

To Whom It May Concern:

The Standard certificate is the regular, full certification issued in Texas, renewable upon completion of continuing professional education.

This letter provides an explanation regarding the three routes for obtaining a Standard certificate.

Route 1: Hold a credential from another state or country and apply for an out-of-state or out-of-country review of credentials.

Route 2: A teacher who holds a valid Texas classroom teaching certificate and a bachelor's degree may add classroom certification areas by successfully completing the appropriate certification examination(s) for the area(s) sought.

Route 3: Obtain a certificate by completing an approved educator preparation program. A list of [approved programs](#) is found on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website.

An individual may complete a traditional approved undergraduate program or complete an approved alternative certification program. All Texas educator preparation programs are approved by the State Board for Educator Certification.

For admission into an alternative certification program, a person must hold a bachelor's degree and a minimum overall grade point average as established by the individual program. Coursework or training designed for the certification area sought is required. A practicum is required by either completing a supervised teaching internship of at least one full school-year, or a supervised clinical teaching assignment of fourteen-weeks (twelve-weeks prior to 12/27/2016). During the one-year internship, the individual works as a full-time teacher under the guidance of a trained mentor. The student contact hours during this intensive teacher training program usually exceed that of the one-semester student teaching experience found in traditional undergraduate programs. The clinical teaching assignment is equivalent to the student teaching experience found in traditional undergraduate programs.

Upon completion of all requirements, the individual is recommended for a Standard Texas teacher certificate by the program director, in agreement with the campus principal and mentor.

Once fully certified as a classroom teacher, individuals can obtain additional classroom content areas of certification by passing the required state examinations.

An educator's certificate may be found on the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) website](#). The information presented on this secure website is the official record of the educator's certification status. TEA no longer provides a printed certificate to the educator. To locate an educator's certificate record, a first and last name must be entered and must match the name in the TEA database. Educators are also able to print a copy of their certificate through their own secure access on the TEA website.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Cook, Director
Division of Educator Certification

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