

Newsletter

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

May 2025



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A Message from the Presiding Officer, Dr. David H. Yu

In Service. As a Board Member.

Serving as a member of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) is both an honor and a responsibility that extends far beyond routine administrative duties. In my regular newsletter messages, I've discussed topics such as adhering to TSBDE rules and regulations, our role in shaping policies based on legislative intent, and how we define standards of care in dentistry. Yet, the most frequent questions I receive are more personal: "What's it like to be a Texas dental board member?" or "What does a board member actually do?" While board service comes with defined responsibilities, the role offers far more than I even initially expected.

At its core, a board member's duties revolve around public safety while ensuring the integrity of the dental profession. This includes rule-making based on legislative intent, licensing, discipline, and promulgation of rules. Yet beyond our structured duties, serving on the TSBDE opens doors to unexpected collaborations, from chairside practitioners to policy-makers. The board member role challenges us to see dentistry through multiple lenses. As a CODA accreditation site visitor, we work with accreditation representatives, dental school program directors and deans to maintain educational standards. As a regulator, we balance public protection without stifling progress. As an advocate for patients, we connect with the public's expectation of dental quality care. As a purveyor of dental professional's clinical concerns, we identify with private practice concerns. We also learn from public member's community-focused outlook— both within our boardroom discussions and beyond.

Beyond Texas, board members contribute to national discussions on dental regulation. Our members hold voting rights in the American Association of Dental Boards. This allows the board to influence broader policies, advocate for uniform standards, and stay informed about trends affecting the profession across the United States. By working with our national partners, board members give Texas a voice in shaping the dental policy across the country.

A unique role that board members have is to participate in regional clinical examinations. We are, after all, the Texas Board of Dental *Examiners*. Our involvement can be as examiners, committee members, or leadership in these organizations. By establishing early standards, we play a direct role in patient safety from the very onset of all dental and hygiene graduates' careers. Even after our term has ended, we may continue to be examiners and volunteer our time in order to uphold licensing standards.

The most rewarding aspect of being a board member is the opportunity to engage with stakeholder leaders in dentistry. This includes the public, fellow dental professionals, organized dentistry leadership, state legislatures, other state boards, and dental educators. I've appreciated connecting with these individuals and discovering that despite our diverse backgrounds, we share a unified commitment to carefully advancing dentistry. These connections remind me that regulation is built on the collective input and collaboration of those who care about dentistry's future.

In the end, the question isn't just "What does a board member do?"- it's "How does a board member make a difference?" The answer is found in every regulation upheld, every stakeholder engaged, and every standard upheld for the future of dentistry.

In Service,

David H. Yu, DDS, MS
Presiding Officer of the TSBDE



LICENSING

2025 Licensing Expo Info for Recent Graduates

Dental Hygiene Expo - June 30, 2025

Dental Expo - July 1, 2025

Fingerprint Renewal Requirement

Effective January 1, 2026, all licensees lacking a State Identification (SID) number in the agency's licensing database will be mandated to undergo a fingerprint background check as a prerequisite for license renewal. A SID serves as a unique identifier during background screenings, particularly for licensure and employment purposes. Consequently, individuals licensed prior to 2016 may not possess a SID number within the agency's licensure database. The absence of a SID number precludes the agency from receiving notifications regarding any criminal history events.

Licensees lacking requisite fingerprint information will be notified by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners ninety days prior to license expiration. Such notifications shall be transmitted via the online licensing system. The Board is authorized to request this information in accordance with rules 101.1(c)(6), 103.1(c)(10), and 114.2(b)(3), and Section 411.12504 of the Government Code, which permits the acquisition of fingerprints for criminal history background checks.

The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners is in the process of updating its website to include a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section. This section is intended to provide assistance in addressing inquiries from licensees. Licensees are respectfully requested to refrain from contacting the Board to verify the presence of their information in the database.

Dental Assistant Registration Renewal Requirements

A dental assistant must complete twelve (12) hours of continuing education biennially in areas covering dental assistant duties. At least six (6) of these twelve (12) hours must be clinical continuing education. As a prerequisite to the renewal of a dental assistant's certificate of registration, a course in human trafficking prevention approved by the executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission must be completed.



LICENSING

License Renewal

Effective September 1, 2025, all renewals must be completed via your [online licensing account](#). The online licensing system cannot be accessed via a hand-held device. Do not wait until the last minute to submit your renewal application.

Registration of Non-Profit Organizations Authorized to Hire Dentists

The State Board of Dental Examiners will approve and certify any health organization or other organization qualified to contract with or employ dentists upon submission of an application meeting the following requirements:

- 1) A written request to the Board by the organization's chief executive officer will suffice as the application;
- 2) The following documentation shall be submitted:
 - (A) a copy of the certificate of incorporation under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act;
 - (B) written proof of a determination by the Internal Revenue Service that the organization is tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code pursuant to §501(c)(3); and
 - (C) either written proof that the organization is:
 - (i) organized and operated as a migrant, community or homeless health center under the authority of and in compliance with 42 United States Code §254(b) or (c), or §256, or a federally qualified health center under 42 United States Code §1396d(1)(2)(B); or
 - (ii) written proof that the organization provides services at no fee or a reduced fee to underserved populations; or
 - (iii) written proof that the organization will hire dentists to staff a clinic that provides services primarily to persons having AIDS or the human immunodeficiency virus.

This information may be submitted to licensinghelp@tsbde.texas.gov.



Board Meeting May 2, 2025

Proposed and Adopted Rules

Rule 104.2 Continuing Education Providers

Rule 107.400 Collection and Reporting of Enforcement and Licensing Data

Rule 108.52 Names and Responsibilities

Rule 108.8 Records of the Dentist

Rule Review of Chapters 110 & 113

TSBDE will begin a review of Chapter 110 Sedation and Anesthesia) and Chapter 113 (Requirements for Dental Offices) pursuant to the agency's rule review schedule. TSBDE is required to review its rules every four years in accordance with Texas Government Code §2001.039. During the review, each rule is examined to determine if it is obsolete, reflects current legal and policy considerations and aligns with current Board procedures. As TSBDE goes through the review process, the agency will request written comments from stakeholders and the public. The deadline for submitting comments is thirty (30) days after the review is published in the Texas Register. Comments on proposed rules may be submitted by mail to Casey Nichols, Executive Director, 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 8.600, Austin, Texas 78701, by fax to (512) 649-2482, or by email to official_rules_comments@tsbde.texas.gov

Dentists Delegating to Registered Dental Assistants

During the May 2025 meeting, the Board emphasized the necessity for dentists and registered dental assistants to thoroughly review Chapter 114 to ensure that both parties understand what procedures may be delegated. A dentist is responsible for all delegated acts. If a dentist delegates a procedure to a registered dental assistant that they do not have the authority to perform- both parties may face disciplinary action.

TSBDE will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 in honor of Memorial Day.



Stakeholder Notice

At the May 2, 2025, meeting of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (Board), Board staff was directed to solicit input from interested stakeholders and members of the public on the topic of the 2025 annual report created by the Board's Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia (ACDA). Board staff is requesting informal comments in lieu of holding an in-person stakeholder meeting.

Pursuant to Section 258.202 of the Texas Occupations Code and Board rule 100.12, the purpose of the advisory committee is to analyze and report on de-identified data and associated trends concerning anesthesia-related deaths or incidents. The data and information provided by the Board to the advisory committee is confidential. The recommendations and findings reported by the advisory committee to the Board are public information and published on the Board's Internet website. The ACDA's annual reports can be found on the Board's website:

<https://tsbde.texas.gov/resources/public-reports/>

The Board requests stakeholder input on the following topic related to rulemaking proceedings: 2025 ACDA Report, specifically whether there should be any changes to the Board rules or the Dental Practice Act based on the ACDA's findings and recommendations.

Stakeholders and members of the public may submit informal input until June 23, 2025, by mail to the Board's General Counsel at 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 8.600, Austin, Texas, 78701, by fax to (512) 649-2482, or by email to stakeholders@tsbde.texas.gov. Information regarding Board proceedings and the laws and rules related to dentistry are available at www.tsbde.texas.gov.

This solicitation of informal comments does not serve as an official comment period or rulemaking as required by Texas law or Board rules. Consideration of any rulemaking topics will occur at a future meeting of the Board held pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act), and all Board rulemakings will be conducted pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 2001 (Texas Administrative Procedure Act).