

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Saturday, October 18, 2014 11:09:38 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 10:44 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, October 17, 2014 - 22:44

Agency: TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY TEA

First Name: Patty

Last Name: Quinzi

Title: Legislative Counsel

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas- American Federation of Teachers (Texas AFT)

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City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

Texas AFT firmly opposes Issue 6 recommendations- the elimination of the State Board for Educator Certification and the handover of its responsibilities to the commissioner of education. We also oppose the elimination of the power of the elected State Board of Education to review the rules proposed by SBEC.

SBEC was created by the legislature in 1995 "to grant educators the authority to govern the standards of their profession" (Texas Education Code Section 21.031(a)). Texas AFT members believe that a board made up primarily of professional educators is essential to professional self-governance. The handover of SBEC's powers to the commissioner would be a move in the wrong direction, a retreat from the policy goal of professional self-governance.

Experience also has taught us that the review power granted to the elected State Board of Education serves to bolster the capacity of the gubernatorial appointees at SBEC to render independent judgments on the merits of matters within their jurisdiction. Doing away with SBEC and with SBOE review authority would diminish professional self-governance for Texas educators.

Creation of an advisory committee to the commissioner, as recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission, would be no substitute for direct engagement of educators in making policy for their profession.

Texas AFT supports higher standards for educator preparation and for educator-preparation programs. We object to the transfer of regulatory authority over these matters to the commissioner of education. Assuming this authority would remain with SBEC, Texas AFT would support all the Sunset Commission recommendations for improved regulation of educator-preparation programs.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: .

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree



**Texas AFT**  
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TEXAS AFT TESTIMONY TO THE SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGARDING THE STAFF REVIEW OF THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY  
November 13, 2014  
Patty Quinzi, Texas AFT legislative counsel

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on behalf of Texas AFT regarding the Sunset Advisory Commission's staff review of the Texas Education Agency. Texas AFT, the Texas branch of the American Federation of Teachers, is made up of 65,000-plus professional educators and support personnel in our state's public elementary and secondary schools and public institutions of higher learning.

**State Board for Educator Certification**

Texas AFT firmly opposes the recommendations included under Issue 6 - the elimination of the State Board for Educator Certification and the handover of its responsibilities to the commissioner of education. We also oppose the elimination of the power of the elected State Board of Education to review the rules proposed by SBEC.

SBEC was created by the legislature in 1995 "to grant educators the authority to govern the standards of their profession" (Texas Education Code Section 21.031(a)). Texas AFT members believe that a board made up primarily of professional educators is essential to professional self-governance. The handover of SBEC's powers to the commissioner would be a move in the wrong direction, a retreat from the policy goal of professional self-governance.

Experience also has taught us that the review power granted to the elected State Board of Education serves to bolster the capacity of the gubernatorial appointees at SBEC to render independent judgments on the merits of matters within their jurisdiction. Doing away with SBEC and with SBOE review authority would diminish professional self-governance for Texas educators. Creation of an advisory committee to the commissioner, as recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission, would be no substitute for direct engagement of educators in making policy for their profession.

Texas AFT supports higher standards for educator preparation and for educator-preparation programs. We object to the transfer of regulatory authority over these matters to the commissioner of education. Assuming this authority would remain with SBEC, Texas AFT would support all the Sunset Commission recommendations for improved regulation of educator-preparation programs.

**Stakeholder Input**

Texas AFT agrees with the staff recommendations under Issue 2, "TEA Does Not Effectively Manage Public Involvement to Obtain the Greatest Value From Its Stakeholder Input." We firmly support the recommendation to develop and implement a policy to guide and encourage

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more meaningful and comprehensive stakeholder involvement efforts. It has been our experience that TEA unilaterally determines who the stakeholders are for any given issue and these "public" stakeholder meetings are not posted on the TEA website. In the past, we have seen instances where stakeholders on only one side of an important issue are invited. For example, the recent rule-making procedure used to draft new rules for Educator Preparation Programs included stakeholder meetings that included only EPP providers, with no invitations extended to groups representing teachers and school administrators.

TEA should adopt rules to establish a standard and consistent procedure to encourage stakeholder involvement. In particular, stakeholder meetings should be posted on the agency website with a detailed description of the issues to be discussed, allowing stakeholders to determine whether a meeting is relevant to their interests or not.