Statewide Leadership Networks
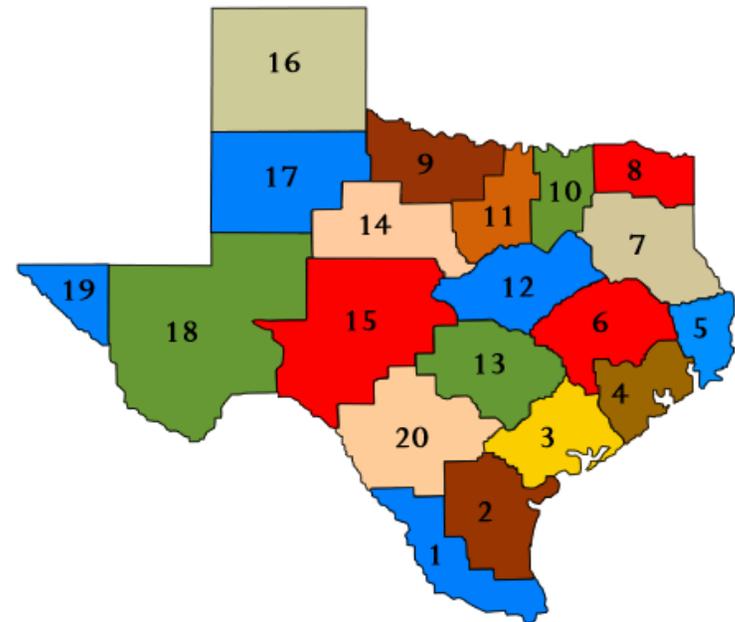
What is a Statewide Leadership Function or Project?

- Over the past 10-15 years, Statewide Leaderships were established to provide guidance and leadership in special education related areas.
- Currently we have 16 Statewide Leadership Functions and Projects
  - Functions are what we commonly call "Networks." They provide training, technical assistance, materials, and leadership in a certain area.
  - Projects mainly serve a limited purpose or are an event (such as a conference)
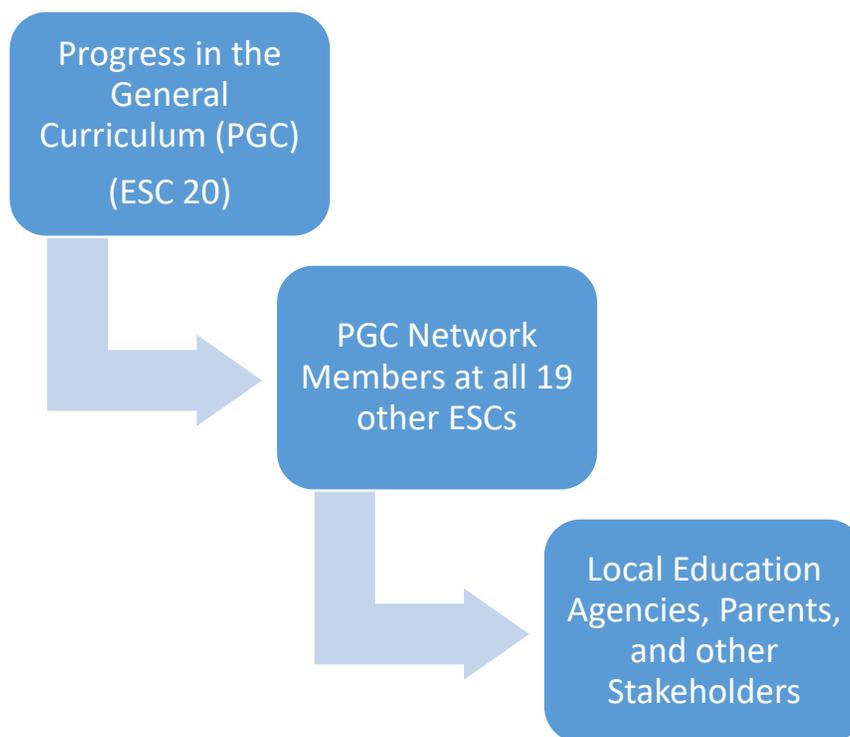
How does a Statewide Leadership Function or Project work?

- Each lead ESC is responsible for establishing and coordinating a 20-region network for their function or project.

- Each ESC has a member of the network located at their ESC.

- The lead ESC is tasked at directing the network in order to achieve the goals of the function or project.

How does a Statewide Leadership Function or Project work?

Progress in the General Curriculum (PGC) (ESC 20)

→

PGC Network Members at all 19 other ESCs

→

Local Education Agencies, Parents, and other Stakeholders

Statewide Leadership Functions and Projects
https://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=2147494394

Redesigning the Statewide Leadership Networks

- We gathered information from interviews, surveys, and focus groups to help inform the network redesign.
- It was decided that the 16 functions and projects would be condensed into 10 Statewide Leadership Networks.
- Much of the work from the 16 functions and projects will continue to live under one of the 10 new networks, along with some new areas of work.
- The goal of the redesign was to encourage more collaboration between ESCs, Institutes of Higher Learning (IHEs), and Leadership Networks, to streamline efforts to better leverage resources, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

New Statewide Leadership Networks

- Support for Students with Intensive Needs

- Support for Students with Sensory Impairments

- Support for Students in Small and Rural LEAs

- Child-centered Transitions

- Support for Students with Multiple Exceptionalities and Multiple Needs

- Child Find, Evaluation, and ARD Supports

- School, Family, and Community Engagement

- Inclusive Services and Practices for Improved Student Outcomes

- Support for Students Identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- Intervention Best Practices

- **Child Find, Evaluation, and ARD Supports**
  - Increase capacity in LEAs to effectively locate and evaluate children with disabilities
  - Improve efficiency and transparency and understanding of ARD processes
- **School, Family, and Community Engagement**
  - Build the capacity of educators and families to work collaboratively towards improved student outcomes

Strategic Plan: Networks and Structures

- **Inclusive Services and Practices for Improved Student Outcomes**
  - Increase LEAs capacity to effectively implement evidence-based models of inclusion and inclusive practices
- **Support for Students Identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**
  - Increase LEAs capacity to provide students with autism, educators, and families access to evidence-based best practices, resources, and tools

Strategic Plan: Networks and Structures

- **Intervention Best Practices**
  - Increase LEA capacity to effectively develop and implement an integrated, comprehensive framework for all students' academic, behavioral, and social achievement.
- **Support for Students with Intensive Needs**
  - Provide evidence-based practice resources, guidance, and support to parents, caregivers, and educators that are effective in meeting the diverse academic and functional needs of these students.

Strategic Plan: Networks and Structures

- **Support for Students with Sensory Impairments**
  - Provide supports to families and schools through the creation of resources and strategies designed to overcome barriers to academic and functional success for students with Sensory Impairments.
- **Support for Students in Small and Rural LEAs**
  - Develop a network of collaborative partnerships, resources, and professional development to ensure a more equitable level of service for students with disabilities in small and rural schools

Strategic Plan: Networks and Structures

- **Child-centered Transitions**
  - Provide students with disabilities with the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence necessary to transition successfully throughout their educational career
  - Provide stakeholders with training and resources that increase knowledge, builds capacity, and enhances infrastructure to ensure **pre-kindergarten through post-secondary** readiness needs are met

Strategic Plan: Networks and Structures

- **Support for Students with Multiple Exceptionalities and Multiple Needs**
  - Build capacity to appropriately meet the complex needs of this population of students through the development of training and resources
  - Creation of essential partnerships and systems at the state, regional, and local levels that include families, communities, and educators so that students with multiple needs or exceptionalities can be more effectively served

Who Will Lead the New Networks?

- There was a competitive grant process. Requests for Letters of Interest describing the networks and goals were posted publicly.
- ESCs and IHEs submitted proposals describing the activities they would engage in to meet the network goals.
- A group of external and internal reviewers read and scored the proposals for each network.

Who Will Lead the New Networks?

- In most cases, a grant will be awarded to an ESC or IHE to lead a network.
  - Currently we are engaged in negotiations with the selected ESC or IHE about the goals, metrics, activities, and budget for those networks.
  - After the ESC or IHE and TEA can come to an agreement on these negotiations, then the ESC or IHE will become the official lead for that network beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.
- In some cases, a grant may not be awarded.
  - In those cases, the grants will be reposted as contracts in Requests for Proposals. This will allow for ESCs, IHEs, and other for- and non-profit organizations to compete to be the lead of those networks.

https://tea.texas.gov/texassped/

Thank You!