



Testimony on SBEC Agenda Item 16: Approval of Continuing Education and Training Clearinghouse

April 29, 2022

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** offers the following input to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) regarding Item 16 of the April 2022 agenda, the approval of the Continuing Education and Training Clearinghouse.

Senate Bill (SB) 1267, passed by the 87th Texas Legislature in the 2021 regular session, was the product of a continuing professional education (CPE) and professional development (PD) workgroup convened by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick. ATPE's representative led one of the three workgroup subcommittees that made recommendations to the Legislature to streamline the CPE requirements for educators by strategically eliminating duplicative training requirements.

Under SB 1267, the SBEC-approved Clearinghouse Advisory Group (CAG) members "review and provide input" on the clearinghouse recommendations. In publishing the clearinghouse, "the board shall ensure the clearinghouse reflects input provided by the clearinghouse advisory group," which must "include best practices and industry recommendations for the frequency for training." Districts must adopt a professional development policy that is "guided by" the clearinghouse and "note any differences" if they choose not to follow it.

In January, the CAG solicited advice from industry experts on training frequency recommendations based on evidence and research. Each CAG member reviewed the submissions and then recommended whether each training required by statute should be annual or not. ATPE suggested that each training should not be required annually, but that SB 1267 would allow districts to offer additional training beyond the minimum statutory requirement if needed. For every topic, most CAG members (100% in the case of epinephrine auto-injector training) recommended that the trainings not be annual. (See Agenda Item 16, p. 3-4 in the board book.)

In the proposed clearinghouse, districts can choose between offering training that is "annual" or "job-embedded or as part of a professional learning community (PLC)." Though not supported by most CAG members, the "annual" training option is a clear *frequency* recommendation. "Job-embedded" is not a frequency. The agenda item (p. 4) says districts can choose job-embedded training "during the year" or annually. Does this mean, for example, that a PLC lead teacher, who may not be qualified to do so, will provide five minutes of epinephrine auto-injector training at some point *every year* after the initial training requirement is met? If so, then the recommendation represents annual training in two different ways. This is problematic because most CAG members expressed that the recommended frequency should not be annual, and because the CAG frequency recommendation was not intended to speak to the delivery method.

ATPE recommends the clearinghouse reflect most CAG members' input by recommending that districts provide the minimum amount of training required by statute. SB 1267 allows districts to offer any additional trainings as needed. At a minimum, "job-embedded" should be clarified to indicate it does not require annual training. In the future, we suggest revising the CAG process to include a vote on a specific frequency recommendation for each training. ATPE appreciates the opportunity to provide input and invites board members and TEA staff to contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org for any additional information.

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 90,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired, and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for the more than 5 million public schoolchildren of Texas.