

**TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY**



**Ex officio Report to Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities**

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Mike Morath, Commissioner

Dr. Elyse Lieberman, Ex officio Representative to GCPD

## Executive Summary

The agency continues to make rulemaking changes related to special education. Updates from the Office of Special Populations and Student Supports (OSPSS) include new family resources to support students with disabilities in transition planning, assistive technology, and resources through Parent-Directed Special Education Services (PDSES). Integrated support for students with disabilities identified as emergent bilingual is now available. Differentiated monitoring released the Results-Driven Accountability (RDA) outcomes with TEA website access to district, regional, and state accountability reports. Initial information regarding the GCPD requested information regarding School Health and Related Services (SHARS) is available.

## Policy Updates

- **19 TAC §103.1213** Mental Health Training, effective December 1, 2024.
- **19 TAC §89.1201-1265** Emergent Bilingual rule proposals expected to be effective February 10, 2025.
- Open for public comment now: The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) proposes the repeal of 19 TAC §231.701, new 19 TAC §231.701 and 19 TAC §231.710, and amendment to 19 TAC §231.709, concerning special education-related services personnel assignments. The public comment period is January 10-February 10, 2025. For more information, please visit the [proposed SBEC Rules webpage](#).

## OSPSS Updates

- **Transition Planning Resources for Families**
  - SPEDTex has a new page of transition resources to help families plan for their child's transition to life outside the public school system.
    - [Transition Resources - English](#)
    - [Transition Resources - Spanish](#)
- **Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)**
  - The TEA has partnered with the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) to offer UNLIMITED access to ATIA online courses for all educators, support staff, and parents serving students across Texas.
    - Visit the Texas ATIA subscription page and use the access code **PD24INCLUSIONTX** to use these resources.
    - [Visit ATIA](#)
- **PDSES Updates**
  - The Parent-Directed Special Education Services (PDSES) program, previously the Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) program, is a one-time \$1,500 online grant for parents/guardians of eligible students served by special education and who are enrolled in a Texas public school. Parents/guardians of eligible students can use the online accounts to shop the marketplace to obtain educational materials and resources such as textbooks, curriculum, or technology devices and/or services such as additional speech therapy, tutoring, or other specific services.
  - The PDSES application for the 2024-2025 school year will open on February 3, 2025, and close on March 31, 2025.
    - PDSES eligibility has not changed—it is still a one-time, first-come, first-served grant for students enrolled in a Texas public school who receive

special education services. A family may only receive one PDSES grant on behalf of a student.

### **Disability Program Updates**

- *Results Driven Accountability (RDA)* reports were released and published on the TEA website.
  - [RDA State Reports | Texas Education Agency](#)

### **New Integrated Resources to Support Students with Disabilities**

- A *Dually Identified Technical Assistance Guide* is now available. The guide supports effective and holistic programming for students dually identified as emergent bilingual students and students receiving special education services.
  - [Dually Identified Technical Assistance Guide | Texas SPED Support](#)

### **GCPD October Meeting Follow-Up**

- SHARS
  - Reporting requirements: The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) obtains IEP ratio counts from school districts annually as part of the annual cost reporting requirements. IEP ratio documentation includes a count of Medicaid enrolled and non-Medicaid students.
  - The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 cost report deadline is April 1, 2025.

### **Legislative Session**

- The Legislative Session convened at noon on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.