

Item 13:
**Discussion of Appointment of Advisory Committees for 19
TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates**

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss the appointment of standards advisory committees for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certificates included in 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Texas Education Code, §§21.031(b), 21.040(3-4), and 21.041(b)(4).

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: TEA staff expects to present the committee list at the April 2021 meeting for Board approval. Potential rule changes would be presented to the Board at a future SBEC meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: SBEC is statutorily authorized to ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse population of this state. SBEC is also statutorily required to appoint advisory committee members to recommend standards for each class of certificate. The standards are the basis for the certification examinations and set the requirements for EPP curriculum and delivery. The development committees include practicing educators, school district personnel, experts, and EPP faculty. These individuals collaborate to draft educator standards or review existing educator standards to ensure that the educator standards align with the commissioner's educator standards, reflect best practices, and where applicable, align with the current versions of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) that are adopted by the State Board for Education (SBOE).

The SBEC rules in 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, specify the requirements for certification and educator preparation program minimum standards for all student services. The student services certificates include School Counselor, School Librarian, Educational Diagnostician, Reading Specialist, and Legacy Master Teacher certificates.

During the recent rule review that the SBEC adopted at the February 21, 2020 meeting, TEA staff presented the Board with public comments that were received regarding the School Librarian and Reading Specialist educator standards stating the desire for the Board to update those standards in rule. In addition, the Texas Library Association (TLA) has formally requested that the SBEC consider updating the School Librarian educator standards, citing the changes in professional practices and terminology and evolution in school library programs since the standards were last updated. The TLA's letter of request is included as Attachment II.

This item is presented to obtain Board input and direction concerning the Student Services Certificates Advisory Committee Nomination Forms in Attachment III and the process for convening the advisory committee meetings. Following this meeting, SBEC members will be asked to provide advisory committee member recommendations to TEA staff as requested.

TEA staff will seek committee member nominations from the SBEC, professional organizations, educator preparation programs, teacher organizations, and other key stakeholders to ensure a pool of well-qualified candidates for selection. The nomination period would begin on December 15, 2020 and close on February 15, 2021. The committee members selected will provide input on issues related to the two certificate areas and will also have an opportunity to offer additional feedback on concerns specific to each certificate area that were shared as part of the most recent four-year rule review for Chapter 239 and the TLA's letter of request. For example, School Librarian standards could benefit from a "fresh-eyes" review and updates as applicable, and Reading Specialist standards could benefit from the same approach, and as part of future rulemaking, have those standards added into the rule chapter. Because the role of each profession included in Chapter 239 is critical to student success and warrants focused attention, TEA staff anticipates holding individual meetings for the School Librarian and Reading Specialist certificate areas.

TEA staff anticipates recommending a committee member list for Board approval at the April 2021 SBEC meeting. At that time, TEA staff will also share the proposed action plan with timelines for convening the advisory committee meetings for these two certificates. In addition, TEA staff will regularly update the Board on the progress of the committee meetings and will present potential rule changes at a future SBEC meeting.

Staff Members Responsible:

Marilyn Cook, Director, Educator Certification

Jessica McLoughlin, Director, Educator Standards and Testing

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. Texas Library Association Letter of Request for an Educator Standards Review
- III. Student Services Advisory Committee Nomination Forms

ATTACHMENT I**Statutory Citations****Texas Education Code §21.031, Certification of Educators (excerpt):**

- (b) In proposing rules under this subchapter, the board shall ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

Texas Education Code §21.040, General Powers and Duties of Board (excerpt):

The board shall:

- (3) appoint the members of any advisory committee to the board;
- (4) for each class of educator certificate, appoint an advisory committee composed of members of that class to recommend standards for that class to the board;

Texas Education Code §21.041, Rules; Fees (excerpt):

- (b) The board shall propose rules that:
 - (4) specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate;
 - (2) a master science teacher certificate to teach science at middle school grade levels; and
 - (3) a master science teacher certificate to teach science at high school grade levels.

ATTACHMENT II



November 2, 2020

Arturo Cavazos, Chairman
State Board of Educator Certification
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman Cavazos and SBEC board members,

The Texas Library Association (TLA) represents more than 5,000 librarians working in academic, public, school, and special libraries across the state. The members of TLA's largest division, the Texas Association of School Librarians (TASL), are passionate and engaged educators teaching in the largest classroom on our campuses.

We are writing to request that the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) consider updating the School Librarian Certificate standards in 19 TAC Chapter 239, Subchapter B, §239.40 – 239.70. These standards are the foundation which prepare educators for careers as certified school librarians and are vitally important to the profession.

However, the School Librarian Certificate Standards have not been updated in over a decade, and professional practices and school library programs have evolved and changed significantly. Following are just a few examples of topics which are not included and use of dated terminology in the current certification standards:

Standard I. Learner-Centered Teaching and Learning

- Not addressed: Librarian role in supporting curriculum design; ethical use of digital resources
- Outdated: digital learning is embedded not just integrated

Standard II. Learner-Centered Library Program Leadership & Management

- Not addressed: Databases and other digital resources; partnerships with external organizations and institutions
- Outdated: management applications

Standard III. Learner-Centered Technology and Information Access

- Not addressed: Digital books, resources databases, technology integration/applications (coding) tools, librarians' role in providing professional development to other educators; digital citizenship, cybersafety
- Outdated: Use of the internet and other print and electronic resources, reference materials

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Standard IV. Learner-Centered Library Environment

- Not addressed: Virtual space and resources

Standard V. Learner-Centered Connections to the Community

- Not addressed: programs and partnership opportunities with external organizations which show community support and growth, importance of community engagement, connected librarians (social media, professional learning networks etc.)

Standard VI. Learner-Centered Information Science and Librarianship

- Not addressed: collection development strategies to include all available formats to support diverse readers (audiobooks, large print, eBooks etc.) and reflect diverse cultures and populations

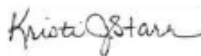
Research indicates that certified school librarians are the foundation of highly effective school library programs which are essential to student academic achievement, and college, career, and military readiness. They not only provide instruction to students at all grade levels, they support and partner with classroom teachers and administrators on curriculum development, professional learning, and are critical partners in information literacy instruction, and in the integration of technology as a tool for engaged learning.

We stand ready to work with TEA and SBEC to update the School Librarian Certificate Standards to ensure that individuals entering the profession are held to standards which support excellence in our school libraries.

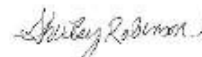
Sincerely,



Christina Gola
President
Texas Library Association



Kristi Starr
Chair
Texas Association of School Librarians
(a division of TLA)



Shirley Robinson, CAE
Executive Director
Texas Library Association

ATTACHMENT III**Reading Specialist Standards Advisory Committee:
Nomination Form**

Nominee Information

Name	
School District	
ESC Region	
Name of Current School, University or Program	
Email	
Years of Relevant Experience	
List of current and valid educator certifications (specific grade, content, etc.)	
Ethnicity	
Race	
Gender	
Have you previously served on any TEA Advisory Committees?	

Role-Related Information

1. Describe your background and professional experience in a school district, college/university, and/or educator preparation program.
2. List your most recent student achievement/proficiency data, at the classroom or campus level.
3. Please explain why you want to participate in Reading Specialist standards development. What skills and qualifications are particularly suited to this work?
4. What resources, professional development, and texts do you use to inform you on best practices in reading instruction?

School Librarian Standards Advisory Committee: Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Name	
School District	
ESC Region	
Name of Current School, University or Program	
Email	
Years of Relevant Experience	
List of current and valid educator certifications (specific grade, content, etc.)	
Ethnicity	
Race	
Gender	
Have you previously served on any TEA Advisory Committees?	

Role-Related Information

1. Describe your background and professional experience in a school district, college/university, and/or educator preparation program.
2. List your most recent student achievement/proficiency data, at the classroom or campus level.
3. Please explain why you want to participate in School Librarian standards development. What skills and qualifications are particularly suited to this work?
4. What resources, professional development, and texts do you use to inform you on best practices in library services?