counsel and the executive administrator of the PSF.
 - (5) No payment shall be made to a PSF Service Provider who has failed to timely file a completed report as described by subsection (m) of this section, until a completed report is filed.
- (s) Ethics training. The SBOE shall receive annual training regarding state ethics laws through the Texas Ethics Commission and the TEA's ethics advisor.
- (t) TEA general ethical standards. The commissioner of education and PSF staff shall comply with the General Ethical Standards for the Staff of the Permanent School Fund and the Commissioner of Education.
- (u) Reporting period. A new report required by an amendment to the code of ethics need only concern events after the effective date of the amendment. An amendment to a rule that presently requires a report does not affect the reporting period unless the amendment explicitly changes the reporting period.
- (v) Statutory statement.
- (1) A "statutory financial advisor or service provider" as defined in this subsection shall on or before April 15 file a statement as required by Texas Government Code, §2263.005, with the commissioner of education and the state auditor, for the previous calendar year. The statement will be deemed filed when it is actually received. A statutory financial advisor or service provider shall

promptly file a new or amended statement with the commissioner of education and the state auditor whenever there is new information required to be reported under Texas Government Code, §2263.005(a).

- (2) A "statutory financial advisor or service provider" is a member of the Committee of Investment Advisors or an individual or business entity, including a financial advisor, financial consultant, money or investment manager, or broker, who is not an employee of the TEA, but who provides financial services or advice to the TEA or the SBOE or an SBOE member in connection with the management and investment of the PSF and who may reasonably be expected to receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$5,000 in compensation from the TEA or the SBOE during a fiscal year.
- (3) An annual statement required to be filed under this subsection will be made using the form developed by the state auditor.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §33.5 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(31) and (33), 43.0031-43.0034, and 43.004; Texas Government Code, §2263.004; and Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5.

Source: The provisions of this §33.5 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective April 2, 2000, 25 TexReg 2564; amended to be effective December 3, 2000, 25 TexReg 11648; amended to be effective December 15, 2002, 27 TexReg 11533; amended to be effective December 7, 2003, 28 TexReg 10930; amended to be effective October 10, 2004, 29 TexReg 9354; amended to be effective October 15, 2006, 31 TexReg 8347; amended to be effective August 24, 2008, 33 TexReg 6586; amended to be effective July 1, 2010, 35 TexReg 5529; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective May 28, 2018, 43 TexReg 3354; amended to be effective April 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 2231.

§33.10. Purposes of Texas Permanent School Fund Assets and the Statement of Investment Policy.

- (a) The purpose of the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF), as defined by the Texas Constitution, shall be to support and maintain an efficient system of public free schools. The State Board of Education (SBOE) views the PSF as a perpetual institution. Consistent with its perpetual nature, the PSF shall be an endowment fund with a long-term investment horizon. The SBOE shall strive to manage the PSF consistently with respect to the following: generating income for the benefit of the public free schools of Texas, the real growth of the corpus of the PSF, protecting capital, and balancing the needs of present and future generations of Texas school children. The PSF will strive to maintain intergenerational equity by attempting to pay out a constant distribution and maintain the value of assets per student after adjusting for inflation.
- (b) The purposes of the investment policy statement are to:
 - (1) specify the investment objectives, policies, and guidelines the SBOE considers appropriate and prudent, considering the needs of the PSF, and to comply with the Texas Constitution by directing PSF assets;
 - (2) establish SBOE performance criteria for an investment manager;
 - (3) communicate the investment objectives, guidelines, and performance criteria to the SBOE, PSF investment staff and managers, and all other parties;
 - (4) guide the ongoing oversight of PSF investment and test compliance with the Texas Constitution and other applicable statutes;
 - (5) document that the SBOE is fulfilling its responsibilities for managing PSF investments solely in the interests of the PSF;
 - (6) document that the SBOE is fulfilling its responsibilities under Texas law; and
 - (7) provide transparency and accountability to the citizens of Texas.

Source: The provisions of this §33.10 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective October 10, 2004, 29 TexReg 9357; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707.

§33.15. Objectives.

- (a) Investment objectives.
 - (1) Investment objectives have been formulated based on the following considerations:
 - (A) the anticipated financial needs of the Texas public free school system in light of expected future contributions to the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF);
 - (B) the need to preserve capital;
 - (C) the risk tolerance set by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the need for diversification;
 - (D) observations about historical rates of return on various asset classes;
 - (E) assumptions about current and projected capital market and general economic conditions and expected levels of inflation;
 - (F) the need to maintain liquidity in the PSF Liquid Account;
 - (G) the need to invest according to the prudent person rule; and
 - (H) the need to document investment objectives, guidelines, and performance standards.
 - (2) Investment objectives represent desired results and are long-term in nature, covering typical market cycles of three to five years. Any shortfall in meeting the objectives should be explainable in terms of general economic and capital market conditions and asset allocation.
 - (3) The investment objectives are consistent with generally accepted standards of fiduciary responsibility.
 - (4) Under the provisions of this chapter, investment managers shall have discretion and authority to implement security selection and timing.
- (b) Goal and objectives for the PSF.
 - (1) Goal. The goal of the SBOE for the PSF shall be to invest for the benefit of current and future generations of Texans consistent with the safety of principal, considering the strategic asset allocation plan adopted. To achieve this goal, PSF investment shall always be carefully administered.
 - (2) Objectives.
 - (A) The preservation and safety of principal shall be a primary consideration in PSF investment.
 - (B) Fixed income securities shall be purchased at the highest total return consistent with the preservation and safety of principal.
 - (C) To the extent possible, the PSF management shall hedge against inflation.
 - (D) Securities, except investments for cash management purposes, shall be selected for investment on the basis of long-term investment merits rather than short-term gains.
- (c) Investment rate of return and risk objectives.
 - (1) Because the education needs of the future generations of Texas school children are long-term in nature, the return objective of the PSF shall also be long-term and focused on fairly balancing the benefits between the current generation and future generations while preserving the real per capita value of the PSF.
 - (2) Investment rates of return shall adhere to the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS) guidelines in calculating and reporting investment performance return information.

- (3) The overall risk level of PSF assets in terms of potential for price fluctuation shall not be extreme and risk variances shall be acceptable in the context of the overall goals and objectives for the investment of the PSF assets. The primary means of achieving such a risk profile are:
 - (A) a broad diversification among asset classes that react as independently as possible through varying economic and market circumstances;
 - (B) careful control of risk level within each asset class by avoiding over-concentration and not taking extreme positions against the market indices; and
 - (C) a degree of emphasis on stable growth.
 - (4) Over time, the volatility of returns (or risk) for the total fund, as measured by standard deviation of investment returns, should be comparable to investments in market indices in the proportion in which the PSF invests.
 - (5) The rate of return objective of the total PSF fund shall be to earn, over time, an average annual total rate of return that meets or exceeds the rate of return of a composite benchmark index, consisting of representative benchmark indices for the asset classes in which the PSF is invested that are aggregated in proportion to the strategic target asset allocation of the total PSF fund as determined by the SBOE, while maintaining an acceptable risk level compared to that of the composite benchmark index.
 - (6) The rate of return objective of each asset class in which the PSF is invested, other than the short-term cash fund, shall be to earn, over time, an average annual average rate of return that meets or exceeds that of a representative benchmark index for such asset class in U.S. dollars, combining dividends, capital appreciation, income, and interest income, as applicable, while maintaining an acceptable risk level compared to that of the representative benchmark index.
 - (7) The objective of the short-term cash fund shall be to provide liquidity for the timely payment of security transactions, while earning a competitive return. The expected return, over time, shall meet or exceed that of the representative benchmark index, while maintaining an acceptable risk level compared to that of the representative benchmark index.
 - (8) The objective of the PSF Liquid Account shall be to maintain liquidity for the needs of the School Land Board while earning a competitive return. The expected return, over time, shall meet or exceed that of the representative benchmark index while maintaining an acceptable risk level compared to that of the representative benchmark index.
 - (9) Notwithstanding the risk parameters specified in paragraphs (4)-(6) of this subsection, consideration shall be given to marginal risk variances exceeding the representative benchmark indices if returns are commensurate with the risk levels of the respective portfolios.
- (d) Asset allocation policy.
- (1) The SBOE shall adopt and implement a strategic asset allocation plan based on a well-diversified, balanced investment approach that uses a broad range of asset classes indicated by the following characteristics of the PSF:
 - (A) the long-term nature of the PSF;
 - (B) the spending policy of the PSF;
 - (C) the relatively low liquidity requirements of the PSF;
 - (D) the investment preferences and risk tolerance of the SBOE;
 - (E) the liquidity mandates under the Texas Natural Resources Code, Chapter 51, Subchapter I;
 - (F) the rate of return objectives; and
 - (G) the diversification objectives of the PSF, specified in the Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5(d), the Texas Education Code, Chapter 43, and the provisions of this chapter.

- (2) The strategic asset allocation plan shall contain guideline percentages, at market value of the total fund's assets, to be invested in various asset classes. The guideline percentages will include both a target percentage and an acceptable strategic range for each asset class, recognizing that the target mix may not be attainable at a specific point in time since actual asset allocation will be dictated by current and anticipated market conditions, as well as the overall directions of the SBOE.
- (3) The SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund, with the advice of the PSF investment staff, shall review the provisions of this section at least annually and, as needed, rebalance the assets of the portfolio according to the asset allocation rebalancing procedure specified in the PSF Investment Procedures Manual. The SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall consider the industry diversification and the percentage allocation within the following asset classes:
 - (A) domestic equities;
 - (B) international equities;
 - (C) emerging market equities;
 - (D) domestic fixed income;
 - (E) emerging market debt local currency;
 - (F) real estate;
 - (G) private equity;
 - (H) absolute return;
 - (I) real return;
 - (J) high yield;
 - (K) cash; and
 - (L) other asset classes as approved by the SBOE.
- (4) To the extent practicable, investments shall not exceed the strategic ranges the SBOE establishes for each asset class, recognizing the inability to actively reduce allocations to certain asset classes.
- (5) Periodically, the SBOE shall allocate segments of the total fund to each investment manager and specify guidelines, investment objectives, and standards of performance that apply to those assets.

Source: The provisions of this §33.15 adopted to be effective September 1, 1997, 22 TexReg 4359; amended to be effective March 31, 2004, 29 TexReg 3174; amended to be effective October 10, 2004, 29 TexReg 9357; amended to be effective October 15, 2006, 31 TexReg 8347; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective September 1, 2018, 43 TexReg 3354; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707; amended to be effective April 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 2231.

§33.20. Responsible Parties and Their Duties.

- (a) The Texas Constitution, Article VII, §§1-8, establish the Available School Fund, the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF), and the State Board of Education (SBOE), and specify the standard of care SBOE members must exercise in managing PSF assets. In addition, the constitution directs the legislature to establish suitable provisions for supporting and maintaining an efficient public free school system, defines the composition of the PSF and the Available School Fund, and requires the SBOE to set aside sufficient funds to provide free instructional materials for the use of children attending the public free schools of this state.
- (b) The Texas Natural Resources Code, Chapter 51, Subchapter I, creates the PSF Liquid Account within the PSF to be invested in liquid assets and managed by the SBOE in the same manner it manages the PSF.
- (c) The SBOE shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the PSF and may contract with any of the following parties, whose duties and responsibilities are as follows.

- (1) An external investment manager is a Person the SBOE retains by contract to manage and invest a portion of the PSF assets under specified guidelines.
 - (2) A custodian is an organization, normally a financial company, the SBOE retains to safe keep, and provide accurate and timely reports of, PSF assets.
 - (3) A consultant is a Person the SBOE retains to advise the SBOE on PSF matters based on professional expertise.
 - (4) Investment Counsel is a Person retained under criteria specified in the PSF Investment Procedures Manual to advise PSF investment staff and the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund within the policy framework established by the SBOE. Investment Counsel may be assigned such tasks as asset allocation reviews, manager searches, performance analysis, recommendations on spending policy, performance reporting, and benchmarking and research related to the management of PSF assets, with any such assigned tasks to be performed in consultation with PSF staff.
 - (5) A performance measurement consultant is a Person retained to provide the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund an analysis of the PSF portfolio performance. The outside portfolio performance measurement service firm shall perform the analysis on a quarterly or as-needed basis. Quarterly reports shall be distributed to each member of the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund and Investment Counsel, and a representative of the firm shall be available as necessary to brief the committee.
 - (6) The State Auditor's Office is an independent state agency that performs an annual financial audit of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) at the direction of the Texas Legislature. The financial audit, conducted according to generally accepted auditing standards, is designed to test compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. The state auditor performs tests of the transactions of the PSF Investment Office as part of this annual audit, including compliance with governing statutes and SBOE policies and directives. The TEA Internal Audit Division will participate in the audit process by participating in entrance and exit conferences, being provided copies of all reports and management letters furnished by the external auditor, and having access to the external auditor's audit programs and working papers.
 - (7) The SBOE may retain independent external auditors to review the PSF accounts annually or on an as-needed basis. The TEA Internal Audit Division will participate in the audit process by participating in entrance and exit conferences, being provided copies of all reports and management letters furnished by the external auditor, and having access to the external auditor's audit programs and working papers.
- (d) The SBOE shall meet on a regular or as-needed basis to conduct the affairs of the PSF.
 - (e) In case of emergency or urgent public necessity, the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund or the SBOE, as appropriate, may hold an emergency meeting under the Texas Government Code, §551.045.
 - (f) The SBOE shall have the following exclusive duties:
 - (1) determining the strategic asset allocation mix between asset classes based on the attending economic conditions and the PSF goals and objectives, including determining the separate asset allocation for the PSF Liquid Account based on the specific goals and objectives for investing the PSF Liquid Account;
 - (2) ratifying all investment transactions pertaining to the purchase, sale, or reinvestment of assets by all internal and external investment managers for the current reporting period;
 - (3) appointing members to the SBOE Investment Advisory Committee;
 - (4) approving the selection of, and all contracts with, external investment managers, financial advisors, Investment Counsel, financial or other consultants, or other external professionals retained to help the SBOE invest PSF assets;

- (5) approving the selection of, and the performance measurement contract with, a well-recognized and reputable firm retained to evaluate and analyze PSF investment results. The service shall compare investment results to the written investment objectives of the SBOE and also compare the investment of the PSF with the investment of other public and private funds against market indices and by managerial style;
 - (6) setting policies, objectives, and guidelines for investing PSF assets;
 - (7) submitting a list of six nominees for any vacant position on the School Land Board to the Texas Governor for consideration; and
 - (8) representing the PSF to the state.
- (g) The SBOE may establish committees to administer the affairs of the PSF. The duties and responsibilities of any committee established shall be specified in the PSF Investment Procedures Manual.
- (h) The PSF shall have an executive administrator, with a staff to be adjusted as necessary, who functions directly with the SBOE through the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund concerning investment matters, and who functions as part of the internal operation under the commissioner of education. At all times, the PSF executive administrator and staff shall invest PSF assets as directed by the SBOE according to the Texas Constitution and all other applicable Texas statutes, as amended, and SBOE rules governing the operation of the PSF. The PSF staff shall:
- (1) administer the PSF, including investing and managing assets and contracting in connection therewith, according to SBOE goals and objectives;
 - (2) execute all directives, policies, and procedures from the SBOE and the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund;
 - (3) keep records and provide a continuous and accurate accounting of all PSF transactions, revenues, and expenses and provide reports on the status of the PSF portfolio;
 - (4) advise any officials, investment firms, or other interested parties about the powers, limitations, and prohibitions regarding PSF investments that have been placed on the SBOE or PSF investment staff by statutes, attorney general opinions and court decisions, or by SBOE policies and operating procedures;
 - (5) continuously research all internally managed securities held by the PSF and report to the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund and the SBOE any information requested, including reports and statistics on the PSF, for the purpose of administering the PSF;
 - (6) establish and maintain a procedures manual that implements this section to be approved by the SBOE;
 - (7) make recommendations regarding investment and policy matters to the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund and the SBOE, except for formal recommendations for benchmarks for internally managed PSF asset classes, which duties the Committee will assign to an appropriate third party who will present such recommendations after consultation with PSF staff; and
 - (8) establish and maintain accounting policies and internal control procedures concerning all receipts, disbursements and investments of the PSF, according to the procedures adopted by the SBOE.
- (i) The SBOE delegates to the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund, to which it has delegated certain powers and duties relating to the investment of the PSF, the responsibility of representing the SBOE at the joint annual meeting between the School Land Board and the SBOE under Texas Natural Resources Code, §32.0161. The chairs of the SBOE and the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall be responsible for coordinating the joint annual meeting between the School Land Board and the SBOE.

Source: The provisions of this §33.20 adopted to be effective September 1, 1997, 22 TexReg 4359; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective March 31, 2004, 29 TexReg 3174; amended

to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective September 1, 2018, 43 TexReg 3354; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707.

§33.25. Permissible and Restricted Investments and General Guidelines for Investment Managers.

- (a) Permissible investments. Any investment that satisfies the prudence standard, is consistent with the Fund's investment policy and portfolio objectives, and is used in executing investment strategies approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE).
- (b) Prohibited transactions and restrictions. Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section or as approved or delegated by the SBOE, the following prohibited transactions and restrictions apply to all Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) investment managers with respect to the investment or handling of PSF assets, except as otherwise noted:
 - (1) short sales of any kind except for U.S. Treasury futures for purposes of hedging fixed income portfolios;
 - (2) purchasing letter or restricted stock;
 - (3) buying or selling on margin;
 - (4) engaging in purchasing or writing options or similar transactions;
 - (5) borrowing by pledging or otherwise encumbering PSF assets;
 - (6) purchasing the equity or debt securities of the PSF investment manager's own organization or an affiliated organization, but excluding purchases with respect to indexed or passively managed portfolios;
 - (7) engaging in any purchasing transaction, after which the cumulative market value of common stock in a single corporation exceeds 2.5% of the PSF total market value or 5.0% of the manager's total portfolio market value, but excluding purchasing transactions with respect to indexed or passively managed portfolios;
 - (8) engaging in any purchasing transaction, after which the cumulative number of shares of common stock in a single corporation held by the PSF exceeds 5.0% of the outstanding voting stock of that issuer, but excluding purchasing transactions with respect to indexed or passively managed portfolios;
 - (9) engaging in any purchasing transaction, after which the cumulative market value of fixed income securities or cash equivalent securities in a single corporation (excluding the U.S. government, its federal agencies, and government sponsored enterprises) exceeds 2.5% of the PSF total market value or 5.0% of the investment manager's total portfolio market value with the PSF;
 - (10) purchasing tax exempt bonds;
 - (11) purchasing guaranteed investment contracts (GICs) from an insurance company or bank investment contracts (BICs) from a bank not rated at least AAA by Standard & Poor's or Moody's;
 - (12) purchasing any publicly traded fixed income security not rated investment grade by Standard & Poor's (BBB-), Moody's (Baa3), or Fitch (BBB-), subject to the provisions of the PSF Investment Procedures Manual and the following restrictions:
 - (A) when ratings are provided by the three rating agencies, the middle rating shall be used;
 - (B) when ratings are provided by two ratings agencies, the lower rating is used; or
 - (C) when a rating is provided by one rating agency, the sole rating is used;
 - (13) purchasing short-term money market instruments rated below A-1 by Standard & Poor's or P-1 by Moody's;
 - (14) engaging in any transaction that results in unrelated business taxable income (excluding current holdings);

- (15) engaging in any transaction considered a "prohibited transaction" under the Internal Revenue Code or the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA);
 - (16) purchasing precious metals or other commodities;
 - (17) engaging in any transaction that would leverage a manager's position;
 - (18) lending securities owned by the PSF, but held in custody by another party, such as a bank custodian, to any other party for any purpose, unless lending securities according to a separate written agreement the SBOE approved; and
 - (19) purchasing fixed income securities without a stated par value amount due at maturity.
- (c) General guidelines for investment managers.
- (1) Each investment manager retained to manage a portion of PSF assets shall be aware of, and operate within, the provisions of this chapter and all applicable Texas statutes.
 - (2) As fiduciaries of the PSF, investment managers shall discharge their duties solely in the interests of the PSF according to the prudent expert rule, engaging in activities that include the following.
 - (A) Diversification. Each manager's portfolio should be appropriately diversified within its applicable asset class.
 - (B) Securities trading.
 - (i) Each manager shall send copies of each transaction record to the PSF investment staff and custodians.
 - (ii) Each manager shall be required to reconcile the accounts under management on a monthly basis with the PSF investment staff and custodians.
 - (iii) Each manager shall be responsible for complying fully with PSF policies for trading securities and selecting brokerage firms, as specified in §33.40 of this title (relating to Trading and Brokerage Policy). In particular, the emphasis of security trading shall be on best execution; that is, the highest proceeds to the PSF and the lowest costs, net of all transaction expenses. Placing orders shall be based on the financial viability of the brokerage firm and the assurance of prompt and efficient execution.
 - (iv) The SBOE shall require each external manager to indemnify the PSF for all failed trades not due to the negligence of the PSF or its custodian in instances where the selection of the broker dealer is not in compliance with §33.40 of this title (relating to Trading and Brokerage Policy).
 - (C) Acknowledgments in writing.
 - (i) Each external investment manager retained by the PSF must be a person, firm, or corporation registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Adviser Act of 1940, a bank as defined in the Act, or an insurance company qualified to do business in more than one state, and must acknowledge its fiduciary responsibility in writing. A firm registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) must annually provide a copy of its Form ADV, Section II.
 - (ii) The SBOE may require each external manager to obtain coverage for errors and omissions in an amount set by the SBOE, but the coverage shall be at least the greater of \$500,000 or 1.0% of the assets managed, not exceeding \$10 million. The coverage should be specific as to the assets of the PSF. The manager shall annually provide evidence in writing of the existence of the coverage.
 - (iii) Each external manager may be required by the SBOE to obtain fidelity bonds, fiduciary liability insurance, or both.

- (iv) Each manager shall acknowledge in writing receiving a copy of, and agreeing to comply with, the provisions of this chapter.
- (D) Discretionary investment authority. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, any investment manager of marketable securities or other investments, retained by the PSF, shall have full discretionary investment authority over the assets for which the manager is responsible. Specialist advisors and investment managers retained for alternative asset investments may have a varying degree of discretionary authority, which will be outlined in contract documentation.
- (d) Reporting procedures for investment managers. The investment manager shall:
 - (1) prepare a monthly and quarterly report for delivery to the SBOE, the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund, and the PSF investment staff that shall include, in the appropriate format, items requested by the SBOE. The monthly reports shall briefly cover the firm's economic review; a review of recent and anticipated investment activity; a summary of major changes that have occurred in the investment markets and in the portfolio, particularly since the last report; and a summary of the key characteristics of the PSF portfolio. Quarterly reports shall comprehensively cover the same information as monthly reports but shall also include any changes in the firm's structure, professional team, or product offerings; a detail of the portfolio holdings; and transactions for the period. Periodically, the PSF investment staff shall provide the investment manager a detailed description of, and format for, these reports;
 - (2) when requested by the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund, make a presentation describing the professionals retained for the PSF, the investment process used for the PSF portfolio under the manager's responsibility, and any related issues;
 - (3) when requested by the PSF investment staff, meet to discuss the management of the portfolio, new developments, and any related matters; and
 - (4) implement a specific investment process for the PSF. The manager shall describe the process and its underlying philosophy in an attachment to its investment management agreement with the PSF and manage according to this process until the PSF and manager agree in writing to any change.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §33.25 issued under the Texas Education Code, §7.102(c)(31), and Texas Constitution, Article VII, §5.

Source: The provisions of this §33.25 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective October 15, 2006, 31 TexReg 8347; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039; amended to be effective October 21, 2013, 38 TexReg 7306; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707; amended to be effective April 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 2231.

§33.30. Standards of Performance.

- (a) The State Board of Education (SBOE) Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall set and maintain performance standards for the total Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) and separately for the PSF Liquid Account, for each asset class in which the assets of the PSF and the PSF Liquid Account are invested, and for all investment managers based on criteria that include the following:
 - (1) time horizon;
 - (2) real rate of return;
 - (3) representative benchmark index;
 - (4) volatility of returns (or risk), as measured by standard deviation; and
 - (5) universe comparison.
- (b) The SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall develop and implement the procedures necessary to establish and recommend to the SBOE the performance standards criteria.

- (c) Performance standards shall be included in the PSF Investment Procedures Manual.

Source: The provisions of this §33.30 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707.

§33.35. Guidelines for the Custodian and the Securities Lending Agent for the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) and the PSF Liquid Account.

Completing custodial and security lending functions in an accurate and timely manner is necessary for effective investment management and accurate records.

- (1) A custodian shall have the following responsibilities regarding the segments of the funds for which the custodian is responsible.
 - (A) Provide complete custody and depository services for the designated accounts.
 - (B) Provide for daily investment of any cash to avoid uninvested amounts.
 - (C) Implement the investment actions in a timely and effective manner as directed by the investment managers.
 - (D) Collect all realizable income and principal and properly report the information on the periodic statements to the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) investment staff, the investment managers, or other appropriate parties.
 - (E) Provide monthly and annual accounting statements, as well as on-line, real-time accounting, that includes all transactions. Accounting shall be based on accurate security values for cost and market value and provided within a time frame acceptable to the State Board of Education (SBOE).
 - (F) Report to the PSF investment staff situations in which security pricing is either not possible or subject to considerable uncertainty.
 - (G) Distribute all proxy voting materials in a timely manner.
 - (H) Provide research and assistance to the SBOE and the PSF investment staff on all issues related to accounting and administration.
 - (I) Confirm that the depth of resources and personnel associated with the designated funds are comparable to those of the nation's leading custodial banks.
- (2) A securities lending agent for the PSF shall have the following responsibilities.
 - (A) Provide complete transaction reporting for the designated funds.
 - (B) Provide a monthly accounting, as well as on-line, real-time accounting for securities lending transactions, based on accurate security values.
 - (C) Report to the PSF investment staff any irregular situation that is outside the standard of practice for securities lending or inconsistent with the provisions of the securities lending agreement.
 - (D) Implement a securities lending program for the PSF in a manner that does not impair any rights of the PSF by virtue of PSF ownership in securities.
 - (E) As requested, provide research and assistance to the SBOE and the PSF investment staff on all issues related to accounting and administration.
 - (F) Provide indemnification to the PSF satisfactory to the SBOE in the event of default on securities lending transactions.
 - (G) Fully disclose all revenues and other fees associated with the securities lending program.
 - (H) Comply with restrictions on types of securities lending transactions or eligible investments of cash collateral or any other restrictions imposed by the SBOE or the PSF

investment staff. Unless the SBOE gives its written approval, the following guidelines apply to the PSF Securities Lending Program. Cash collateral reinvestment guidelines must meet the following standards.

- (i) Permissible investments.
 - (I) U.S. Government and U.S. Agencies, under the following criteria:
 - (-a-) any security issued by or fully guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by the U.S. Government or a U.S. Government Agency or sponsored Agency, and eligible for transfer via Federal Reserve Bank book entry, Depository Trust Company book entry, and/or Participants Trust Company book entry;
 - (-b-) maximum 397-day maturity on fixed rate;
 - (-c-) maximum three-year maturity on floating rate, with maximum reset period of 94 days and use a standard repricing index such as London InterBank Offered Rate (LIBOR), Federal Funds, Treasury Bills, or commercial paper; and
 - (-d-) no maximum dollar limit.
 - (II) Bank obligations, under the following criteria:
 - (-a-) time deposits with maximum 60-day maturity on fixed rate or three-year maturity for floating rate, with maximum reset period of 60 days and use a standard repricing index such as LIBOR, Federal Funds, Treasury Bills, or commercial paper;
 - (-b-) negotiable Certificates of Deposit with maximum 397-day maturity on fixed rate or three-year maturity for floating rate, with maximum reset period of 94 days and use a standard repricing index such as LIBOR, Federal Funds, Treasury Bills, or commercial paper;
 - (-c-) bank notes with maximum 397-day maturity on fixed rate or three-year maturity on floating rate, with maximum reset period of 94 days and use a standard repricing index such as LIBOR, Federal Funds, Treasury Bills, or commercial paper;
 - (-d-) bankers acceptances with maximum 45-day maturity;
 - (-e-) issued by banks with at least \$25 billion in assets and, for floating rate bank obligations with a maturity greater than 397 days, a long-term rating of AA2 and AA by Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Corporation at time of purchase; and, for fixed rate or floating rate bank obligations with a remaining maturity of 397 days or less, a short-term rating of "Tier 1" as defined in clause (ii)(IV) of this subparagraph or, for such bank obligations without a short-term rating, an issuer rating of Tier 1. In addition, placements can be made in branches within the following countries:
 - (-1-) Canada;
 - (-2-) France;
 - (-3-) United Kingdom; and
 - (-4-) United States; and

- (-f-) dollar limit maximum per institution of 5.0% of investment portfolio at time of purchase.
- (III) Commercial paper, under the following criteria:
- (-a-) dollar limit maximum per issuer of 5.0% of investment portfolio at time of purchase including any other obligations of that issuer as established in subclause (II)(-d-) of this clause. If backed 100% by bank Letter of Credit, then dollar limit is applied against the issuing bank;
 - (-b-) must be rated "Tier 1" as defined in clause (ii)(IV) of this subparagraph; and
 - (-c-) maximum 397-day maturity.
- (IV) Asset backed commercial paper, under the following criteria:
- (-a-) dollar limit maximum per issuer of 5.0% of investment portfolio;
 - (-b-) must be rated "Tier 1" as defined in clause (ii)(IV) of this subparagraph; and
 - (-c-) maximum 397-day maturity.
- (V) Asset backed securities, under the following criteria:
- (-a-) maximum 397-day weighted average life on fixed rate;
 - (-b-) maximum three-year weighted average life on floating rate, with maximum reset period of 94 days and use a standard repricing index such as LIBOR, Federal Funds, Treasury Bills, or commercial paper; and
 - (-c-) rated Aaa and AAA by Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Corporation at time of purchase. One AAA rating may suffice if only rated by one Nationally Recognized Securities Rating Organization (NRSRO).
- (VI) Corporate debt (other than commercial paper), under the following criteria:
- (-a-) must be senior debt;
 - (-b-) maximum 397-day maturity on fixed rate;
 - (-c-) maximum three-year maturity on floating rate, with maximum reset period of 94 days and use a standard repricing index such as LIBOR, Federal Funds, Treasury Bills, or commercial paper;
 - (-d-) for floating rate corporate obligations with a maturity greater than 397 days, a long-term rating of AA2 and AA by Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Corporation at time of purchase; and, for fixed rate or floating rate corporate obligations with a remaining maturity of 397 days or less, a short-term rating of "Tier 1" as defined in clause (ii)(IV) of this subparagraph or, for such corporate obligations without a short-term rating, an issuer rating of Tier 1; and
 - (-e-) dollar limit maximum per issuer of 5.0% of investment portfolio at time of purchase, including any other obligations of that issuer.

- (VII) Reverse repurchase agreements, under the following criteria:
- (-a-) counterparty must be "Tier 1" rated as defined in clause (ii)(IV) of this subparagraph for fixed rate and AA2 and AA by Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Corporation for floating rate or be a "Primary Dealer" in Government Securities as per the New York Federal Reserve Bank;
 - (-b-) underlying collateral may be any security permitted for direct investment;
 - (-c-) lending agent or a third party custodian must hold collateral under tri-party agreement;
 - (-d-) collateral must be marked to market daily and maintained at the following margin levels.
 - (-1-) U.S. Government, U.S. Government Agency, sponsored Agency, International Organization at 100%;
 - (-2-) Certificate of Deposits, Bankers Acceptance, bank notes, commercial paper at 102% under one year to maturity and rated at least "Tier 1" as defined in clause (ii)(IV) of this subparagraph; and
 - (-3-) corporate debt (other than commercial paper) at 105% rated at least AA2/AA or better by Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Corporation at time of purchase;
 - (-e-) due to daily margin maintenance, dollar limits and maturity limits of underlying collateral are waived, except with respect to the maturity limit in subclause (II)(-d-) of this clause;
 - (-f-) maximum 180-day maturity; and
 - (-g-) dollar limit for total reverse repurchase agreements is the greater of \$300 million or 15% of value of cash collateral portfolio with one counterparty at time of purchase.
- (VIII) Foreign sovereign debt, under the following criteria:
- (-a-) any security issued by or fully guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by a foreign government whose sovereign debt is rated AA2/AA or better by Moody's Investor Service and Standard & Poor's Corporation at time of purchase. Securities must be delivered to Lending Agent or a third party under a Tri-Party agreement;
 - (-b-) dollar limit maximum per issuer or guarantor of 2.5% of investment portfolio; and
 - (-c-) maximum maturity of 397 days.
- (IX) Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) and/or Registered Mutual Funds, under the following criteria:
- (-a-) funds must comprise investments similar to those that would otherwise be approved for securities lending investment under the provisions of this subparagraph, not invest in derivatives, and not re-hypothecate assets;

- (-b-) lender must approve each fund in writing and only upon receipt of offering documents and qualified letter; and
- (-c-) fund must have an objective of a constant share price of one dollar.
- (ii) Investment parameters.
 - (I) Maximum weighted average maturity of investment portfolio must be 180 days.
 - (II) Maximum weighted average interest rate exposure of investment portfolio must be 60 days.
 - (III) All investments must be U.S. dollar-denominated.
 - (IV) "Tier 1" credit quality is defined as the highest short-term rating category by the following NRSROs:
 - (-a-) Standard & Poor's;
 - (-b-) Moody's Investors Service; and
 - (-c-) Fitch Investors Service.
 - (V) At time of purchase all investments must be rated in the highest short-term numerical category by at least two NRSROs, one of which must be either Standard & Poor's or Moody's Investors Service.
 - (VI) Issuer's ratings cannot be on negative credit watch at the time of purchase.
 - (VII) Interest and principal only (IO, PO) stripped mortgages are not permitted.
 - (VIII) Mortgage backed securities are not permitted.
 - (IX) Complex derivative or structured securities, including, but not limited to the following are not permitted:
 - (-a-) inverse floating rate notes;
 - (-b-) defined range floating rate notes;
 - (-c-) trigger notes; and
 - (-d-) set-up notes.
- (I) Provide a copy of the investment policy governing the custodian's securities lending program, as amended, to the PSF investment staff.
- (J) Confirm that the depth of resources and personnel associated with the designated funds are comparable to those of the nation's leading securities lending agents.

Source: The provisions of this §33.35 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective March 31, 2004, 29 TexReg 3174; amended to be effective August 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 4478; amended to be effective October 15, 2006, 31 TexReg 8347; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707; amended to be effective April 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 2231.

§33.40. Trading and Brokerage Policy.

- (a) Security transaction policy.
 - (1) The following principles shall guide all Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) transactions.
 - (A) Each manager shall be responsible for complying fully with PSF policies for trading securities and selecting brokerage firms, as specified in this section. In particular, the

emphasis of security trading shall be on best execution; that is, the highest proceeds to the PSF and the lowest costs, net of all transaction expenses. Placing orders shall be based on the financial viability of the brokerage firm and the assurance of prompt and efficient execution.

- (B) Ongoing efforts must be made to reduce trading costs, in terms of both commissions and market impact, provided the investment returns of the PSF are not jeopardized.
- (2) The State Board of Education (SBOE) may enter into brokerage commission recapture agreements or soft dollar agreements.
- (3) The SBOE may evaluate transaction activity annually through a trading cost analysis.
- (b) Directed trades. The SBOE may adopt directed trade procedures for the PSF portfolio according to procedures developed by the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund.
- (c) Guidelines for selecting a brokerage firm and standards of ethical conduct for brokerage firms.
 - (1) Introduction and basic principles.
 - (A) The SBOE intends that any transaction of publicly traded security occur through a brokerage firm or automated trading system, regardless of location, to obtain the lowest transaction cost consistent with best execution.
 - (B) Each investment manager shall be responsible for selecting brokerage firms or automated trading systems through which PSF trading shall be completed. The selections must meet PSF guidelines and be for the exclusive benefit of the PSF.
 - (2) Guidelines for selection and standards of ethical conduct. The broker or dealer firm must:
 - (A) have appropriate trading and market expertise;
 - (B) have comprehensive, proprietary, in-house research capabilities;
 - (C) be in compliance with applicable federal and Texas laws related to conducting business as a broker or dealer, including the Anti-Fraud provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
 - (D) be a member in good standing of the major financial exchanges;
 - (E) have on-site, in-house trading capability and direct access to major markets;
 - (F) have in-house access to trading support equipment;
 - (G) trade for competitive rates that provide the lowest transaction cost consistent with best execution;
 - (H) be financially able to accommodate a capital commitment trade over an industry standard settlement period;
 - (I) have the ability and record to clear and settle trades without unnecessary delays or fails; and
 - (J) have been in business as a broker or dealer for a reasonable period of time to ensure financial and operational stability.
 - (3) Exemptions.
 - (A) Broker/dealer firms that are certified as Texas based historically underutilized businesses (HUBs) are exempted from the requirements specified in paragraph (2)(B), (D), and (H) of this subsection; and
 - (B) broker/dealer firms that are operating as electronic communication networks are exempted from the requirements specified in paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection.
 - (4) Reporting requirements. The executive administrator of the PSF will report to the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund, on an ongoing basis, a list of broker

dealers with whom the PSF has conducted business during the fiscal year that have been granted exemptions under paragraph (2)(B), (D), and (H) of this subsection and will identify the specific exemptions granted.

- (5) Review and evaluation. At least annually, the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall review the brokerage firms used by PSF investment managers and all transactions for compliance with the provisions of this section.
- (6) Broker expenditure report. A broker shall file a report annually on April 15 of each year on the expenditure report provided in §33.5(n)(2)(J) of this title (relating to Code of Ethics) entitled "Report of Expenditures of Persons Providing Services to the State Board of Education Relating to the Management and Investment of the Permanent School Fund." The report shall be for the time period beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of the previous year. The expenditure report must describe in detail any expenditure of more than \$50 made by the person on behalf of:
 - (A) an SBOE Member;
 - (B) the commissioner of education; or
 - (C) an employee of the Texas Education Agency or of a nonprofit corporation created under the Texas Education Code, §43.006.

Source: The provisions of this §33.40 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective April 2, 2000, 25 TexReg 2568; amended to be effective October 11, 2000, 25 TexReg 10151; amended to be effective March 31, 2004, 29 TexReg 3174; amended to be effective October 10, 2004, 29 TexReg 9354; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039.

§33.45. Proxy Voting Policy.

The State Board of Education (SBOE) recognizes its fiduciary obligations with respect to the voting of proxies of companies with securities that are owned by the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF). Because the issues related to proxy voting are complex and directly impact investment values, the SBOE believes the PSF is best suited to vote the proxies of shares held in the PSF portfolio. Therefore, as part of the PSF investment policy, the SBOE instructs the PSF executive administrator and investment staff to vote all of the PSF proxies of companies according to the following guidelines. The executive administrator may delegate voting of proxies of securities not held in internally managed portfolios to external investment managers or proxy voting companies, provided voting is in accordance with the following guidelines.

- (1) Routine matters. Routine proxy proposals shall be voted in support of company proposals unless there is a clear reason not to do so. Routine matters include:
 - (A) electing directors;
 - (B) determining the size of a board;
 - (C) changing a corporate name;
 - (D) appointing an auditor;
 - (E) splitting stock;
 - (F) amending articles of incorporation that are required to comply with federal or state regulation; and
 - (G) changing the date, time, or location of an annual meeting.
- (2) Business matters. Business proposals that do not eliminate the rights of shareholders, especially minority shareholders, or the status of securities held, including ownership status, shall not be treated as routine; rather, they shall be carefully analyzed. These issues may be voted with management. However, business proposals that are nonroutine or would impair the economic interests of shareholders shall be voted against management. Examples of such proposals include:
 - (A) requests to alter bylaws to require a super majority to approve mergers;

- (B) anti-takeover proposals that could restrict tender offers or deny majority owners from exercising judgment;
 - (C) proposals to dilute existing shares by issuing substantially more stock without adequate explanation by management; and
 - (D) proposals that would enrich management excessively or substantially increase compensation awards or employment contracts to senior management that become effective when ownership of the company changes (also known as "golden parachute" awards).
- (3) Other matters. On all other matters, the PSF executive administrator, investment staff, and external investment managers shall vote proxies judged to be in the best interests of the PSF.
 - (4) Reporting to SBOE. At each regularly scheduled SBOE meeting, the PSF executive administrator shall advise the SBOE of all instances in which the PSF executive administrator or external investment managers voted against management. External investment managers shall provide written reports monthly to the executive administrator according to procedures and a format established by the executive administrator.

Source: The provisions of this §33.45 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 22 TexReg 11671; amended to be effective March 31, 2004, 29 TexReg 3174.

§33.50. Socially and Politically Responsible Investment Policy.

Investments shall be considered based on the prudent person rule and the provisions of this chapter. Investments shall provide the highest return commensurate with the lowest risk and shall be diversified.

Source: The provisions of this §33.50 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937.

§33.55. Standards for Selecting Consultants, Investment Managers, Custodians, and Other Professionals To Provide Outside Expertise for the Fund.

The State Board of Education (SBOE) may retain qualified professionals to assist in investment and related matters.

- (1) Basis for selection. The SBOE shall retain professional assistance based on the demonstrated ability of the professional to provide the expertise or assistance needed along with the proposed cost of the service in order to provide the best overall value for the Permanent School Fund. For each type of expertise, relevant and objective criteria shall be established to judge and select experts.
- (2) Types of expertise for consideration. Examples of professionals or specialized expertise the SBOE may retain include: investment managers, accountants, consultants, legal counsel, custodians, security lending agents, and system specialists.
- (3) Process for selecting professional assistance. The SBOE shall establish and maintain in the Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) Procedures Manual an objective process for selecting expertise or assistance. The SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall periodically review the process to ensure it reflects SBOE objectives.

Source: The provisions of this §33.55 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective June 4, 2012, 37 TexReg 4039.

§33.60. Performance and Review Procedures.

As requested by the State Board of Education (SBOE) or Texas Permanent School Fund (PSF) investment staff, evaluation and periodic investment reports shall supply critical information on a continuing basis, such as the amount of trading activity, investment performance, cash positions, diversification ratios, rates of return, and other perspectives of the portfolios. The reports shall address compliance with investment policy guidelines.

- (1) Performance measurements. The SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall review the quarterly performance of each portfolio of the PSF in terms of the provisions of this chapter. The investment performance review shall include comparisons with representative benchmark indices, a broad universe of investment managers, and the consumer price index. A time-weighted return formula (which minimizes the effect of contributions and withdrawals) shall be used for investment return analysis. The review also may include quarterly performance analysis and comparisons of retained firms. The services of an outside, independent consulting firm that provides performance measurement and evaluation shall be retained.
- (2) Meeting and reports. Upon request, the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall meet with the PSF investment managers and custodian to review their responsibilities, the PSF portfolio, and investment results in terms of the provisions of this chapter.
- (3) Reports to the School Land Board. Each quarter, the SBOE shall provide the School Land Board a financial report on the portion of the PSF assets and funds for which the SBOE is responsible in accordance with Texas Education Code, §43.0052.
- (4) Review and modification of investment policy statement. The SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall review the provisions of this chapter at least once a year to determine if modifications are necessary or desirable. Upon approval by the SBOE, any modifications shall be promptly reported to all investment managers and other responsible parties.
- (5) Compliance with this chapter and Texas statutes. Annually, the SBOE Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund shall confirm that the PSF and each of its managed portfolios have complied with the provisions of this chapter concerning exclusions imposed by the SBOE, proxy voting, and trading and brokerage selection.
- (6) Significant events. The SBOE must be notified promptly if any of the following events occur within the custodian or external investment manager organizations:
 - (A) any event that is likely to adversely impact to a significant degree the management, professionalism, integrity, or financial position of the custodian or investment manager. A custodian must report the loss of an account of \$500 million or more. An investment manager must report the loss of an account of \$25 million or more;
 - (B) a loss of one or more key people;
 - (C) a significant change in investment philosophy;
 - (D) the addition of a new portfolio manager on the sponsor's account;
 - (E) a change in ownership or control, through any means, of the custodian or investment manager; or
 - (F) any violation of policy.

Source: The provisions of this §33.60 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective September 1, 1998, 24 TexReg 7777; amended to be effective August 21, 2016, 41 TexReg 6003; amended to be effective March 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 1707; amended to be effective April 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 2231.

§33.65. Bond Guarantee Program for School Districts.

- (a) Statutory provision. The commissioner of education must administer the guarantee program for school district bonds according to the provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 45, Subchapter C.
- (b) Definitions. The following definitions apply to the guarantee program for school district bonds.
 - (1) Annual debt service--Payments of principal and interest on outstanding bonded debt scheduled to occur between September 1 and August 31 during the fiscal year in which the guarantee is sought as reported by the Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) of Texas or its successor, if the district has outstanding bonded indebtedness.

- (A) The annual debt service will be determined by the current report of the bonded indebtedness of the district as reported by the MAC of Texas or its successor as of the date of the application deadline.
 - (B) The annual debt service does not include:
 - (i) the amount of debt service to be paid on the bonds for which the reservation is sought; or
 - (ii) the amount of debt service attributable to any debt that is no longer outstanding at the application deadline, provided that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has sufficient evidence of the discharge or defeasance of such debt.
 - (C) Solely for the purpose of this calculation, the debt service amounts for variable rate bonds will be those that are published in the final official statement, or if there is no official statement, debt service amounts based on the maximum rate permitted by the bond order or other bond proceeding that establishes a maximum interest rate for the bonds.
- (2) Application deadline--The last business day of the month in which an application for a guarantee is filed. Applications must be submitted electronically through the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor by 5:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month to be considered in that month's application processing.
 - (3) Average daily attendance (ADA)--Total refined average daily attendance as defined by the TEC, §42.005.
 - (4) Bond--A debt security issuance approved by the attorney general, issued under the TEC, §45.003 or §45.004, to provide long-term financing with a maturity schedule of at least three years.
 - (5) Bond Guarantee Program (BGP)--The guarantee program that is described by this section and established under the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C.
 - (6) Bond order--The order adopted by the governing body of a school district that authorizes the issuance of bonds and the pricing certificate, if any, establishing the terms of the bonds executed pursuant to such order.
 - (7) Combination issue--An issuance of bonds for which an application for a guarantee is filed that includes both a new money portion and a refunding portion, as permitted by the Texas Government Code, Chapter 1207. The eligibility of combination issues for the guarantee is limited by the eligibility of the new money and refunding portions as defined in this subsection.
 - (8) Enrollment growth--Growth in student enrollment, as defined by §129.1025 of this title (relating to Adoption by Reference: Student Attendance Accounting Handbook), that has occurred over the previous five school years.
 - (9) Nationally recognized investment rating firm--An investment rating firm that is designated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO) and is demonstrating that it has:
 - (A) had its current NRSRO designation for at least three consecutive years;
 - (B) provided credit ratings to each of the following:
 - (i) fifteen or more fixed income securities denominated in United States dollars and issued during the immediately preceding three years; and
 - (ii) ten or more school districts in the United States; and
 - (C) a documented separation of duties between employees involved in credit analysis and employees involved in business relationships with clients.
 - (10) New money issue--An issuance of bonds for the purposes of constructing, renovating, acquiring, and equipping school buildings; the purchase of property; or the purchase of school buses. An issuance of bonds for the purpose of constructing teacher or student housing is eligible for the

guarantee for new money only if it is an integral part of the educational mission of the school district as determined by the commissioner. Eligibility for the guarantee for new money issues is limited to the issuance of bonds authorized under the TEC, §45.003. A new money issue does not include the issuance of bonds to purchase a facility from a public facility corporation created by the school district or to purchase any property that is currently under a lease-purchase contract under the Local Government Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter A. A new money issue does not include an issuance of bonds to refinance any type of maintenance tax-supported debt.

Maintenance tax-supported debt includes, but is not limited to:

- (A) time warrants or loans entered under the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter E; or
 - (B) any other type of loan or warrant that is not supported by bond taxes as defined by the TEC, §45.003.
- (11) Notes issued to provide interim financing--An issuance of notes, including commercial paper notes, designed to provide short-term financing for the purposes of constructing, renovating, acquiring, and equipping school buildings; the purchase of property; or the purchase of school buses. For notes to be eligible for the guarantee under this section, the notes must be:
- (A) issued to pay costs for which bonds have been authorized at an election occurring before the issuance of the notes;
 - (B) approved by the attorney general or issued in accordance with proceedings that have been approved by the attorney general; and
 - (C) refunded by bonds issued to provide long-term financing no more than three years from the date of issuance of such notes, provided that the date of issuance of notes will be determined by reference to the date on which the notes were issued for capital expenditures and the intervening date or dates of issuance of any notes issued to refinance outstanding notes will be disregarded.
- (12) Refunding issue--An issuance of bonds for the purpose of refunding bonds, including notes issued to provide interim financing, that are supported by bond taxes as defined by the TEC, §45.003. Eligibility for the guarantee for refunding issues is limited to refunding issues that refund bonds, including notes issued to provide interim financing, that were authorized by a bond election under the TEC, §45.003.
- (13) Total debt service--Total outstanding principal and interest on bonded debt.
- (A) The total debt service will be determined by the current report of the bonded indebtedness of the district as reported by the MAC of Texas or its successor as of the date of the application deadline, if the district has outstanding bonded indebtedness.
 - (B) The total debt service does not include:
 - (i) the amount of debt service to be paid on the bonds for which the reservation is sought; or
 - (ii) the amount of debt service attributable to any debt that is no longer outstanding at the application deadline, provided that the TEA has sufficient evidence of the discharge or defeasance of such debt.
 - (C) Solely for the purpose of this calculation, the debt service amounts for variable rate bonds will be those that are published in the final official statement, or if there is no official statement, debt service amounts based on the maximum rate permitted by the bond order or other bond proceeding that establishes a maximum interest rate for the bonds.
- (c) Data sources.
- (1) The following data sources will be used for purposes of prioritization:
 - (A) projected ADA for the current school year as adopted by the legislature for appropriations purposes;

- (B) final property values certified by the comptroller of public accounts, as described in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 403, Subchapter M, for the tax year preceding the year in which the bonds will be issued. If final property values are unavailable, the most recent projection of property values by the comptroller, as described in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 403, Subchapter M, will be used;
 - (C) debt service information reported by the MAC of Texas or its successor as of the date of the application deadline; and
 - (D) enrollment information reported to the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) for the five-year time period ending in the year before the application date.
- (2) The commissioner may consider adjustments to data values determined to be erroneous or not reflective of current conditions before the deadline for receipt of applications for that application cycle.
- (d) Bond eligibility.
- (1) Only those combination, new money, and refunding issues as defined in subsection (b)(7), (10), and (12), respectively, of this section are eligible to receive the guarantee.
 - (2) Refunding issues must comply with the following requirements to retain eligibility for the guarantee for the refunding bonds, except that subparagraph (C) of this paragraph does not apply to a refunding issue that provides long-term financing for notes issued to provide interim financing.
 - (A) As with any district applying for approval for the guarantee, the district issuing the refunding bonds must meet the requirements for initial approval specified in subsection (g)(2)(A) of this section.
 - (B) The bonds to be refunded must have been:
 - (i) previously guaranteed by the Permanent School Fund (PSF) or approved for credit enhancement under §61.1038 of this title (relating to School District Bond Enhancement Program);
 - (ii) issued on or after November 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2010; or
 - (iii) issued as notes to provide interim financing as defined in subsection (b)(11) of this section.
 - (C) The district must demonstrate that issuing the refunding bond(s) will result in a present value savings to the district and that the refunding bond or bonds will not have a maturity date later than the final maturity date of the bonds being refunded. Present value savings is determined by computing the net present value of the difference between each scheduled payment on the original bonds and each scheduled payment on the refunding bonds. Present value savings must be computed at the true interest cost of the refunding bonds. If the commissioner approves refunding bonds for the guarantee based on evidence of present value savings but at the time of the sale of the refunding bonds a present value savings is not realized, the commissioner may revoke the approval of the bonds for the guarantee.
 - (D) The refunding transaction must comply with the provisions of subsection (g)(4)(A)-(C) of this section.
 - (3) If a district files an application for a combination issue, the application will be treated as an application for a single issue for the purposes of eligibility for the guarantee. A guarantee for the combination issue will be awarded only if both the new money portion and the refunding portion meet all of the applicable eligibility requirements described in this section. As part of its application, the applicant district must present data that demonstrate compliance for both the new money portion of the issue and the refunding portion of the issue.

- (4) If the commissioner determines that an applicant has deliberately misrepresented information related to a bond issue to secure a guarantee, the commissioner must revoke the approval of the bonds for the guarantee.
- (e) Determination of PSF capacity to guarantee bonds.
- (1) Each month the commissioner will estimate the available capacity of the PSF. If necessary, the commissioner will confirm that the PSF has sufficient capacity to guarantee the bonds before the issuance of the final approval for the guarantee in accordance with subsection (g)(3) of this section. The calculation of capacity will be based on a multiplier of three and one-half times the cost value of the PSF with the proviso that under no circumstances could the capacity of the fund exceed the limits set by federal regulation. The commissioner may reduce the multiplier to maintain the AAA credit rating of the PSF. Changes to the multiplier made by the commissioner are to be ratified or rejected by the State Board of Education (SBOE) at the next meeting for which the item can be posted.
 - (2) The SBOE will establish an amount of capacity to be held in reserve of no less than 5.0% of the fund's capacity. The reserved capacity can be used to award guarantees for districts that experience unforeseen catastrophes or emergencies that require the renovation or replacement of school facilities as described in the TEC, §44.031(h). The amount to be held in reserve may be increased by a majority vote of the SBOE based on changes in the asset allocation and risk in the portfolio and unrealized gains in the portfolio, or by the commissioner as necessary to prudently manage fund capacity. Changes to the amount held in reserve made by the commissioner are to be ratified or rejected by the SBOE at the next meeting for which the item can be posted.
 - (3) The net capacity of the PSF to guarantee bonds is determined by subtracting the amount to be held in reserve, as determined under paragraph (2) of this subsection, from the total available capacity, as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.
- (f) Application process and application processing.
- (1) Application submission and fee. A district must apply to the commissioner for the guarantee of eligible bonds or the credit enhancement of eligible bonds as authorized under §61.1038 of this title by submitting an application electronically through the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor. The district must submit the information required under the TEC, §45.055(b), and this section and any additional information the commissioner may require. The application and all additional information required by the commissioner must be received before the application will be processed. The district may not submit an application for a guarantee or credit enhancement before the successful passage of an authorizing proposition.
 - (A) The application fee is \$1,500.
 - (B) The fee is due at the time the application for the guarantee or the credit enhancement is submitted. An application will not be processed until the fee has been remitted according to the directions provided on the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor and received by the TEA.
 - (C) The fee will not be refunded to a district that:
 - (i) is not approved for the guarantee or the credit enhancement; or
 - (ii) does not sell its bonds before the expiration of its approval for the guarantee or the credit enhancement.
 - (D) The fee may be transferred to a subsequent application for the guarantee or the credit enhancement by the district if the district withdraws its application and submits the subsequent application before the expiration of its approval for the guarantee or the credit enhancement.
 - (2) Application prioritization and processing. Applications will be prioritized based on districts' property wealth per ADA, with the application of a district with a lower property wealth per ADA prioritized before that of a district with a higher property wealth per ADA. All applications

received during a calendar month will be held until up to the 15th business day of the subsequent month. On or before the 15th business day of each month, the commissioner will announce the results of the prioritization and process applications for initial approval for the guarantee, up to the available net capacity as of the application deadline, subject to the requirements of this section.

- (A) Approval for guarantees will be awarded each month beginning with the districts with the lowest property wealth per ADA until the PSF reaches its net capacity to guarantee bonds.
 - (B) Approval for guarantees will be awarded based on the fund's capacity to fully guarantee the bond issue for which the guarantee is sought. Applications for bond issues that cannot be fully guaranteed will not receive an award. The amount of bond issue for which the guarantee was requested may not be modified after the monthly application deadline for the purposes of securing the guarantee during the award process. If PSF net capacity has been exhausted, the commissioner will process the application for approval of the credit enhancement as specified in §61.1038 of this title.
 - (C) The actual guarantee of the bonds is subject to the approval process prescribed in subsection (g) of this section.
 - (D) An applicant school district is ineligible for consideration for the guarantee if its lowest credit rating from any nationally recognized investment rating firm as defined in subsection (b)(9) of this section is the same as or higher than that of the PSF.
- (3) Late application. An application received after the application deadline will be considered a valid application for the subsequent month, unless withdrawn by the submitting district before the end of the subsequent month.
 - (4) Notice of application status. Each district that submits a valid application will be notified of the application status within 15 business days of the application deadline.
 - (5) Reapplication. If a district does not receive approval for the guarantee or for any reason does not receive approval of the bonds from the attorney general within the time period specified in subsection (g)(4) of this section, the district may reapply in a subsequent month. Applications that were denied approval for the guarantee will not be retained for consideration in subsequent months.
- (g) Approval for the guarantee; district responsibilities on receipt of approval.
- (1) Initial and final approval provisions.
 - (A) If, during the monthly estimation of PSF capacity described in subsection (e)(1) of this section, the commissioner determines that the available capacity of the PSF is 10% or less, the commissioner may require an applicant school district to obtain final approval for the guarantee as described in paragraph (3) of this subsection.
 - (B) If the commissioner has not made such a determination:
 - (i) the commissioner will consider the initial approval described in paragraph (2) of this subsection as both the initial and final approval; and
 - (ii) an applicant school district that has received notification of initial approval for the guarantee, as described in paragraph (2) of this subsection, may consider that notification as notification of initial and final approval for the guarantee and may complete the sale of the applicable bonds.
 - (2) Initial approval.
 - (A) The following provisions apply to all applications for the guarantee, regardless of whether an application is for a new money, refunding, or combination issue. Under the TEC, §45.056, the commissioner will investigate the applicant school district's accreditation status and financial status. A district must be accredited and financially

sound to be eligible for initial approval by the commissioner. The commissioner's review will include the following:

- (i) the purpose of the bond issue;
 - (ii) the district's accreditation status as defined by §97.1055 of this title (relating to Accreditation Status) in accordance with the following:
 - (I) if the district's accreditation status is Accredited, the district will be eligible for consideration for the guarantee;
 - (II) if the district's accreditation status is Accredited-Warned or Accredited-Probation, the commissioner will investigate the underlying reason for the accreditation rating to determine whether the accreditation rating is related to the district's financial soundness. If the accreditation rating is related to the district's financial soundness, the district will not be eligible for consideration for the guarantee; or
 - (III) if the district's accreditation status is Not Accredited-Revoked, the district will not be eligible for consideration for the guarantee;
 - (iii) the district's compliance with statutes and rules of the TEA; and
 - (iv) the district's financial status and stability, regardless of the district's accreditation rating, including approval of the bonds by the attorney general under the provisions of the TEC, §45.0031 and §45.005.
- (B) The following limitation applies to applications for new money issues of bonds for which the election authorizing the issuance of the bonds was called after July 15, 2004. The commissioner will limit approval for the guarantee to a district that has, at the time of the application for the guarantee, less than 90% of the annual debt service of the district with the highest annual debt service per ADA, as determined by the commissioner annually, or less than 90% of the total debt service of the district with the highest total debt service per ADA, as determined by the commissioner annually. The limitation will not apply to school districts that have enrollment growth, as defined in subsection (b)(8) of this section, of at least 25%, based on PEIMS data on enrollment available at the time of application. The annual debt service amount is the amount defined by subsection (b)(1) of this section. The total debt service amount is the amount defined by subsection (b)(13) of this section.
- (C) The commissioner will grant or deny initial approval for the guarantee based on the review described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and the limitation described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph and will provide an applicant district whose application has received initial approval for the guarantee written notice of initial approval.
- (3) Final approval. The provisions of this paragraph apply only as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection. A district must receive final approval before completing the sale of the bonds for which the district has received notification of initial approval.
- (A) A district that has received initial approval must provide a written notice to the TEA two business days before issuing a preliminary official statement (POS) for the bonds that are eligible for the guarantee or two business days before soliciting investment offers, if the bonds will be privately placed without the use of a POS.
- (i) The district must receive written confirmation from the TEA that the capacity continues to be available before proceeding with the public or private offer to sell bonds.
 - (ii) The TEA will provide this notification within one business day of receiving the notice of the POS or notice of other solicitation offers to sell the bonds.

- (B) A district that received confirmation from the TEA in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph must provide written notice to the TEA of the placement of an item to approve the bond sale on the agenda of a meeting of the school board of trustees no later than two business days before the meeting. If the bond sale is completed pursuant to a delegation by the board to a pricing officer or committee, notice must be given to the TEA no later than two business days before the execution of a bond purchase agreement by such pricing officer or committee.
 - (i) The district must receive written confirmation from the TEA that the capacity continues to be available for the bond sale before the approval of the sale by the school board of trustees or by the pricing officer or committee.
 - (ii) The TEA will provide this notification within one business day before the date that the district expects to complete the sale by official action of the board or of a pricing officer or committee.
 - (C) The TEA will process requests for final approval from districts that have received initial approval on a first come, first served basis. Requests for final approval must be received before the expiration of the initial approval.
 - (D) A district may provide written notification as required by this paragraph by facsimile transmission or by email in a manner prescribed by the commissioner.
- (4) District responsibilities on receipt of approval.
- (A) Once a district is awarded initial approval for the guarantee, each issuance of the bonds must be approved by the attorney general within 180 days of the date of the letter granting the approval for the guarantee. The initial approval for the guarantee will expire at the end of the 180-day period. The commissioner may extend the 180-day period, based on extraordinary circumstances, on receiving a written request from the district or the attorney general before the expiration of the 180-day period.
 - (B) If the bonds are not approved by the attorney general within 180 days of the date of the letter granting the approval for the guarantee, the commissioner will consider the application withdrawn, and the district must reapply for a guarantee.
 - (C) If applicable, the district must comply with the provisions for final approval described in paragraph (3) of this subsection to maintain approval for the guarantee.
 - (D) A district may not represent bonds as guaranteed for the purpose of pricing or marketing the bonds before the date of the letter granting approval for the guarantee.
- (h) Financial exigency. The following provisions describe how a declaration of financial exigency under §109.2001 of this title (relating to Financial Exigency) affects a district's application for guarantee approval or a district's previously granted approval.
- (1) Application for guarantee of new money issue. The commissioner will deny approval of an application for the guarantee of a new money issue if the applicant school district has declared a state of financial exigency for the district's current fiscal year. The denial of approval will be in effect for the duration of the applicable fiscal year unless the district can demonstrate financial stability.
 - (2) Approval granted before declaration. If in a given district's fiscal year the commissioner grants approval for the guarantee of a new money issue and the school district subsequently declares a state of financial exigency for that same fiscal year, the district must immediately notify the commissioner and may not offer the bonds for sale unless the commissioner determines that the district may proceed.
 - (3) Application for guarantee of refunding issue. The commissioner will consider an application for the guarantee of a refunding issue that meets all applicable requirements specified in this section even if the applicant school district has declared a state of financial exigency for the district's current fiscal year. In addition to fulfilling all applicable requirements specified in this section, the

applicant school district must also describe, in its application, the reason financial exigency was declared and how the refunding issue will support the district's financial recovery plan.

- (i) Allocation of specific holdings. If necessary to successfully operate the BGP, the commissioner may allocate specific holdings of the PSF to specific bond issues guaranteed under this section. This allocation will not prejudice the right of the SBOE to dispose of the holdings according to law and requirements applicable to the fund; however, the SBOE will ensure that holdings of the PSF are available for a substitute allocation sufficient to meet the purposes of the initial allocation. This allocation will not affect any rights of the bond holders under law.
- (j) Defeasance. The guarantee will be completely removed when bonds guaranteed by the BGP are defeased, and such a provision must be specifically stated in the bond order. If bonds guaranteed by the BGP are defeased, the district must notify the commissioner in writing within ten calendar days of the action.
- (k) Bonds issued before August 15, 1993. For bonds issued before August 15, 1993, a school district seeking the guarantee of eligible bonds must certify that, on the date of issuance of any bond, no funds received by the district from the Available School Fund (ASF) are reasonably expected to be used directly or indirectly to pay the principal or interest on, or the tender or retirement price of, any bond of the political subdivision or to fund a reserve or placement fund for any such bond.
- (l) Bonds guaranteed before December 1, 1993. For bonds guaranteed before December 1, 1993, if a school district cannot pay the maturing or matured principal or interest on a guaranteed bond, the commissioner will cause the amount needed to pay the principal or interest to be transferred to the district's paying agent solely from the PSF and not from the ASF. The commissioner also will direct the comptroller of public accounts to withhold the amount paid, plus interest, from the first state money payable to the district, excluding payments from the ASF.
- (m) Bonds issued after August 15, 1993, and guaranteed on or after December 1, 1993. If a school district cannot pay the maturing or matured principal or interest on a guaranteed bond, the commissioner will cause the amount needed to pay the principal or interest to be transferred to the district's paying agent from the PSF. The commissioner also will direct the comptroller of public accounts to withhold the amount paid, plus interest, from the first state money payable to the district, regardless of source, including the ASF.
- (n) Payments. For purposes of the provisions of the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C, matured principal and interest payments are limited to amounts due on guaranteed bonds at scheduled maturity, at scheduled interest payment dates, and at dates when bonds are subject to mandatory redemption, including extraordinary mandatory redemption, in accordance with the terms of the bond order. All such payment dates, including mandatory redemption dates, must be specified in the bond order or other document pursuant to which the bonds initially are issued. Without limiting the provisions of this subsection, payments attributable to an optional redemption or a right granted to a bondholder to demand payment on a tender of such bonds according to the terms of the bonds do not constitute matured principal and interest payments.
- (o) Guarantee restrictions. The guarantee provided for eligible bonds under the provisions of the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C, is restricted to matured bond principal and interest. The guarantee applies to all matured interest on eligible bonds, whether the bonds were issued with a fixed or variable interest rate and whether the interest rate changes as a result of an interest reset provision or other bond order provision requiring an interest rate change. The guarantee does not extend to any obligation of a district under any agreement with a third party relating to bonds that is defined or described in state law as a "bond enhancement agreement" or a "credit agreement," unless the right to payment of such third party is directly as a result of such third party being a bondholder.
- (p) Notice of default. A school district that has determined that it is or will be unable to pay maturing or matured principal or interest on a guaranteed bond must immediately, but not later than the fifth business day before maturity date, notify the commissioner.
- (q) Payment from PSF.
 - (1) Immediately after the commissioner receives the notice described in subsection (p) of this section, the commissioner will instruct the comptroller to transfer from the appropriate account in the PSF

to the district's paying agent the amount necessary to pay the maturing or matured principal or interest.

- (2) Immediately after receipt of the funds for payment of the principal or interest, the paying agent must pay the amount due and forward the canceled bond or coupon to the comptroller. The comptroller will hold the canceled bond or coupon on behalf of the PSF.
- (3) Following full reimbursement to the PSF with interest, the comptroller will further cancel the bond or coupon and forward it to the school district for which payment was made. Interest will be charged at the rate determined under the Texas Government Code, §2251.025(b). Interest will accrue as specified in the Texas Government Code, §2251.025(a) and (c).
- (r) Bonds not accelerated on default. If a school district fails to pay principal or interest on a guaranteed bond when it matures, other amounts not yet mature are not accelerated and do not become due by virtue of the school district's default.
- (s) Reimbursement of PSF. If payment from the PSF is made on behalf of a school district, the school district must reimburse the amount of the payment, plus interest, in accordance with the requirements of the TEC, §45.061.
- (t) Repeated failure to pay. If a total of two or more payments are made under the BGP or the credit enhancement program authorized under §61.1038 of this title on the bonds of a school district, the commissioner will take action in accordance with the provisions of the TEC, §45.062.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §33.65 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(33), 45.053(d), 45.0532, 45.0571, and 45.063, and the Texas Constitution, Article VII, Section 5.

Source: The provisions of this §33.65 adopted to be effective September 1, 1996, 21 TexReg 3937; amended to be effective December 5, 2004, 29 TexReg 11340; amended to be effective December 25, 2005, 30 TexReg 8431; amended to be effective February 22, 2009, 34 TexReg 1050; amended to be effective July 4, 2010, 35 TexReg 5537; amended to be effective December 26, 2013, 38 TexReg 9353; amended to be effective January 8, 2015, 40 TexReg 219; amended to be effective February 1, 2016, 40 TexReg 7222 and 40 TexReg 9791; amended to be effective March 1, 2017, 42 TexReg 755; amended to be effective March 29, 2018, 43 TexReg 1845.

§33.67. Bond Guarantee Program for Charter Schools.

- (a) Statutory provision. The commissioner of education must administer the guarantee program for open-enrollment charter school bonds according to the provisions of the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 45, Subchapter C.
- (b) Definitions. The following definitions apply to the guarantee program for open-enrollment charter school bonds.
 - (1) Amortization expense--The annual expense of any debt and/or loan obligations.
 - (2) Annual debt service--Payments of principal and noncapitalized interest on outstanding bonded debt scheduled to occur during a charter district's fiscal year as reported by the Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) of Texas or its successor, if the charter district is responsible for outstanding bonded indebtedness.
 - (A) The annual debt service will be determined by the current report of the bonded indebtedness of the charter district as reported by the MAC of Texas or its successor as of the date of the application deadline.
 - (B) Solely for the purpose of this calculation, the debt service amounts for variable rate bonds will be those that are published in the final official statement or, if there is no official statement, debt service amounts based on the maximum rate permitted by the bond resolution or other bond proceeding that establishes a maximum interest rate for the bonds.
 - (C) Annual debt service includes required payments into a sinking fund as authorized under 26 United States Code (USC) §54A(d)(4)(C), provided that the sinking fund is

maintained by a trustee or other entity approved by the commissioner that is not under the control or common control of the charter district.

- (3) Application deadline--The last business day of the month in which an application for a guarantee is filed. Applications must be submitted electronically through the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor by 5:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month to be considered in that month's application processing. This application deadline does not apply to applications for issues to refund bonds previously guaranteed by the Bond Guarantee Program.
- (4) Board resolution--The resolution adopted by the governing body of an open-enrollment charter holder that:
 - (A) requests guarantee of bonds through the Bond Guarantee Program; and
 - (B) authorizes the charter holder's administration to pursue bond financing.
- (5) Bond--A debt security issuance approved by the attorney general, issued under the TEC, Chapter 53, to provide long-term financing with a maturity schedule of at least three years.
- (6) Bond Guarantee Program (BGP)--The guarantee program that is described by this section and established under the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C.
- (7) Bond resolution--The resolution, indenture, or other instrument adopted by the governing body of an issuer of bonds authorizing the issuance of bonds for the benefit of a charter district.
- (8) Charter district--An open-enrollment charter holder designated as a charter district under subsection (e) of this section, as authorized by the TEC, §12.135.
- (9) Combination issue--An issuance of bonds for which an application for a guarantee is filed that includes both a new money portion and a refunding portion, as permitted by the TEC, Chapter 53. The eligibility of combination issues for the guarantee is limited by the eligibility of the new money and refunding portions as defined in this subsection.
- (10) Debt service coverage ratio--A measure of a charter district's ability to pay interest and principal with cash generated from current operations. The debt service coverage ratio (total debt service coverage on all long-term capital debt) equals the excess of revenues over expenses plus interest expense plus depreciation expense plus amortization expense, all divided by annual debt service. The calculation can be expressed as: $(\text{Excess of revenues over expenses} + \text{interest expense} + \text{depreciation expense} + \text{amortization expense}) / \text{annual debt service}$.
- (11) Depreciation expense--The audited amount of depreciation that was expensed during the fiscal period.
- (12) Educational facility--A classroom building, laboratory, science building, faculty or administrative office building, or other facility used exclusively for the conduct of the educational and administrative functions of a charter school.
- (13) Foundation School Program (FSP)--The program established under the TEC, Chapters 41, 42, and 46, or any successor program of state appropriated funding for school districts in the state of Texas.
- (14) Long-term debt--Any debt of the charter district that has a term of greater than three years and is secured on a parity basis with the bonds to be guaranteed.
- (15) Maximum annual debt service--As of any date of calculation, the highest annual debt service requirements with respect to all outstanding long-term debt for any succeeding fiscal year.
- (16) Nationally recognized investment rating firm--An investment rating firm that is designated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO) and is demonstrating that it has:
 - (A) had its current NRSRO designation for at least three consecutive years;
 - (B) provided credit ratings to each of the following:

- (i) fifteen or more fixed income securities denominated in United States dollars and issued during the immediately preceding three years;
 - (ii) ten or more school districts in the United States;
 - (iii) one or more charter schools in the United States; and
 - (C) a documented separation of duties between employees involved in credit analysis and employees involved in business relationships with clients.
 - (17) New money issue--An issuance of revenue bonds under the TEC, Chapter 53, for the purposes of:
 - (A) the acquisition, construction, repair, or renovation of an educational facility of an open-enrollment charter school and equipping real property of an open-enrollment charter school, provided that any bonds for student or teacher housing must meet the following criteria:
 - (i) the proposed housing is contemplated in the charter or charter application; and
 - (ii) the proposed housing is an essential and integral part of the educational program included in the charter contract; or
 - (B) the refinancing of one or more promissory notes executed by an open-enrollment charter school, each in an amount in excess of \$500,000, that evidence one or more loans from a national or regional bank, nonprofit corporation, or foundation that customarily makes loans to charter schools, the proceeds of which loans were used for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; or
 - (C) both.
 - (18) Open-enrollment charter--This term has the meaning assigned in §100.1001 of this title (relating to Definitions).
 - (19) Open-enrollment charter holder--This term has the meaning assigned to the term "charter holder" in the TEC, §12.1012.
 - (20) Open-enrollment charter school--This term has the meaning assigned to the term "charter school" in §100.1001 of this title.
 - (21) Open-enrollment charter school campus--This term has the meaning assigned to the term "charter school campus" in §100.1001 of this title.
 - (22) Refunding issue--An issuance of bonds under the TEC, Chapter 53, for the purpose of refunding:
 - (A) bonds that have previously been issued under that chapter and have previously been approved by the attorney general; or
 - (B) bonds that have previously been issued for the benefit of an open-enrollment charter school under Vernon's Civil Statutes, Article 1528m, and have previously been approved by the attorney general.
- (c) Bond eligibility.
- (1) Only those combination, new money, and refunding issues as defined in subsection (b)(9), (17), and (22), respectively, of this section are eligible to receive the guarantee. The bonds must, without the guarantee, be rated as investment grade by a nationally recognized investment rating firm and must be issued on or after September 28, 2011.
 - (2) Refunding issues must comply with the following requirements to retain eligibility for the guarantee for the refunding bonds.
 - (A) As with any open-enrollment charter holder applying for approval for the guarantee, the charter holder for which the refunding bonds are being issued must meet the requirements for charter district designation specified in subsection (e)(2) of this section and the requirements for initial approval specified in subsection (f)(3)(A) of this section.

- (B) The charter holder must demonstrate that issuing the refunding bond(s) will result in a present value savings to the charter holder. Present value savings is determined by computing the net present value of the difference between each scheduled payment on the original bonds and each scheduled payment on the refunding bonds. Present value savings must be computed at the true interest cost of the refunding bonds. If the commissioner approves refunding bonds for the guarantee based on evidence of present value savings but at the time of the sale of the refunding bonds a present value savings is not realized, the commissioner may revoke the approval of the bonds for the guarantee.
 - (C) For issues that refund bonds previously guaranteed by the BGP, the charter holder must demonstrate that the refunding bond or bonds will not have a maturity date later than the final maturity date of the bonds being refunded.
 - (D) The refunding transaction must comply with the provisions of subsection (f)(5)(A)-(C) and (E) of this section.
- (3) If an open-enrollment charter holder files an application for a combination issue, the application will be treated as an application for a single issue for the purposes of eligibility for the guarantee. A guarantee for the combination issue will be awarded only if both the new money portion and the refunding portion meet all of the applicable eligibility requirements described in this section. As part of its application, the charter holder making the application must present data that demonstrate compliance for both the new money portion of the issue and the refunding portion of the issue.
- (4) If the commissioner determines that an applicant has deliberately misrepresented information related to a bond issue to secure a guarantee, the commissioner must revoke the approval of the bonds for the guarantee.
- (d) Determination of Permanent School Fund (PSF) capacity to guarantee bonds for charter districts.
- (1) Each month the commissioner will estimate the available capacity of the PSF to guarantee bonds for charter districts. This capacity is determined by multiplying the net capacity determined under §33.65 of this title (relating to Bond Guarantee Program for School Districts) by the percentage of the number of students enrolled in open-enrollment charter schools in this state compared to the total number of students enrolled in all public schools in this state, as determined by the commissioner. The commissioner's determination of the number of students enrolled in open-enrollment charter schools in this state and the number of students enrolled in all public schools in this state is based on the enrollment data submitted by school districts and charter schools to the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) during the most recent fall PEIMS submission. Annually, the commissioner will post the applicable student enrollment numbers and the percentage of students enrolled in open-enrollment charter schools on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) web page related to the BGP. The commissioner shall hold 5.0% of the charter school available capacity in reserve each month.
 - (2) For state fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the available capacity of the PSF to guarantee bonds for charter districts shall follow the schedule described in TEC, §45.0532(b-1), unless the SBOE adopts a different percentage for a specific fiscal year or years in accordance with TEC, §45.0532(b-2) and (b-3). This paragraph expires September 1, 2022.
 - (3) Up to half of the total capacity of the PSF to guarantee bonds for charter districts may be used to guarantee charter district refunding bonds.
- (e) Application process and application processing. An open-enrollment charter holder must apply to the commissioner for the guarantee of eligible bonds by submitting an application electronically through the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor. Before an application for the guarantee will be considered, a charter holder must first be determined by the commissioner to meet criteria for designation as a charter district for purposes of this section. The application submitted through the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor will serve as both a charter holder's application for designation as a charter district and its application for the guarantee.

- (1) Application submission and fee. As part of its application, an open-enrollment charter holder must submit the information required under the TEC, §45.055(b), and this section and any additional information the commissioner may require. The application and all additional information required by the commissioner must be received before the application will be processed. The open-enrollment charter holder may not submit an application for a guarantee before the governing body of the charter holder adopts a board resolution as defined in subsection (b)(4) of this section.
 - (A) The amount of the application fee is the amount specified in §33.65 of this title.
 - (B) The fee is due at the time the application for charter district designation and the guarantee is submitted. An application will not be processed until the fee has been remitted according to the directions provided on the website of the MAC of Texas or its successor and received by the TEA.
 - (C) The fee will not be refunded to an applicant that:
 - (i) is designated a charter district but is not approved for the guarantee; or
 - (ii) receives approval for the guarantee but does not sell its bonds before the expiration of its approval for the guarantee.
 - (D) The fee may be transferred to a subsequent application for the guarantee by a charter district that has been approved for the guarantee if the charter district withdraws its application and submits the subsequent application before the expiration of its approval for the guarantee.
- (2) Eligibility to be designated a charter district.
 - (A) To be designated a charter district and have its application for the guarantee considered by the commissioner, an open-enrollment charter holder must:
 - (i) have operated at least one open-enrollment charter school in the state of Texas for at least three years and have had students enrolled in the school for those three years;
 - (ii) identify in its application for which open-enrollment charter school and, if applicable, for which open-enrollment charter school campus the bond funds will be used;
 - (iii) in its application, agree that the bonded indebtedness for which the guarantee is sought will be undertaken as an obligation of all entities under common control of the open-enrollment charter holder and agree that all such entities will be liable for the obligation if the open-enrollment charter holder defaults on the bonded indebtedness, provided that an entity that does not operate a charter school in Texas is subject to this subparagraph only to the extent that it has received state funds from the open-enrollment charter holder;
 - (iv) not have an unresolved corrective action that is more than one year old, unless the open-enrollment charter holder has taken appropriate steps, as determined by the commissioner, to begin resolving the action;
 - (v) have had, for the past three years, an audit as required by §100.1047 of this title (relating to Accounting for State and Federal Funds) that was completed with unqualified or unmodified opinions;
 - (vi) have received an investment grade credit rating from a nationally recognized investment rating firm as defined in subsection (b)(16) of this section as specified by the TEC, §45.0541, within the last year; and
 - (vii) not have materially violated a covenant relating to debt obligation in the immediately preceding three years.
 - (B) For an open-enrollment charter holder to be designated a charter district and have its application for the guarantee considered by the commissioner, each open-enrollment

charter school operated under the charter must not have an accreditation rating of Not Accredited-Revoked and must have a rating of met standard or met alternative standard as its most recent state academic accountability rating. However, if an open-enrollment charter school operated under the charter is not yet rated because the school is in its first year of operation, that fact will not impact the charter holder's eligibility to be designated a charter district and apply for the guarantee.

- (3) Application processing. All applications received during a calendar month that were submitted by open-enrollment charter holders determined to meet the criteria in paragraph (2) of this subsection will be held until the 15th business day of the subsequent month. On the 15th business day of each month, the commissioner will announce the results of the pro rata allocation of available capacity, if pro rata allocation is necessary, and process applications for initial approval for the guarantee, up to the available capacity as of the application deadline, subject to the requirements of this section.
 - (A) If the available capacity is insufficient to guarantee the total value of the bonds for all applicant charter districts, the commissioner will allocate the available capacity on a pro rata basis to each applicant charter district. For each applicant, the commissioner will determine the percentage of the total amount of all applicants' proposed bonds that the applicant's proposed bonds represent. The commissioner will then allocate to that applicant the same percentage of the available capacity, but in no event will an allocation be equal to an amount less than \$500,000.
 - (B) The actual guarantee of the bonds is subject to the approval process prescribed in subsection (f) of this section.
 - (C) An applicant charter district is ineligible for consideration for the guarantee if its lowest credit rating from any nationally recognized investment rating firm as defined in subsection (b)(16) of this section is the same as or higher than that of the PSF.
- (4) Late application. An application received after the application deadline will be considered a valid application for the subsequent month, unless withdrawn by the submitting open-enrollment charter holder before the end of the subsequent month.
- (5) Notice of application status. Each open-enrollment charter holder that submits a valid application will be notified of the application status within 15 business days of the application deadline.
- (6) Reapplication. If an open-enrollment charter holder does not receive designation as a charter district, does not receive approval for the guarantee, or for any reason does not receive approval of the bonds from the attorney general within the time period specified in subsection (f)(5) of this section, the charter holder may reapply in a subsequent month. An application that was denied approval for the guarantee or that was submitted by a charter holder that the commissioner determined did not meet the criteria for charter district designation will not be retained for consideration in subsequent months. A reapplication fee will be required unless the conditions described in subsection (e)(1)(D) of this section apply to the charter holder.
- (f) Approval for the guarantee; charter district responsibilities on receipt of approval.
 - (1) Approval for the guarantee and charter renewal or amendment.
 - (A) If an open-enrollment charter holder applies for the guarantee within the 12 months before the charter holder's charter is due to expire, application approval will be contingent on successful renewal of the charter, and the bonds for which the open-enrollment charter holder is applying for the guarantee may not be issued before the successful renewal of the charter.
 - (B) If an open-enrollment charter holder proposes to use the proceeds of the bonds for which it is applying for the guarantee for an expansion that requires a charter amendment, application approval will be contingent on approval of the amendment, and the bonds may not be issued before approval of the amendment.
 - (2) Initial and final approval provisions.

- (A) The commissioner may require an applicant charter district to obtain final approval for the guarantee as described in paragraph (4) of this subsection if:
 - (i) during the monthly estimation of PSF capacity described in §33.65 of this title, the commissioner determines that the available capacity of the PSF as described in §33.65 of this title is 10% or less; or
 - (ii) during the monthly estimation of the available capacity of the PSF to guarantee bonds for charter districts described in subsection (d) of this section, the commissioner determines that the available capacity of the PSF to guarantee bonds for charter districts is 10% or less.
 - (B) If the commissioner has not made such a determination:
 - (i) the commissioner will consider the initial approval described in paragraph (3) of this subsection as both the initial and final approval; and
 - (ii) an applicant charter district that has received notification of initial approval for the guarantee, as described in paragraph (3) of this subsection, may consider that notification as notification of initial and final approval for the guarantee and may complete the sale of the applicable bonds.
- (3) Initial approval.
- (A) The following provisions apply to all applications for the guarantee, regardless of whether an application is for a new money, refunding, or combination issue. Under the TEC, §45.056, the commissioner will investigate the financial status of the applicant charter district and the accreditation status of all open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter. For the charter district's application to be eligible for initial approval by the commissioner, each open-enrollment charter school operated under the charter must be accredited, and the charter district must be financially sound. The commissioner's review will include review of the following:
 - (i) the purpose of the bond issue;
 - (ii) the accreditation status, as defined by §97.1055 of this title (relating to Accreditation Status), of all open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter in accordance with the following, except that, if an open-enrollment charter school operated under the charter has not yet received an accreditation rating because it is in its first year of operation, that fact will not impact the charter district's eligibility for consideration for the guarantee:
 - (I) if the accreditation status of all open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter is Accredited, the charter district will be eligible for consideration for the guarantee;
 - (II) if the accreditation status of any open-enrollment charter school operated under the charter is Accredited-Warned or Accredited-Probation, the commissioner will investigate the underlying reason for the accreditation rating to determine whether the accreditation rating is related to the open-enrollment charter school's financial soundness. If the accreditation rating is related to the open-enrollment charter school's financial soundness, the charter district will not be eligible for consideration for the guarantee; or
 - (III) if the accreditation status of any open-enrollment charter school operated under the charter is Not Accredited-Revoked, the charter district will not be eligible for consideration for the guarantee;
 - (iii) the charter district's financial status and stability, regardless of each open-enrollment charter school's accreditation rating, including approval of the bonds by the attorney general under the provisions of the TEC, §53.40;

- (iv) whether the TEA has required the charter district to submit a financial plan under §109.1101 of this title (relating to Financial Solvency Review) in the last three years;
 - (v) the audit history of the charter district and of all open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter;
 - (vi) the charter district's compliance with statutes and rules of the TEA and with applicable state and federal program requirements and the compliance of all open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter with these statutes, rules, and requirements;
 - (vii) any interventions and sanctions to which the charter district has been subject; to which any of the open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter has been subject; and, if applicable, to which any of the open-enrollment charter school campuses operated under the charter has been subject;
 - (viii) formal complaints received by the TEA that have been made against the charter district, against any of the open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter, or against any of the open-enrollment charter school campuses operated under the charter;
 - (ix) the state academic accountability rating of all open-enrollment charter schools operated under the charter and the campus ratings of all open-enrollment charter school campuses operated under the charter;
 - (x) any unresolved corrective actions that are less than one year old; and
 - (xi) whether the charter district is considered a high-risk grantee by the TEA office responsible for planning, grants, and evaluation.
- (B) The commissioner will limit approval for the guarantee to a charter district with a historical debt service coverage ratio, based on annual debt service, of at least 1.1 for the most recently completed fiscal year and a projected debt service coverage ratio, based on projected revenues and expenses and maximum annual debt service, of at least 1.2. If the bond issuance for which an application has been submitted is the charter district's first bond issuance, the commissioner will evaluate only projected debt service coverage. Projections of revenues and expenses are subject to approval by the commissioner.
- (C) The commissioner will grant or deny initial approval for the guarantee based on the review described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and the limitation described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph and will provide an applicant charter district whose application has received initial approval for the guarantee written notice of initial approval.
- (4) Final approval. The provisions of this paragraph apply only as described in paragraph (2) of this subsection. A charter district must receive final approval before completing the sale of the bonds for which the charter district has received notification of initial approval.
- (A) A charter district that has received initial approval must provide a written notice to the TEA two business days before issuing a preliminary official statement (POS) for the bonds that are eligible for the guarantee or two business days before soliciting investment offers, if the bonds will be privately placed without the use of a POS.
- (i) The charter district must receive written confirmation from the TEA that the capacity continues to be available and must continue to meet the requirements of subsection (e)(2) of this section before proceeding with the public or private offer to sell bonds.
 - (ii) The TEA will provide this notification within one business day of receiving the notice of the POS or notice of other solicitation offers to sell the bonds.

- (B) A charter district that received confirmation from the TEA in accordance with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph must provide written notice to the TEA of the placement of an item to approve the bond sale on the agenda of a meeting of the bond issuer's board of directors no later than two business days before the meeting. If the bond sale is completed pursuant to a delegation by the issuer to a pricing officer or committee, notice must be given to the TEA no later than two business days before the execution of a bond purchase agreement by such pricing officer or committee.
 - (i) The charter district must receive written confirmation from the TEA that the capacity continues to be available for the bond sale before the approval of the sale by the bond issuer or by the pricing officer or committee.
 - (ii) The TEA will provide this notification within one business day before the date that the bond issuer expects to complete the sale by official action of the bond issuer or of a pricing officer or committee.
 - (C) The TEA will process requests for final approval from charter districts that have received initial approval on a first come, first served basis. Requests for final approval must be received before the expiration of the initial approval.
 - (D) A charter district may provide written notification as required by this paragraph by facsimile transmission, by email, or in another manner prescribed by the commissioner.
- (5) Charter district responsibilities on receipt of approval.
- (A) Once a charter district is awarded initial approval for the guarantee, each issuance of the bonds must be approved by the attorney general within 180 days of the date of the letter granting the approval for the guarantee. The initial approval for the guarantee will expire at the end of the 180-day period. The commissioner may extend the 180-day period, based on extraordinary circumstances, on receiving a written request from the charter district or the attorney general before the expiration of the 180-day period.
 - (B) If applicable, the charter district must comply with the provisions for final approval described in paragraph (4) of this subsection to maintain approval for the guarantee.
 - (C) If the bonds are not approved by the attorney general within 180 days of the date of the letter granting the approval for the guarantee, the commissioner will consider the application withdrawn, and the charter district must reapply for a guarantee.
 - (D) A charter district may not represent bonds as guaranteed for the purpose of pricing or marketing the bonds before the date of the letter granting approval for the guarantee.
 - (E) The charter district must provide evidence of the final investment grade rating of the bonds to the TEA after receiving initial approval but before the distribution of the preliminary official statement for the bonds or, if the bonds are offered in a private placement, before approval of the bond sale by the governing body of the charter district.
 - (F) A charter district must identify by legal description any educational facility purchased or improved with bond proceeds no later than 30 days after entering into a binding commitment to expend bond proceeds for that purpose. The charter district must identify at that time whether and to what extent debt service will be paid with any source of revenue other than state funds.
- (g) Allocation of specific holdings. If necessary to successfully operate the BGP, the commissioner may allocate specific holdings of the PSF to specific bond issues guaranteed under this section. This allocation will not prejudice the right of the State Board of Education (SBOE) to dispose of the holdings according to law and requirements applicable to the fund; however, the SBOE will ensure that holdings of the PSF are available for a substitute allocation sufficient to meet the purposes of the initial allocation. This allocation will not affect any rights of the bond holders under law.

- (h) Defeasance. The guarantee will be completely removed when bonds guaranteed by the BGP are defeased, and such a provision must be specifically stated in the bond resolution. If bonds guaranteed by the BGP are defeased, the charter district must notify the commissioner in writing within ten calendar days of the action.
- (i) Payments. For purposes of the provisions of the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C, matured principal and interest payments are limited to amounts due on guaranteed bonds at scheduled maturity, at scheduled interest payment dates, and at dates when bonds are subject to mandatory redemption, including extraordinary mandatory redemption, in accordance with their terms. All such payment dates, including mandatory redemption dates, must be specified in the bond order or other document pursuant to which the bonds initially are issued. Without limiting the provisions of this subsection, payments attributable to an optional redemption or a right granted to a bondholder to demand payment on a tender of such bonds according to the terms of the bonds do not constitute matured principal and interest payments.
- (j) Guarantee restrictions. The guarantee provided for eligible bonds under the provisions of the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C, is restricted to matured bond principal and interest. The guarantee applies to all matured interest on eligible bonds, whether the bonds were issued with a fixed or variable interest rate and whether the interest rate changes as a result of an interest reset provision or other bond resolution provision requiring an interest rate change. The guarantee does not extend to any obligation of a charter district under any agreement with a third party relating to bonds that is defined or described in state law as a "bond enhancement agreement" or a "credit agreement," unless the right to payment of such third party is directly as a result of such third party being a bondholder.
- (k) Notice of default. A charter district that has determined that it is or will be unable to pay maturing or matured principal or interest on a guaranteed bond must immediately, but not later than the fifth business day before the maturing or matured principal or interest becomes due, notify the commissioner.
- (l) Charter District Bond Guarantee Reserve Fund. The Charter District Bond Guarantee Reserve Fund is a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund and is managed by the SBOE in the same manner that the PSF is managed by the SBOE.
- (m) Payment from Charter District Bond Guarantee Reserve Fund and PSF.
 - (1) Immediately after the commissioner receives the notice described in subsection (k) of this section, the commissioner will notify the TEA division responsible for administering the PSF of the notice of default and instruct the comptroller to transfer from the Charter District Bond Guarantee Reserve Fund established under the TEC, §45.0571, to the charter district's paying agent the amount necessary to pay the maturing or matured principal or interest.
 - (2) If money in the reserve fund is insufficient to pay the amount due on a bond under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the commissioner will instruct the comptroller to transfer from the appropriate account in the PSF to the charter district's paying agent the amount necessary to pay the balance of the unpaid maturing or matured principal or interest.
 - (3) Immediately after receipt of the funds for payment of the principal or interest, the paying agent must pay the amount due and forward the canceled bond or coupon to the comptroller. The comptroller will hold the canceled bond or coupon on behalf of the fund or funds from which payment was made.
 - (4) To ensure that the charter district reimburses the reserve fund and the PSF, if applicable, the commissioner will withhold from state funds otherwise payable to the charter district the amount that the charter district owes in reimbursement.
 - (5) Funds intercepted for reimbursement under paragraph (4) of this subsection will be used to fully reimburse the PSF before any funds reimburse the reserve fund. If the funds intercepted under paragraph (4) of this subsection are insufficient to fully reimburse the PSF with interest, subsequent payments into the reserve fund will first be applied to any outstanding obligation to the PSF.
 - (6) Following full reimbursement to the reserve fund and the PSF, if applicable, with interest, the comptroller will further cancel the bond or coupon and forward it to the charter district for which payment was made. Interest will be charged at the rate determined under the Texas Government

Code (TGC), §2251.025(b). Interest will accrue as specified in the TGC, §2251.025(a) and (c). For purposes of this section, the "date the payment becomes overdue" that is referred to in the TGC, §2251.025(a), is the date that the comptroller makes the payment to the charter district's paying agent.

- (n) Bonds not accelerated on default. If a charter district fails to pay principal or interest on a guaranteed bond when it matures, other amounts not yet mature are not accelerated and do not become due by virtue of the charter district's default.
- (o) Reimbursement of Charter District Bond Guarantee Reserve Fund or PSF. If payment from the Charter District Bond Guarantee Reserve Fund or the PSF is made on behalf of a charter district, the charter district must reimburse the amount of the payment, plus interest, in accordance with the requirements of the TEC, §45.061.
- (p) Repeated failure to pay. If a total of two or more payments are made under the BGP on the bonds of a charter district, the commissioner may take action in accordance with the provisions of the TEC, §45.062.
- (q) Report on the use of funds and confirmation of use of funds by independent auditor. A charter district that issues bonds approved for the guarantee must report to the TEA annually in a form prescribed by the commissioner on the use of the bond funds until all bond proceeds have been spent. The charter district's independent auditor must confirm in the charter district's annual financial report that bond funds have been used in accordance with the purpose specified in the application for the guarantee.
- (r) Failure to comply with statute or this section. An open-enrollment charter holder's failure to comply with the requirements of the TEC, Chapter 45, Subchapter C, or with the requirements of this section, including by making any material misrepresentations in the charter holder's application for charter district designation and the guarantee, constitutes a material violation of the open-enrollment charter holder's charter.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §33.67 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(33), 12.135, 45.051, 45.053, 45.0531, 45.0532, 45.0541, 45.056, 45.0571, 45.063, and the Texas Constitution, Article VII, Section 5.

Source: The provisions of this §33.67 adopted to be effective March 3, 2014, 39 TexReg 1367; amended to be effective January 8, 2015, 40 TexReg 225; amended to be effective October 19, 2015, 40 TexReg 7227; amended to be effective March 29, 2018, 43 TexReg 1845.