



# Pathways to Create Effective Virtual Educators

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# Vision

- iteach was created to **remove barriers** for qualified individuals to enter the teaching profession.
- By **removing barriers** to the profession, iteach provides our candidates a **rigorous, cost-effective** pathway into the profession.

# Foundation for Virtual Education Discussion

We have an opportunity to learn from a “Covid cohort” of educator preparation candidates resulting from SBEC rule waivers in 2020-2021

- Majority of candidates, statewide, were observed virtually, with very few face-to-face interactions due to Covid restrictions
- Of the 20-21 *iteach* cohort, 2,971 were in Texas classrooms in 2020-21
- Anecdotal data lead us to the conclusion that these teachers have been rigorously prepared and we continue to observe their progress.



# A Solid Statutory Foundation

Texas (SBEC) has more options to prepare virtual educators than are presently implemented, particularly micro-credentialing

TEC 21.051 (f) Provides for virtual classroom observations

TEC 21.051 (g) Identifies that initial certification placement requirements can be accomplished in virtual settings

TEC 21.054 (i) Allows for micro-credentialing to be posted on the teaching certificate for all Texas educators

# Virtual Observations and Placements

Advantages to virtual candidate observations within a rigorous and robust framework:

- Reduced distraction in classroom
- Precise feedback – ability to look at specific timeframes
- A picture is worth a 1000 words
- Additional observers, including content specialists, to provide feedback if necessary
- Opportunity for teacher to reflect

Advantages to virtual candidate placements:

- Address the need for dual enrollment instructors
- Prepare teacher in rural areas with the skills to facilitate online instruction
- Provide the virtual school network with highly effective online instructors
- Opportunity to utilize relocated spouses, i.e., military

# Micro-credentialing

Texas should implement a *micro-credential* to demonstrate mastery of the art of teaching in a virtual environment.

- iteach could design and pilot a cost efficient, on-line curriculum for virtual instruction
- Demonstrations of skills related to the content of virtual instruction by teacher preparation program candidates or certified teachers
- Competency Based



# Micro-credentialing Process

- Time Requirements
  - 45 hours – equivalent to 3 credit hours
- Best Practice
  - Engaging learners
  - Assessing learners
  - Applying best practice research
- Texas first
  - Other states dependent upon national organization to provide this knowledge to teachers in state
  - Micro - Credential aligned to specific Texas field requirements

# Benefits of Proposal

National Innovator of lessons learned

Teacher and/or district could effectively move to online instruction in the event of a need due to health situation

Allow provide instruction for homebound students

To remove district and parent's concerns – districts identify teachers who have demonstrated ability to provide effective instruction online and content knowledge



Thank you.

Questions?

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