



# NEWS

Texas  
Education  
Agency

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## **John Cox named TEA associate commissioner**

AUSTIN – John Cox, the Texas Education Agency’s chief information officer (CIO), has been promoted to the position of associate commissioner for information technology and agency operations effective Aug. 1.

Cox, a 39-year veteran information and technology professional, has been with the agency since 2005. Prior to joining the agency, Cox was director of information resources and information resources manager for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

He will retain the title and duties of CIO.

“John Cox has overseen all the agency’s technology resources for the past four years. He strives to make sure that all 100-plus staff members under his command reflect strong, positive professionalism as they keep the agency’s computers and program data systems operating smooth and error free”, said Commissioner of Education Robert Scott.

“Since TEA is a data-driven agency, John and his staff, which make up about one-tenth of the agency’s workforce, are vital to keeping the agency’s many computer and software systems and programs running,” Scott added.

As CIO, Cox, a Vietnam veteran, is responsible for the agency’s information technology (IT) resources investments, IT contracts management, and managing the financial aspects of the division.

The Division of Information Systems supports IT strategic and tactical planning, agency systems development projects from inception to deployment, the agency network infrastructure, desktop and mobile computer infrastructure, IT security, and customer services.

Cox also oversees the Agency Infrastructure and Enterprise Data Management Divisions.

In other agency news, Julie Harris-Lawrence, currently deputy associate commissioner student services and GED, will now report to Jerel Booker, associate commissioner for educator quality and standards.

Harris-Lawrence joined the agency in 2007 and currently has oversight of the DAEP standards, the unified school safety standards, Chapter 37 discipline and school health initiatives such as the FitnessGram®.

The division of adult education will now report to Barbara Knaggs, associate commissioner for state initiatives.

Knaggs also has responsibility for the divisions of school readiness and partnerships, college and career readiness initiatives and programs for at-risk youth.

“We have outstanding leadership throughout our divisions at the agency,” Scott said. “With these adjustments, the agency’s service to the school children of Texas will continue to improve and grow, and our commitment to excellence remains strong.”

