

Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education Members for the 2023-2027 Term

Bangor, Aaron, Ph.D., of Austin, is a Senior Lead User Experience Researcher at AT&T and Vice Chair of the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education. He is a member of the International Association of Accessibility Professionals and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Additionally, he serves as Chair of Disability: IN Central Texas, has acted as a technical and policy expert on accessibility and disability issues with the Federal Communications Commission and the Council of State Governments, and participates in national and international standards development. He is board certified as both a Human Factors Professional and an Accessibility Professional. Dr. Bangor received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering, and both a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Human Factors Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Brown-Duncan, Lori, of Hutto, is a Family Nurse Practitioner employed by Austin Geriatric Specialists. She received her degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. She lives in Hutto with her husband of more than 30 years and their adult daughter with special needs. She also serves on the Hutto Ethics Committee.

Cavazos, Claudia, of Pearland, is the Principal of St. Christopher Catholic School in Houston.

Cevallos, Tara, M.Ed., LDT, CALT-QI, of Austin, is the Principal at St. Austin Catholic School. She is a member of the Academic Language Therapy Association, International Multisensory Structured Language Education Center, and the Diocesan School Advisory Board for the Diocese of Austin, and serves as Finance Chair for the Dyslexia Center of Austin. She is a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist (LDT), Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT), and Qualified Instructor (QI), and is a co-founder of the Dyslexia Center of Austin. She received a Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Education in Special Education from Midwestern State University, and a Catholic School Leadership graduate certificate from Creighton University.

Estrada, April, Ed.D., of Wylie, is the Director of Special Populations for Region 10 Education Service Center. She is a member of the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, the Council of Women School Executives, and the Texas Association of School Administrators. Additionally, she serves as an adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University. Dr. Estrada received a Bachelor of Science from the University of North Texas and both a Master's degree and Doctorate in Education Leadership from Dallas Baptist University.

Esquivel, Marissa, of Beeville, is the Director of Special Education Programs at St. Mary's Academy Charter School. She is a member of the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education and the Council of Exceptional Children. She received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from The University of Texas at Brownsville and a Master of Special Education from The University of Texas Permian Basin and is currently pursuing certification as a diagnostician.

Faulkner, Rebecca, of Rochelle, is the Director of Special Populations for Brownwood ISD. She is a member of the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education. She has more than 20 years of experience in education, working with students with disabilities in instructional support and campus and district administration. Ms. Faulkner received a Bachelor of Social Work from Tarleton State University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from The University of Texas Permian Basin.

Garza Wofford, Jo Ann, of New Braunfels, is a retired Vice President and Senior Fiduciary Administrator for Wells Fargo Investment Fiduciary Services.

Kubala, Sheryl, of Austin, is a parent and volunteer whose roles include "nurse, neurologist, driver, household manager, GI specialist, reading buddy, short-order cook, and medication manager."

Litzinger, Amy, of Austin, is a Public Policy Specialist with Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) and Chair of the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education.

Markel, Kevin is a Statewide Transition Program Specialist for the Texas Workforce Commission – Vocational Rehabilitation Division. He has more than 20 years of experience with the agency and holds a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of North Texas.

Melendez, Juana (“Janie”), of Hidalgo, is a teacher with Valley View Independent School District in Pharr and Secretary of the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education. She is a member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators and the McAllen Evening Rotary and serves as treasurer for Objective Watchers of the Legal System. She received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice, and a Master of Public Administration from The University of Texas–Pan American.

Nichols, Susan, of Carrollton, is the Interim Executive Director at the University of North Texas Kristin Farmer Autism Center.

Penn, Felicia began her career with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) in 2001 as an adoption worker in San Antonio. She has led and supported numerous initiatives, including Project SWIFT and PUSH, and served as an adoption supervisor before transitioning into education. During her time in the adoption unit, she developed the “Hair-a-thon” concept and introduced professional photography for youth seeking adoptive placement. Her leadership contributed to achieving one of the highest rates of successful matches in the nation, resulting in a \$1 million grant for the department. She became an Education Specialist in 2007 and moved to the State Office in 2020, where she serves as Manager of Education. Ms. Penn is dedicated to advocating for youth in the foster care system and advancing educational outcomes.

Thibodeaux, Agata K. (“Agatha”), of Katy, is an Executive Assistant at The Frontline Group, LLC.

Urbanovsky, Kristen, M.Ed., of Elgin, is an Educational Diagnostician with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. She received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of North Texas and a Master of Education in Special Education from Texas Tech University and holds certification as an Educational Diagnostician. Since beginning her career in special education in 2011, she has served in multiple roles, including special education paraprofessional, teacher, admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) facilitator, and diagnostician. She is currently pursuing a Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) degree at the University of Houston and is expected to graduate in May 2027.