

## Commissioner of Education

The Governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint the commissioner of education. The commissioner serves a term of office of four years commensurate with the term of the governor.

Commissioner of Education Powers and Duties  
TEC Chapter 7, Subchapter C. § 7.055.

- (1) The commissioner shall serve as the educational leader of the state.
- (2) The commissioner shall serve as executive officer of the agency and as executive secretary of the board.
- (3) The commissioner shall carry out the duties imposed on the commissioner by the board or the legislature.
- (4) The commissioner shall prescribe a uniform system of forms, reports, and records necessary to fulfill the reporting and record keeping requirements of this title.
- (5) The commissioner may delegate ministerial and executive functions to agency staff and may employ division heads and any other employees and clerks to perform the duties of the agency.
- (6) The commissioner shall adopt an annual budget for operating the Foundation School Program as prescribed by Subsection (c).
- (7) The commissioner may issue vouchers for the expenditures of the agency and shall examine and must approve any account to be paid out of the school funds before the comptroller may issue a warrant.
- (8) The commissioner shall file annually with the governor and the Legislative Budget Board a complete and detailed written report accounting for all funds received and disbursed by the agency during the preceding fiscal year.
- (9) The commissioner shall have a manual published at least once every two years that contains Title 1 and this title, any other provisions of this code relating specifically to public primary or secondary education, and an appendix of all other state laws relating to public primary or secondary education and shall provide for the distribution of the manual as determined by the board.
- (10) The commissioner may visit different areas of this state, address teachers' associations and educational gatherings, instruct teachers, and promote all aspects of education and may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred under this subdivision to the extent authorized by the General Appropriations Act.

- (11) The commissioner may appoint advisory committees, in accordance with Chapter 2110, Government Code, as necessary to advise the commissioner in carrying out the duties and mission of the agency.
- (12) The commissioner shall appoint an agency auditor.
- (13) The commissioner may provide for reductions in the number of agency employees.
- (14) The commissioner shall carry out duties relating to the investment capital fund under Section 7.024.
- (15) The commissioner shall review and act, if necessary, on applications for waivers under Section 7.056.
- (16) The commissioner shall carry out duties relating to regional education service centers as specified under Chapter 8.
- (17) The commissioner shall distribute funds to open-enrollment charter schools as required under Subchapter D, Chapter 12.
- (18) The commissioner shall adopt a recommended appraisal process and criteria on which to appraise the performance of teachers, a recommended appraisal process and criteria on which to appraise the performance of administrators, and a job description and evaluation form for use in evaluating counselors, as provided by Subchapter H, Chapter 21.
- (19) The commissioner shall coordinate and implement teacher recruitment programs under Section 21.004.
- (20) The commissioner shall perform duties in connection with the certification and assignment of hearing examiners as provided by Subchapter F, Chapter 21.
- (21) The commissioner shall carry out duties under the Texas Advanced Placement Incentive Program under Subchapter C, Chapter 28.
- (22) The commissioner may adopt rules for optional extended year programs under Section 29.082.
- (23) The commissioner shall monitor and evaluate prekindergarten programs and other child-care programs as required under Section 29.154.
- (24) The commissioner, with the approval of the board, shall develop and implement a plan for the coordination of services to children with disabilities as required under Section 30.001.
- (25) The commissioner shall develop a system to distribute to school districts or regional education service centers a special supplemental allowance for students with visual impairments as required under Section 30.002.
- (26) The commissioner, with the assistance of the comptroller, shall determine amounts to be distributed to the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf as provided by Section 30.003 and to the Texas Youth Commission as provided by Section 30.102.
- (27) The commissioner shall establish a procedure for resolution of disputes between a school district and the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired under Section 30.021.
- (28) The commissioner shall perform duties relating to the funding, adoption, and purchase of textbooks under Chapter 31.
- (29) The commissioner may enter into contracts concerning technology in the public school system as authorized under Chapter 32.
- (30) The commissioner shall adopt a recommended contract form for the use, acquisition, or lease with option to purchase of school buses under Section 34.009.

- (31) The commissioner shall ensure that the cost of using school buses for a purpose other than the transportation of students to or from school is properly identified in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) under Section 34.010.
- (32) The commissioner shall perform duties in connection with the public school accountability system as prescribed by Chapter 39.
- (33) Repealed by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 397, § 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.
- (34) The commissioner shall perform duties in connection with the equalized wealth level under Chapter 41.
- (35) The commissioner shall perform duties in connection with the Foundation School Program as prescribed by Chapter 42.
- (36) The commissioner shall establish advisory guidelines relating to the fiscal management of a school district and report annually to the board on the status of school district fiscal management as required under Section 44.001.
- (37) The commissioner shall review school district audit reports as required under Section 44.008.
- (38) The commissioner shall perform duties in connection with the guaranteed bond program as prescribed by Subchapter C, Chapter 45.
- (39) The commissioner shall cooperate with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in connection with the Texas partnership and scholarship program under Subchapter P, Chapter 61.
- (40) The commissioner shall suspend the certificate of an educator or permit of a teacher who violates Chapter 617, Government Code.
- (41) The commissioner shall adopt rules relating to extracurricular activities under Section 33.081 and approve or disapprove University Interscholastic League rules and procedures under Section 33.083.

(c) The budget the commissioner adopts under Subsection (b) for operating the Foundation School Program must be in accordance with legislative appropriations and provide funds for the administration and operation of the agency and any other necessary expense. The budget must designate any expense of operating the agency or operating a program for which the board has responsibility that is paid from the Foundation School Program. The budget must designate program expenses that may be paid out of the foundation school fund, other state funds, fees, federal funds, or funds earned under interagency contract. Before adopting the budget, the commissioner must submit the budget to the board for review and, after receiving any comments of the board, present the operating budget to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board. The commissioner shall provide appropriate information on proposed budget expenditures to the comptroller to assure that all payments are paid from the appropriate funds in a timely and efficient manner.