

Charter for Commissioner of Education's Texas Accountability Advisory Group

- I. The Committee shall be known as the Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) and is authorized by the Commissioner of Education, serving at his discretion per Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.002. TAAG is a 20-person committee, comprised of representatives from school districts, legislative offices, and the community, to identify issues critical to the accountability system and make recommendations/provide feedback on major policy issues.
- II. Purpose, Scope of Work
 - a. The Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) was created as a standing committee to work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on matters related to the academic state and federal accountability systems.
 - b. The committee shall limit its activities to advising on matters that directly concern the state and federal academic accountability systems. The committee is charged with identifying broader potential improvements to the academic accountability system, bringing creative solutions and best practices to the group for discussion, and assessing the impact of legislation and stakeholder feedback on the academic accountability system.
 - c. The committee shall be comprised of individuals with a wide range of skills and experiences and will provide the Commissioner of Education and TEA with objective opinions about the academic accountability system and contribute input, skills, and knowledge towards specific details of this system.
 - d. This project charter acknowledges that guidelines and requirements may evolve due to changes in state or federal policies, regulatory updates, or feedback from stakeholders. The project team will remain flexible and responsive to these changes, ensuring that all procedures and deliverables are adjusted accordingly. Any modifications to the guidelines will be communicated promptly to all stakeholders, and necessary adjustments will be documented and implemented to maintain compliance and project integrity.
- III. Decision Making
 - a. The committee shall have no decision-making responsibilities and is formed to give advice and recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and TEA. It cannot compel the Commissioner of Education or TEA staff to act on its recommendations or feedback.
- IV. Membership
 - a. Composition: The committee shall consist of no more than twenty members. Members will be selected and appointed by the Commissioner of Education following a nomination process to ensure members meet the qualifications specified in section V below. Committee members will constitute a cross-section of the Texas public education system.
 - b. Term-length: Committee members commit to a three-year minimum term. After the third year, a committee member may be eligible to serve for two additional years at the discretion of the TEA. A member may not serve for more than five consecutive years.
 - c. Attendance: Substitutes or designees are not permitted; members may not send a substitute in their place if they are unable to attend the meeting.
 - d. Restrictions: Registered lobbyists may not be members of the committee. The commissioner cannot appoint individuals to advisory committees if they are retained or employed by an accountability or assessment instrument vendor.
 - e. Vacancies: If a membership becomes available due to lack of attendance or voluntary withdrawal, it is not transferred to another individual selected by the departing member. Instead, the membership nomination and recruitment process is reopened. Any vacancies are filled through

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this established process.

- V. Qualifications for TAAG Committee Members - Qualifications include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Expertise in education: Committee members should possess a deep understanding of educational principles, practices, and policies relevant to the A-F accountability system.
 - b. Knowledge of assessment and evaluation: Committee members should be familiar with assessment methods, data analysis, and evaluation techniques.
 - c. Impartiality and fairness: Committee members should demonstrate objectivity and impartiality in their decision-making process, avoiding conflicts of interest.
 - d. Broad understanding of the entire system: Committee members should demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and insight that span multiple areas, ensuring their contributions reflect the overall goals and intent for all Texas public schools.
 - e. Communication skills: Committee members should possess strong communication skills that are necessary for effectively articulating decisions, explaining rationales, and facilitating discussions among panel members as well as Texas educators and additional stakeholders.

VI. Nomination and Selection Process

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

VII. Spokesperson

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

VIII. Procedural Rules

- a. Onboarding: Committee members must participate in an onboarding orientation before the inaugural meeting. The orientation will consist of meeting norms, required reading, expectations for outcomes, and answering any questions members may have.
- b. Meetings: The committee will meet at least three to four times per year. Written notices of upcoming meetings will be emailed to members at least thirty days before a meeting, where possible. Committee members are expected to complete a review of required reading and relevant data prior to each meeting. All meetings will be available virtually. If an in-person option is pursued by the members, travel costs shall be assumed by the member.

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- c. Quorum Required: At least 12 members must be present for the committee to hold a meeting and make recommendations.
- d. Minutes: Minutes for each meeting will be kept and publicly posted. An electronic copy will be emailed to the Committee for review within two weeks after a meeting.
- e. Recommendations and Reports: Committee materials, recommendations, and any reports will be shared publicly. Documents will include both suggested action and justification for suggestions.
- f. Dismissal: Committee members who are absent without reasonable cause or notice from two meetings annually will be considered to have resigned their seats. TEA will move to fill the position following the TAAG nomination process.