



Board of Trustees Workshop

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Special Education Review

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Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE)

TCASE's mission is to support special education administrators in Texas by providing resources, networking opportunities, and professional development.



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Purpose:

The purpose of this program review is to evaluate Abilene ISD's special education services in alignment with best practices and compliance standards. This review will identify strengths, areas for improvement, and actionable recommendations to enhance student outcomes and overall program effectiveness.



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Best Practices:

The review will assess the district's special education framework for best practices, ensuring equitable access to high-quality instruction, appropriate supports, and inclusive learning environments.



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Recommendations:

An executive summary will outline key commendations and recommendations to maintain and enhance the district's service delivery model. The report will provide:

- **Targeted strategies for improving instructional practices and service implementation.**
- **A cost analysis of proposed enhancements.**
- **A comparative analysis with similarly sized districts to benchmark performance and resource allocation.**

This review will serve as a roadmap for continuous improvement, ensuring that Abilene ISD remains at the forefront of excellence in special education.



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Timeline:

April 29th , 30th, and May 1st (TCASE staff in Abilene.)

The executive summary will be provided within 30 days of the last site visit day



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Site Visits:

Site visits are a critical component of the process that allow our evaluators to conduct one-on-one interviews with campus administration and visit classrooms to observe the efficiency and effectiveness of staff usage in all instructional arrangements. Each site visit should include a 30 minute interview with the principal and structured classroom observations to include the full continuum offered. Each site visit schedule should allow for approximately one and a half to two hours on campus including the principal interview.



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Interviews with Stakeholders:

Stakeholders individual interviews will be conducted with central office and district leadership personnel. Information provided will be helpful to understand the systems and structures that drive staffing decisions and ultimately, the provision of services to students with disabilities and the district's requirement of paperwork and documentation of services.



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Focus Groups with Stakeholders:

Stakeholders Structured group interviews will be conducted with representative groups of campus staff and service providers.

Information provided will be helpful to understand the systems and structures that drive staffing decisions and ultimately, the provision of services to students with disabilities and the district's requirement of paperwork and documentation of services. Each Focus group should include no more than 12 participants.



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Possible Stakeholder Focus Groups:

- ARD Facilitators
- SLPs
- LSSPs
- Elementary Special Education Teachers
- Middle School Special Education Teachers
- High School Special Education Teachers
- Elementary General Education Teachers
- Middle School General Education Teachers
- High School General Education Teachers
- Special Education Teachers by program- Life Skills, Behavior, ECSE, Autism, etc.
- Assistant Principals
- Parents



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Documentation and Process Review:

A thorough review of documents will be conducted to gather background information on the staffing process and utilization of personnel. A review of existing documents will help the evaluator to understand the history, philosophy, culture, and operation of the program.



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Surveys of Stakeholders:

Stakeholder Surveys allow evaluators to gather large amounts of feedback directly from individuals who are affected by program decisions. Survey questions will be provided to the district, and a survey window will be determined. The district will send the survey to stakeholders. The perceptual data collected will be analyzed and included in the executive summary.

Surveys will be sent to district staff and parents of special education students.



Questions