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Commissioner

**Testimony of Patricia V. Hayes
Associate Commissioner for Educator Quality and P-16 Initiatives**

**Senate Select Committee on Education Reform and Public School Finance
February 6, 2006**

P-16 Office Background

The Office of P-16 Initiatives was established within TEA in September 2004 to provide policy guidance and staff support to statewide P-16 activities and to the P-16 Council. To that end, the department continues to coordinate educational policy efforts between Pre-K to 12 public education and higher education entities as well as develop and strengthen partnerships and relationships between the public education, higher education, civic and business communities.

P-16 Council Background

The P-16 Council consists of the commissioner of education, the commissioner of higher education, the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and the commissioner of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. The P-16 Council underwent several changes throughout 2005 as it matured into a prominent entity within the Texas Education Agency. Not only was the Council reaffirmed and strengthened in statute during the 79th Legislative session, it established many initiatives and goals to pursue during the interim. The Council was given additional responsibilities by the Legislature, namely in HB 2808, that will require reports due by January 2007. Further, the Council moved forward on important issues all along the P-16 spectrum, including developmental education, teacher preparedness, and college readiness. These issues, as well as others, will continue to be examined by the Council in 2006.

P-16 Council and Committee/Subcommittee Recommendations

- The P-16 Council has charged the Student Academic Preparation and Readiness Committee with the following (based on HB 2808 mandates):
 1. Review existing school district programs that provide high school students with the opportunity to enroll in advanced academic courses offered through dual credit and concurrent enrollment programs, including reviewing courses currently approved by districts and offered by institutions of higher education for dual and concurrent enrollment credit.

“Good, Better, Best—never let it rest—until your good is better—and your better is BEST!”

2. Review the high school curriculum required for the recommended high school program under Section 28.025 and study the feasibility of offering a revised curriculum that would provide graduating high school students with at least 12 hours of advanced academic courses or college-level coursework offered through dual credit and concurrent enrollment programs provided under agreements between high schools and institutions of higher education.

These charges will build on what the Committee had worked on during the spring of 2005. These recommendations are due to the Council on November 1, 2006.

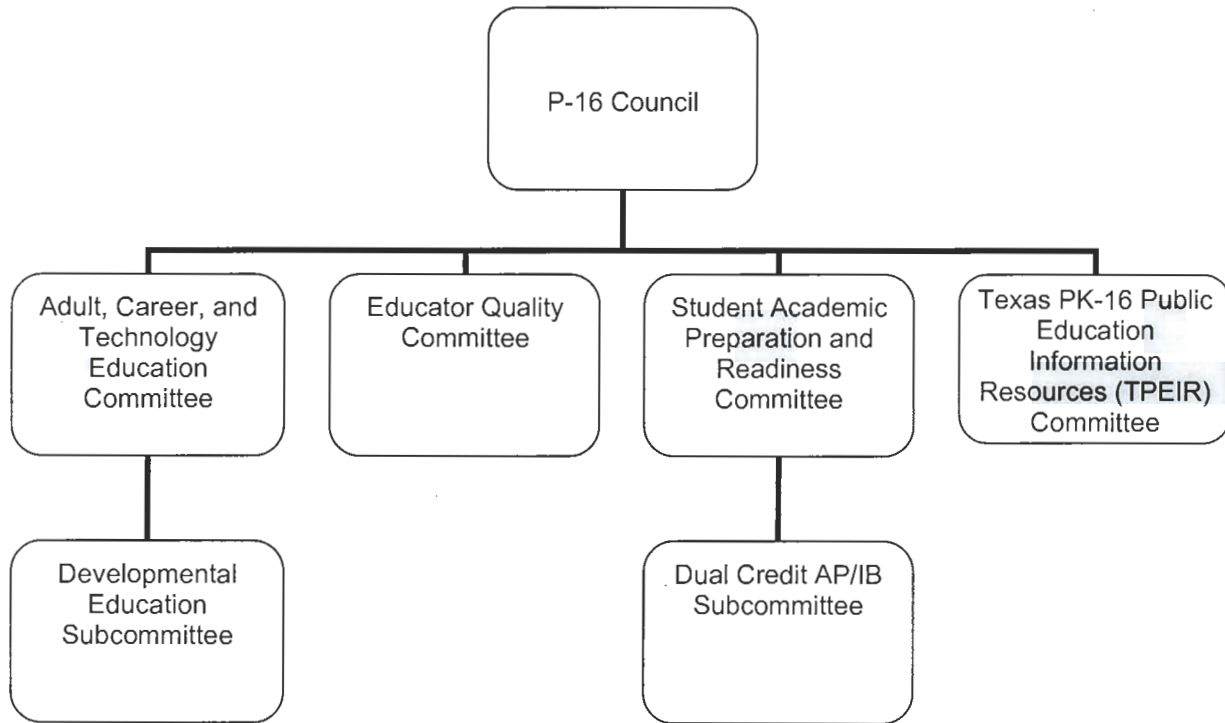
- The P-16 Council has also charged the Developmental Education Subcommittee with examining ways in which the P-16 Council can work effectively to address the issues of developmental education. The Subcommittee has met and plans to address the following areas: All/overarching issues, curriculum and instruction issues, definition issues, faculty issues, institutional issues, and student issues

These recommendations are due to the Council on November 1, 2006.

- The Student Academic Preparation and Readiness Committee has been examining other college readiness issues and will also have recommendations for the Council

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P-16 Council Organizational Chart



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