

**Report of the State Board of Education  
Committee on Instruction  
Thursday, August 31, 2023**

The State Board of Education Committee on Instruction met at 9:10 a.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2023, in Room #1-100 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Audrey Young, chair; Evelyn Brooks; Aicha Davis; Pam Little; Melissa Ortega

Non-committee members present: Keven Ellis, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, L.J. Francis, Julie Pickren

**Public Testimony**

The Committee on Instruction heard public testimony on agenda items #2, #3, and #4. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

The Committee on Instruction considered items in the following order: Item number 4, 3, 2, 1

**ACTION ITEM**

1. **Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC, Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter C, Other Provisions, §74.27, Innovative Courses and Programs (First Reading and Filing Authorization)**  
(Board agenda page II-1)  
[Official agenda item #8]

Shelly Ramos, senior director, curriculum standards and student support, provided an overview of the proposed amendment to the rules related to innovative courses that had been discussed by the Committee on Instruction at the June 2023 meeting.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Little, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for first reading and filing authorization the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter C, Other Provisions, §74.27, Innovative Courses and Programs.*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. **Update on Ethnic Studies Innovative Courses**  
(Board agenda page II-6)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME:	Lanette Aguero
AFFILIATION:	Grand Prairie Independent School District

NAME: Orlando Lara  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Hawana Townsley  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Lena Martinez-Wolfinger  
AFFILIATION: American Indian Native Studies Course Committee

Ms. Ramos explained that this item provides the opportunity for the committee to discuss a newly approved ethnic studies innovative course, American Indian/Native Studies, and consider recommending the addition of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for a course in American Indian/Native studies. Ms. Ramos outlined a possible timeline should the committee wish to bring the course to the full board for discussion as a TEKS-based course.

Dr. Young requested that TEA staff proceed with the proposed timeline and take next steps for the development of TEKS for a course in American Indian/Native studies.

**3. Discussion of Adjustments to the Dyslexia Handbook to Align with Requirements of House Bill 3928**  
(Board agenda page II-8)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Robbi Cooper for Elizabeth Wilson  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Jessamyn Putnam  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Daphne Corder for Nicole May  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Andrea Chevalier  
AFFILIATION: Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education

Monica Martinez, associate commissioner for standards and programs, provided a brief history of State Board of Education (SBOE) and legislative action related to dyslexia services in the state of Texas. Kristin McGuire, senior director, special education policy, programs, and reporting division, presented an overview of the changes made by House Bill (HB) 3928, the guidance provided by TEA to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools related to the bill, and action the SBOE will need to take to align the Dyslexia Handbook with requirements of HB 3928.

**4. Discussion of Library Collection Development Standards in Compliance with House Bill 900**  
(Board agenda page II-10)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Shannon Ayres  
AFFILIATION: Citizens Defending Freedom

NAME: Tara Schulte  
AFFILIATION: Citizens Defending Freedom

NAME: Francine Erickson  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Stephanie Holderfield  
AFFILIATION: Citizens Defending Freedom

NAME: Anne Newman  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Shirley Robinson  
AFFILIATION: Texas Library Association

NAME: Hilary Hickland  
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Deborah Ferris  
AFFILIATION: Self

Chairman Ellis explained that the SBOE is required by HB 900 to approve with a majority vote the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) library collection development standards. He explained that the purpose of this item is for the Committee on Instruction to review and discuss the TSLAC proposal only and that the board will not be asked to vote on the proposal until November. Dr. Ellis also clarified that the Governor's Office has reviewed the proposal to ensure it complies with state law.

Ms. Martinez stated that members of the SBOE received copies of the TSLAC draft rule proposal on August 8. She shared the anticipated timeline for approval of the standards which will include posting the draft in the Texas Register for an official public comment period.

The meeting of the Committee on Instruction adjourned at 12:11 p.m.