

**Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2020-Zoom Meeting**

**CAC Attendees:** Agatha Thibodeaux, Shemica S. Allen, Stephanie Martinez, Alicia Giordano, Jen Stratton, Laurie Rodriguez, Jana McKelvey, Ray Tijerina, Jana Burns, Susan Nichols, JoAnn Wofford, Teresa Bronsky, Amy Litzinger, Elizabeth Donaldson

**CAC Absentees:** Rachel Dreiling, Laura Villareal

**Texas Education Agency:** Keith Swink

**9:00 Welcome and Opening-Agatha Thibodeaux, CAC Chair**

Agatha Thibodeaux opened the meeting, reviewed meeting guidelines, and agenda for the day. Quorum was present.

**Discussion, recommendations, and possible action on CAC 2021 Legislative Report-Agatha Thibodeaux**

Legislative report subcommittees reported on their recommendations.

Dispute Resolution: IEP Facilitation & Impartial Hearing Officers-JoAnn Wofford reported the committee had no recommendations for changes or additions to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) or Texas Education Code (TEC).

Mental Health-Teresa Bronsky reported the committee found that many districts have implemented policies related to mental health. The committee had no recommendations for changes or additions to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) or Texas Education Code (TEC).

Data Privacy-Jana McKelvey reported the committee had no recommendations for changes or additions to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) or Texas Education Code (TEC).

High School Graduation Requirements/Funding of 18+ Transition Programs-Laurie Rodriguez shared recommendations for the following:

A revision to the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook to incorporate the following additions:

- Page 37: 3.2.1.2 Code 1 Eligible for Full-Day Attendance Code 1 indicates that a student is eligible to generate full-day attendance. Code 1 applies to all students entitled to enroll under the TEC, §25.001, who are scheduled and provided instruction at least four hours each school day.
  - Note: Districts that offer half-day kindergarten programs must not count students who attend both the morning and afternoon half-day sessions as [for] eligible for full-day attendance.
  - New Note: Districts that offer 18+ Transition programs for students who receive special education services can count a cumulative total of 20 hours within a school week as eligible for full-day attendance.

- Page 37-38: Code 3 3.2.1.3 Code 2 Eligible for Half-Day Attendance  
Code 2 indicates that a student is eligible to generate half-day attendance. Code 2 applies to all students entitled to enroll under the TEC, §25.001, who are scheduled for and provided instruction at least two hours but fewer than four hours each school day for the purposes of ADA. These students include prekindergarten (pre-K) students who meet the eligibility requirements in Section 7 Prekindergarten (Pre-K) (see 7.5 Eligible Days Present and ADA Eligibility). Additionally, districts providing a full-day pre-K program to eligible four year olds would need to provide 75,600 operational minutes unless they have received a waiver from the agency.
  - New Note: Districts that offer 18+ Transition programs for students who receive special education services can count a cumulative total of not less than 10 and up to 20 hours within a school week as eligible for half-day attendance.

The CAC was in agreement to add these recommendations to the Legislative Report.

Vocational credits for students who receive special education:

- The CAC recognizes that while many students who need special education will be able to access the general CTE program, there are a significant number of students who will not be able to participate in general education CTE programs to the same, or any, extent.
- Currently, alternative classes for students unable to fully or partially participate in general education CTE classes are considered “innovative courses” and must be applied for and approved by the TEA. This is not a stable system, and the credits do not have “state credit” status, that is, these credits are local credits only.
- The CAC recommends consideration of creating a “Subchapter R” under the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 130. All of the relevant innovative vocational or transition classes would be included within this subchapter. A draft of the proposed Subchapter R is attached. Draft of Subchapter R is available upon request.

The CAC was in agreement to add these recommendations to the Legislative Report.

**10:41 Break**

**10:50 Public Comments-Agatha Thibodeaux**

Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas-The Special Education Allotment Advisory Committee has completed their final report to the upcoming Legislative session. The report is on the TEA website. The report recommended changes to special education funding.

Teacher Certification & Paraprofessionals Qualifications/Training-The committee presented a report on ideas/topics regarding paraprofessional & teacher training, educator certification, etc. At this time the committee made no recommendations but is still investigating recommendations. The committee discussed including Recommendation 4 regarding paraprofessional training from the CAC Legislative Report from January 2019.

Committee reviewed recommendations from the CAC Legislative Report from January 2019 that could be included in this year’s Legislative Report. The committee agreed to include seven recommendations from the CAC Legislative Report from January 2019 in the draft of this year’s

Legislative Report. All recommendations for the Legislative Report will be discussed in further detail in future meetings. There are currently nine recommendations for the rough draft of the report...two new recommendations and seven recommendations from the January 2019 report.

**11:20 Discussion, recommendations, and possible action on current minutes and future meeting topics-Agatha Thibodeaux**

Discussion was held on adding a meeting in October to further work on the Legislative Report. The next meeting will be October 19, 2020 from 9:00-12:00. A subcommittee was formed to work on the rough draft of the Legislative Report. Minutes were reviewed.

**11:54 Motion to Adjourn**

Teresa Bronsky made a motion to adjourn. Alicia Giordano seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:55.