

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on Instruction
Thursday, April 15, 2021**

The State Board of Education Committee on Instruction met at 10:03 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021, in Room #1-100 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, and virtually. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Sue Melton-Malone, chair; Rebecca Bell-Metereau; Pam Little; Georgina C. Pérez; Audrey Young, vice-chair

Public Testimony

The Committee on Instruction heard public testimony on agenda item #6. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter A, Required Curriculum, §74.5, Academic Achievement Record (Transcript) (Second Reading and Final Adoption)**
(Board agenda page II-1)

Jessica Snyder, director of special projects, curriculum standards and student support division, explained that the proposed amendment would update the rule to require documentation of the new graduation requirement that students complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA). Ms. Snyder explained that the public comments that had been received were not related to the proposed rulemaking but were expressing concern regarding the statutorily required graduation requirement.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Dr. Young, seconded by Mrs. Little, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for second reading and final adoption the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter A, Required Curriculum, §74.5, Academic Achievement Record (Transcript); and*

Make an affirmative finding that immediate adoption of the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter A, Required Curriculum, §74.5, Academic Achievement Record (Transcript), is necessary and shall have an effective date of August 1, 2021.

2. Proposed Repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 111, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics, Subchapter D, Other High School Mathematics Courses, §§111.56-111.59 (First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page II-7)

Ms. Snyder explained that this item was necessary to repeal four International Baccalaureate courses no longer offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization. She further explained that these four courses were replaced by new courses that have already been approved by the board.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Little, seconded by Dr. Young, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education suspend the board operating procedures in accordance with §5.2(a) to allow consideration at first reading and filing authorization.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Little, seconded by Dr. Young, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for first reading and filing authorization the proposed repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 111, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics, Subchapter D, Other High School Mathematics Courses, §111.56, International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level (Two Credits); §111.57, International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics Standard Level (Two Credits); §111.58, International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics Higher Level (Two Credits); and §111.59, International Baccalaureate (IB) Further Mathematics Higher Level (Two Credits).*

3. Approval of Update to Instructional Materials for EDUSPARK, Inc.

(Board agenda page II-11)

Amie Williams, director of review and adoption, instructional materials and implementation division, explained that EDUSPARK, Inc. was requesting approval to update content in its adopted English and Spanish prekindergarten products and that curriculum subject-area specialists have reviewed the requested changes.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Dr. Young, seconded by Mrs. Little, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request from EDUSPARK, Inc. to update content in its adopted product EDUSPARK PreK System (English) and Sistema EDUSPARK PreK (Spanish).*

4. Approval of Substitution of Instructional Materials for Cheng & Tsui Co., Inc.

(Board agenda page II-12)

Ms. Williams explained that Cheng & Tsui Co., Inc. was requesting approval to substitute a new edition of its adopted languages other than English product. She further explained this substitution was necessary because a newer edition of the student textbook and student workbook were available. Because content staff fluent in Mandarin Chinese were not available, previous members of the state review panel reviewed the requested changes.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Little, seconded by Dr. Bell-Metereau, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request from Cheng & Tsui Co., Inc. to substitute an updated version of the Integrated Chinese, Level 1 product adopted November 2016 under Proclamation 2017.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Discussion Regarding Third-Party Materials in Instructional Materials Adopted by the State Board of Education

(Board agenda page II-13)

Ms. Williams shared an update on the frequency of publisher requests to make changes due to the loss of content or image rights from third parties. Ms. Williams also provided examples of content requiring third-party rights.

6. Discussion of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter C, Other Provisions, §74.28, Students with Dyslexia and Related Disorders

(Board agenda page II-14)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Elizabeth Wilson
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Amy Traynor
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Robbi Cooper
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Rebecca Holmes
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Broke Rojas
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Stephanie Virag
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Nicole May
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Angela Bolton-Smith
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Steven Aleman
AFFILIATION: Disability Rights Texas

NAME: Kristin McGuire
AFFILIATION: TCASE

NAME: Stephen Fontenot read statement from Heidi Goldman
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Shannon Vollaro
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Cleo Vollaro
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Alexandra Wagner
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Daphne Corder
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Carolyn Chapman
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Heather Sheffield
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Lois Holguin
AFFILIATION: Discovering Dyslexia - Texas

Monica Martinez, associate commissioner, standards and support services, explained that this item provides the opportunity for the committee to discuss possible updates to the *Dyslexia Handbook: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders* (Dyslexia Handbook). Ms. Martinez stated that the board may wish to update the handbook to address concerns raised by testifiers and feedback the agency has received related to challenges of implementing the kindergarten and grade 1 screening requirements. Dr. Justin Porter, director, special education programs, provided an overview of dyslexia-related feedback from an October 2020 letter from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs.

Committee members indicated interest in revising the Dyslexia Handbook. Ms. Ramos stated that staff would present an item on the Dyslexia Handbook to the committee at their June meeting.

The meeting of the Committee on Instruction adjourned at 12:34 p.m.