

SBEC Statement on Sunset Staff Report
10/24/2014

Few professions have more impact than the education of Texas children. And no one has more appreciation of this than the professional Texas educator. That is why we, the State Board for Educator Certification, are opposed to the dissolution of this Board and its subsequent incorporation into the TEA, as proposed in the report of the 2014 Sunset Commission. In our view, this runs counter to both professional practice and citizen oversight of state government. The teachers of Texas deserve to have a voice in the regulation of the profession, as is the case with every other profession in the state.

The teaching of the young people of Texas is a mission that is held closely to the members of this profession and to this Board. The teachers and administrators of this state are vigilant and responsive to the needs of the students and the demands of the profession. To remove that oversight power from a teacher-citizen Board such as SBEC is not only damaging to the professional status of educators statewide, but also detrimental to the children of Texas. We maintain that this Board can more effectively and objectively monitor and enforce professional educator standards and not add to the burden of TEA. In short, we wish to continue being given the same respect and regard accorded to every other profession in this state.

In addition, maintaining SBEC is in the best tradition of Texas governance. Citizen involvement and scrutiny has been the cornerstone of the Texas system of governing since its founding. SBEC provides the opportunity for citizens to take a hand in the running of state business. It gives educators and citizens an avenue to maintain and sustain and even strengthen the education profession. It is our hope to coordinate more closely with the SBOE and other elected officials. We hope to expand the role of SBEC to work in a more integrated manner with the TEA. We hope that after this legislative session the role of SBEC can continue to maintain professional educator standards even more effectively.