Consider Approval of Credit by Exam Providers, Audit and Validation Process

1. Background:
The Texas Education Agency has revised the rules regarding Credit by Exam testing. 19 Texas Administrative Code 74.24(b)(1) provides that a board of trustees must approve an audit process for credit-by-examination assessments used for kindergarten– grade 5 acceleration. 19 Texas Administrative Code 74.24(c)(1) provides that the board of trustees shall approve at least four examinations and approve an audit process to be completed for each examination. These examinations shall include College Board advanced placement examinations and exams from the College-Level Examination Program which are not subject to an audit. The examinations may include exams developed by Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Austin along with other providers. In addition, TAC §74.24(c)(2) requires that in order for a school district to administer an examination for credit, prior to the first administration, the school district or the provider of the assessment must certify that the examination: (A) is aligned to all assessable TEKS for the course; (B) has not have been published and is not publicly available. (C) will only be administered in a secure environment under standardized conditions by a school district or institution of higher education, and (D) has been evaluated to ensure: (i) test scores can be interpreted as indicators of what the test is intended to measure; (ii) consistency of test results across testing conditions.

2. Process:
Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Austin have certified that their examinations meet the rule criteria specified in 19 TAC 74.24. They post annual certification reports which describe their external validation and audit processes.

3. Fiscal Impact:
The cost of each exam is $25.00.

4. Recommendation:
That the Board approve the exams created by Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Austin and Avant Assessment to be used for Credit by Examination and accept the audit process developed by the universities or company.

5. Required:
Board Action