

Educator Evaluation Reform Resources

The state of Texas is considering major changes to how it evaluates teachers and principals. Stay on top of the latest developments with updates from the [Association of Texas Professional Educators](#). Additional content will be added frequently, so be sure to bookmark this page and follow [@TeachtheVote](#) on Twitter.

New and Noteworthy Material

Texas Comprehensive Center's Website for Texas' Evaluation Reforms: Contains the Texas Education Agency's proposed new evaluation rubrics for teachers and principals, proposed new standards, information on a 2014-15 pilot program and background on the redesign efforts.

ATPE News Summer 2014 Feature Article: *Solid Standards, Controversial Metrics*

Correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education to the Texas Commissioner of Education regarding the state's request for a waiver of certain ESEA/NCLB accountability requirements:

- * [Sept. 30, 2013 letter from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan](#) granting Texas a waiver conditioned on the state's adopting new teacher and principal evaluation systems that consider student growth (using test scores) as a significant factor
- * [Sept. 19, 2014 letter from the U.S. Department of Education](#) announcing extension of the state's ESEA/NCLB waiver
- * [Jan. 7, 2015 letter from the U.S. Department of Education](#) advising that Texas's plan for revising the state's evaluation systems does not meet expectations of the federal government for ESEA flexibility

Texas Education Agency's Proposal for Complying with NCLB Waiver Condition: May 2, 2014 submission to the U.S. Department of Education outlining the Texas Education Agency's plan for a new state evaluation system for teachers and principals that will satisfy conditions attached to the NCLB waiver granted to Texas by the federal government

NCLB Provisions Waived: Description of specific provisions of ESEA/NCLB that have been waived for the state of Texas

Letter from members of Texas's Congressional delegation to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, July 24, 2014

Teacher and Principal Standards: New [standards for teachers](#) adopted by the Commissioner of Education and new [principal standards](#) that were adopted by the commissioner in May 2014

Proposed Evaluation Rubrics: View TEA's proposed new [evaluation rubric for teachers](#).

Pilot Districts: List of school districts that will pilot the Texas Education Agency's new evaluation system in 2014-15

Steering Committees: Members of the Texas Teacher Evaluation Steering Committee and Texas Principal Evaluation Steering Committee, appointed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide input on the development of new standards and evaluation systems for teachers and principals

Steering Committee Member Interviews: Five of the seven ATPE members appointed to serve on TEA's Teacher Standards and Evaluation System Steering Committee shared their input on the state's proposed new standards and evaluation system. [Read the Teach the Vote Interview with them here.](#)

Concerns about VAM: A list of six major concerns about the use of Value-Added Models (VAM) for teacher evaluation

Commissioner of Education's Letter to Legislators: Commissioner Michael Williams' May 13, 2014 letter to members of the House Public Education Committee about proposed changes to the state-recommended evaluation system

News

Texas Education Agency: Jan. 23, 2015 press release: [Commissioner Williams reaffirms state's interests as waiver discussions continue](#)

ATPE: May 6, 2014 press release: [New proposed teacher evaluation system raises concerns](#)

Texas Education Agency: May 5, 2014 press release: [TEA submits Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System details to U.S. Department of Education](#)

San Antonio Express-News: [Texas teachers face uncertainty over evaluations](#), May 11, 2014 (featuring ATPE Governmental Relations Manager Jennifer Canaday)

Austin American-Statesman (subscription required): [Tying teacher evaluation to STAAR scores stirs controversy](#), March 30, 2014 (featuring ATPE State Vice President Richard Wiggins and ATPE Governmental Relations Director Brock Gregg)

Texas Education Agency: Sept. 30, 2013 press release: [Commissioner Williams: Texas secures conditional NCLB waiver](#)

Texas Education Agency: June 17, 2013 press release: [Commissioner Williams meets with Education Secretary to discuss Texas' NCLB waiver request](#)

Texas Education Agency: March 1, 2013 press release: [TEA submits NCLB waiver request](#)

Research and Reports

American Statistical Association: [Statement on Using VAM for Educational Assessments](#), April 2014

Brookings: [Evaluating Teachers with Classroom Observations: Lessons Learned in Four Districts](#), May 2014

RAND Education: [Evaluating Value-Added Models for Teacher Accountability](#), 2003

ETS: [Using Student Progress To Evaluate Teachers: A Primer on Value-Added Models](#), September 2005

RAND Education: [The Promise and Peril of Using Value-Added Modeling to Measure Teacher Effectiveness](#), 2004

Texas Teaching Commission: [Recommendations for the Next Generation of Teaching Policy in Texas](#), December 2012

Additional Resources

Teach the Vote Blog: [TEA releases details of discussions with feds over teacher evaluation, ESEA waiver](#), Jan. 23, 2015

Teach the Vote Blog: [Federal government extends Texas' NCLB waiver for the 2014-15 school year](#), Sept. 23, 2014

Teach the Vote Blog: [GOP members of Congress request GAO study of USDE waivers](#), Aug. 14, 2014

Teach the Vote Blog: [At ATPE's request, Texas congressmen ask U.S. DOE for NCLB waiver extension](#), July 25, 2014

Teach the Vote Blog: [ATPE expresses concern over teacher evaluation plans during House committee hearing](#), May 15, 2014

Houston Chronicle K-12 Zone education blog: [State officials: NCLB waiver delays won't impact Texas](#), May 9, 2014

Teach the Vote Blog: [Vote for candidates who will make sure teacher evaluation systems are valid, fair and easily understood](#), Feb. 26, 2014

Teach the Vote Blog: [ATPE summary of ESEA flexibility granted to Texas in September 2013](#), Oct. 2, 2013