



State Board of Education:

Why Should It Matter to
You?



Responsibilities of SBOE

- Adopts rules and policies governing the operation of the Texas public school system
- 15 members from single-member districts
- Typically serve four-year terms
- SBOE candidates are political party nominees and are not compensated for their service



SBOE's Structure

- Commissioner of Education Robert Scott serves as chief executive officer of the Board.
- Barbara Cargill of The Woodlands serves as Chair.
- Bob Craig of Lubbock serves as Vice-Chair.
- Mary Helen Berlanga of Corpus Christi serves as Secretary.



Members

- Terri Leo, Spring
- George Clayton, Richardson
- Marcia Farney, Georgetown
- Patricia Hardy, Weatherford
- Lawrence A. Allen, Jr., Fresno
- David Bradley, Beaumont
- Thomas Ratliff, Mount Pleasant
- Mavis Knight, Dallas
- Ken Mercer, San Antonio
- Charlie Garza, El Paso
- Gail Lowe, Lampasas
- Michael Soto, San Antonio



SBOE Oversight

- Together the Board, the Commissioner, and the Texas Education Agency facilitate the operation of a vast public school system consisting of
 - 1,235 school districts and charter schools
 - more than 8,300 campuses
 - more than 640,000 educators and other employees
 - more than 4.7 million schoolchildren



What Does the SBOE Do?

- Sets goals for public school system and adopts a four-year plan
- Oversees Permanent School Fund
- Mandates what Texas students learn
- Mandates what Texas teachers teach
- Selects textbooks and instructional materials
- Approves or revokes open-enrollment charters
- Adopts educator certification and ethics rules
- Determines and approves passing scores for state assessment program
- Adopts regulations and standards for the operation of adult education programs provided by public school districts, junior colleges and universities



SBOE Committees

- Policy decisions are made by the full Board, but much of detailed work happens in committees.
- SBOE members serve on three standing committees:
 - Instruction
 - School Finance/Permanent School Fund
 - School Initiatives



Committee on Instruction

- Terri Leo (Vice-Chair)
- Scope of Committee's work includes:
 - Establishment of curriculum and graduation requirements
 - Curriculum implementation
 - General, special, and gifted/talented education programs
 - Textbook proclamations
 - Library standards
 - Adult basic education



Committee on School Finance/Permanent School Fund

- Patricia Hardy (Chair)
- Scope of Committee's work includes:
 - State and federal funding issues
 - Financial budgeting, reporting and regulation
 - Textbook financing and operation
 - Commissioner's annual Foundation School Program budget review
 - Permanent School Fund management
 - Contract and grant approval
 - Community education funding



Committee on School Initiatives

- Ken Mercer (Chair)
- Scope of Committee's work includes:
 - Oversight of the selection, review and evaluation of open-enrollment charter schools
 - Teacher and administrator certification and ethics
 - School board member training policy
 - Extracurricular activities



SBOE Meetings

- Meets quarterly, generally in Austin
- Meetings last 2-3 business days
- Held at William B. Travis Building (Texas Education Agency)
- Meetings broadcast live via TEA Web site: www.tea.state.tx.us



Redistricting

- Texas Legislature is required to redistrict state senate and house districts in the first regular session following publication of the United States decennial census.
- Though no Texas constitutional or statutory provisions govern congressional and State Board of Education (SBOE) redistricting, as a practical matter the legislature also must draw districts for the congressional seats apportioned to Texas and for the SBOE before the candidates' filing period opens for the primary elections held in 2012.

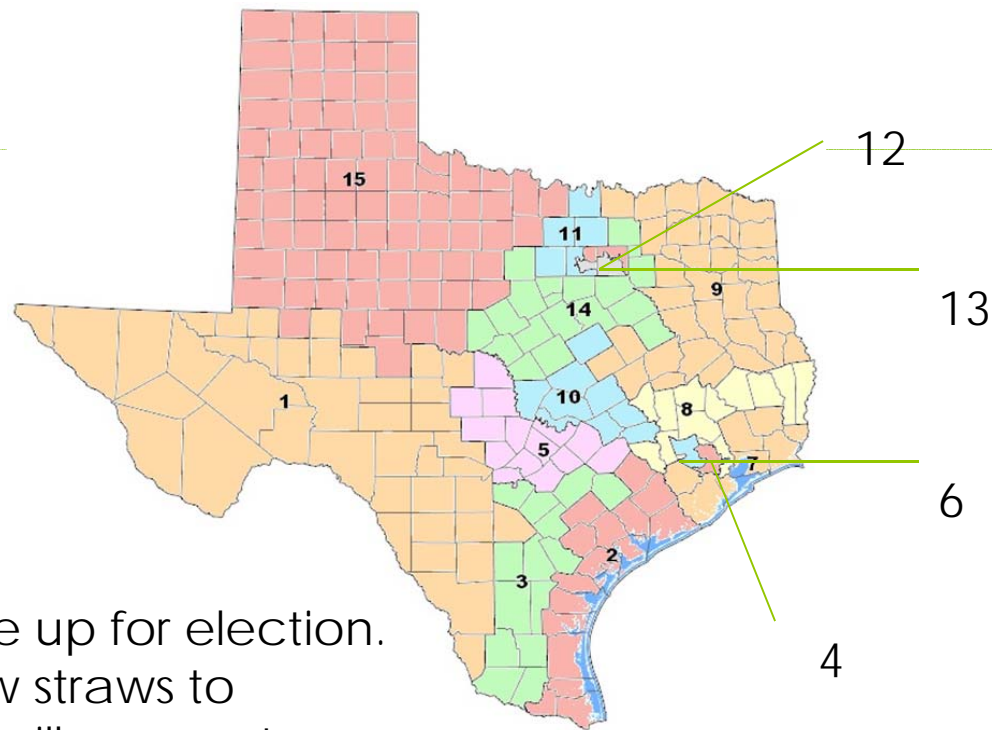


SBOE Redistricting

- Based on 2010 federal census
 - Total population of Texas is 25,145,561
 - Ideal population of an SBOE district is 1,676,371
 - The largest district, District 8 has a population of 1,691,564, or 0.91 percent over the ideal district
 - The smallest district, District 3 has a population of 1,660,515, or 0.95 percent less than the ideal district
 - The total range of deviation between the largest and smallest districts is 1.86 percent.
 - To establish districts that satisfy the requirement to be substantially equal in population and other state interests, new districts were drawn for the election of members of SBOE.



Newly Drawn SBOE Districts



All districts will be up for election. Winners will draw straws to determine who will serve a two year term and who will serve a four year term.



Legislation Affecting SBOE

- Redistricting
- Instructional Materials Allotment
- Develop essential knowledge and skills
 - Financial literacy
 - Bullying – how to awareness, prevention, identification, self-defense
- Develop process for reviewing and approving applied STEM courses for 4th yr

