

2024 Texas Accountability Advisory Group (TAAG) Minutes

Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

The objective of the March 19, 2024, meeting was to discuss the proposed shifts in future programs of study and IBC review and implementation cycles as well as the communication needs relevant to accountability and the implementation of the revised Science TEKS. TEA will respond in *italics* to questions/comments that require a response. Some questions may require additional staff research. The following is a summary of the meeting.

Topic 1 – IBC, Programs of Study, and A-F Alignment

For future cycles TEA intends to adjust timelines to enable a more coherent planning and implementation cycle for LEAs.

Member Comments

- Committee members agree that 5-year cycles seem more effective and efficient and address concerns and needs expressed by LEAs.
- Members stated that it would be exceptionally helpful wherever possible to work to align this with how community colleges are thinking about high-demand fields and credentials of value.
 - *This conversation with THECB has started and this movement is informed by the need to make the shifts in alignment with THECB movements including dual credit changes.*
- The committee suggested hyperlinking the IBC list within the manual will simplify the implementation of the IBC phase-in.
 - *IBC list information is included in Appendix J of the 2024 Accountability Manual. Additionally, as suggested by TAAG, the graphic detailing the updated IBC, Programs of Study, and A-F update cycles will be linked to Appendix J.*
- The committee members have recommended limiting information in accountability to the year for which it is published, not the plans. Updates to the accountability system should not take place mid-year of an accountability cycle, rather, should occur the year before giving LEAs plenty of time to plan and prepare for the implementation of new policies and guidelines.
- Members reiterated the need for LEAs to have as much advance notice as possible.

Member Questions

- Committee members inquired on how far advance changes will be communicated to the field.
 - *The agency stated that the focus will be to link the IBCs and Programs of Study to keep pace with industry while progressing with the industry needs of the time. The most valuable certifications for the students should remain stable and the list will be driven from the programs of study which should be well before 6 months in advance.*
- How would you gain industry feedback?

- *TEA engages with various stakeholder groups and to develop and review IBC lists to ensure that approved IBCs are aligned with workforce needs.*

Commissioner Morath shared the realignment of IBC and Programs of Study review and implementation cycles during his monthly Superintendents call on 3/21/24. The timeline presented was updated after presented to TAAG based on TAAG and other stakeholders' feedback. The change allows for the updated IBC and Programs of Study lists to count immediately for accountability purposes in the year in which the lists are finalized and published. The intent is to ensure that LEA's have ample time to plan and prepare for changes.

Topic 2 – Inclusion of Updated Science TEKS and Impacts to A-F Accountability

State and federal law requires TEA to include Science assessments in accountability calculations. The instruction and assessment timeline indicates the 2025-2026 assessment will be the first to include only the new TEKS with no overlap to the current TEKS. The TEA psychometric team and the Texas Technical Advisory Committee have confirmed that the test remains valid and comparable, and with a short turn around for standard-setting/scoring, data will be available for accountability purposes throughout the transition to updated science TEKS.

Member Comments

- Committee member commented that it is good to let people know ahead of time of these curriculum-based changes.
- Committee stated that teachers are working hard with the TEKS transition and should get credit for their hard work in the A-F system.
- Suggested the agency create a documents/resources that utilize “before and after” data to show there is no major impact to student performance as a result of the change.
- Suggested TEA include information about this topic and available resources in all appropriate communications.
 - *We have collaborated with cross-agency teams to add the following information about accountability to future communications/presentations regarding the science TEKS implementation: “There will be no changes to how science results are included in A-F accountability throughout the transition to the updated science TEKS.”*

Member Questions

- Is the Texas Technical Advisory Committee membership posted publicly anywhere?
 - *TEA has provided the TTAC membership directly with TAAG members.*