

Introducing the State Board of Education: Why Should It Matter to You?



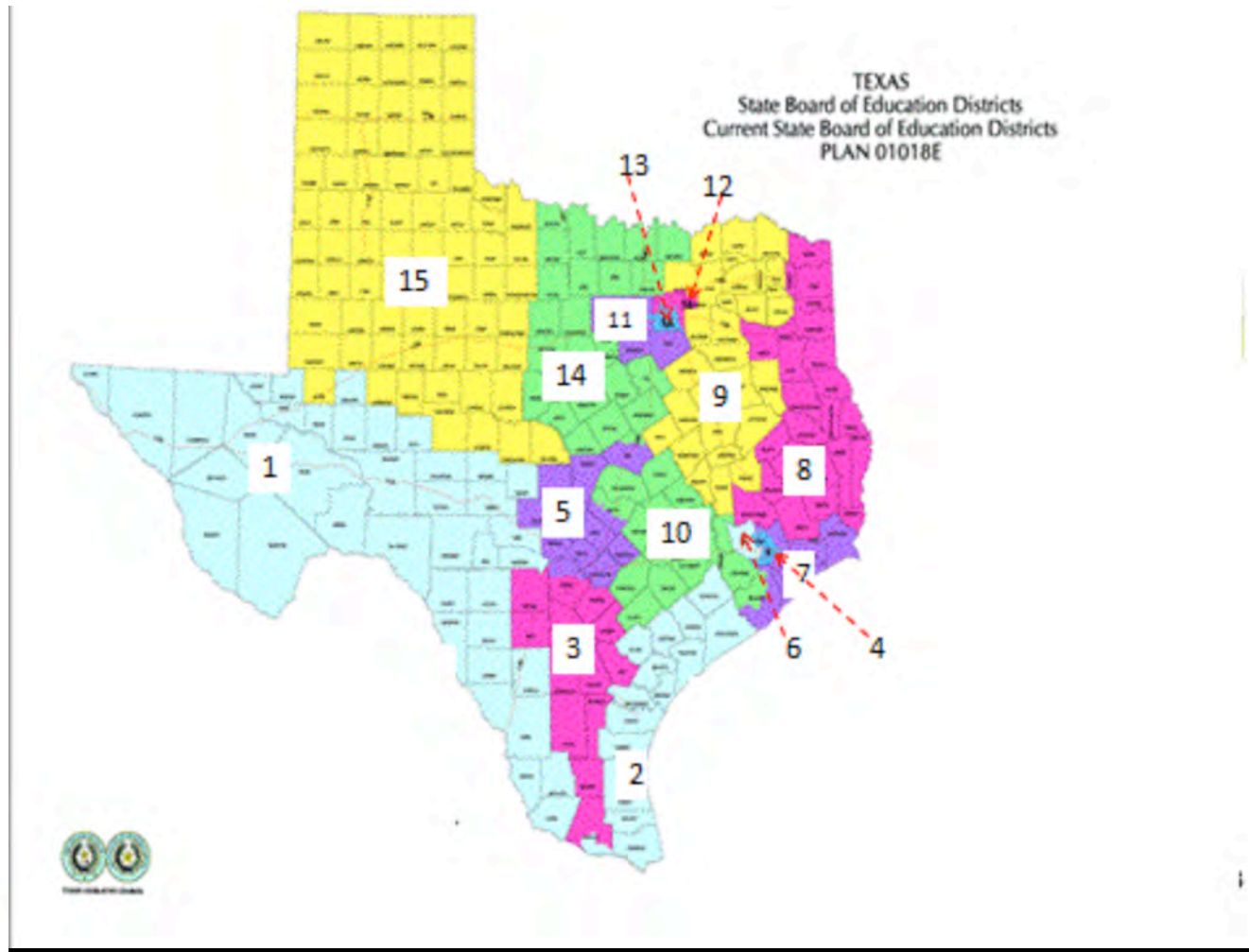
Texas Association of School Boards

State Board of Education (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 Districts in Texas



Texas Association of School Boards

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



What does the SBOE Decide?

- The SBOE's duties include:
 - Overseeing the Permanent School Fund
 - Mandating what Texas students learn
 - Mandating what Texas teachers teach
 - Selecting textbooks and instructional materials
 - Approving or revoking open-enrollment charters
 - Adopting educator certification and ethics rules
 - Setting goals for the public school system and adopting a four-year plan



SBOE's Structure

- Commissioner of Education Robert Scott serves as chief executive officer of the Board.
- Gail Lowe serves as Chair.
- Lawrence A. Allen Jr. serves as Vice-Chair.
- Terri Leo serves as Secretary.



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

- Barbara Cargill (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

- David Bradley (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

- Bob Craig (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



The End



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