

Texas law allows individuals who are “hearing impaired,” according to the definition stated below, to be issued a Temporary Exemption Certificate to enable them to serve as a teacher without passing certain written tests for educator certification ([Texas Education Code, Sections 21.048\[b-d\]](#)).

You are eligible to obtain the Temporary Exemption Certificate only if you satisfy both of the following requirements:

- A. You meet the following definition of hearing impaired: **“Hearing impaired means a hearing impairment so severe that the person cannot process linguistic information with or without amplification.”** (TEC §21.048[d][1]); And
- B. You have satisfied all requirements for certification except successful completion of the required certification exams. (Note: If successful completion of the TExES ASL test, TASC, and/or TASC-ASL is required, you must pass that test(s) even if you are hearing impaired.)

All applicants must meet the requirements described in B prior to applying for a certificate.

If you will be recommended for certification by an educator preparation program then you are not required to have satisfied all requirements for certification in order to apply for the exemption. **For example**, individuals enrolled in an educator preparation program who apply for the exemption may do so at any time during their preparation program (consult the Certification Officer at your program for guidance and assistance).

Educator Preparation Program's will be responsible for documenting applicant training, training hours, and assessments for all exempted test(s).

This exemption from testing requirements applies to all certification tests, except for the TExES American Sign Language (ASL) test. If your certification or assignment requires the TExES ASL test and/or one of the sign-communication performance tests, the Texas Assessment of Sign Communication (TASC) or TASC-ASL, you must pass that test(s) even if you are hearing impaired.

An individual's Temporary Exemption Certificate will remain in effect until the State Board for Educator Certification determines the tests' appropriateness, reliability, validity, and passing standards as applied specifically to individuals who are hearing impaired. Individuals granted the Temporary Exemption Certificate will then have one year to pass the (validated) tests to maintain certification.

To Establish Your Testing Exemption With TEA

If you satisfy the definition of hearing impaired that is stated in A above and need to establish your exemption, you must complete the following steps:

1. Complete the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Certification Test Exemption Application. An educator preparation program will need to verify page one and complete page two.
2. Take a hearing test, have the audiologist complete the Audiologist Report form, and submit the report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Eligibility for this exemption requires that you take a hearing test administered by a licensed audiologist within one year prior to applying for the exemption.
3. Submit the application to TEA through the online submission form. TEA will review the results of the hearing test and the audiologist's findings and notify you as to whether your testing exemption has been approved or denied.

Prior to Your Testing Exemption Being Approved by TEA

If you are seeking certification through an educator preparation program:

- Inform the Certification Officer at your educator preparation program that you are applying for an exemption from the testing requirements. (Note: The exemption does not apply to the TExES ASL, TASC, or TASC-ASL tests.) **Your program will prepare verification of training, training hours, and assessments for the exempted area.**
- After you have finished all your requirements for certification (e.g., coursework, internship or student teaching, and other program requirements) the program shall maintain detailed records of verification of training and a recommendation for certification for you.

After you have received notice from TEA that your materials have been reviewed and you have been approved for the exemption under TEC §21.048, depending on your route to certification, you should do the following:

- You must apply for your standard certificate online through [TEAL Login](#) at www.tea.texas.gov
- After you have applied for your certificate online, inform your program that you have completed this step.
- If your route to certification is certification by exam or out-of-state/out-of-country then please submit a help desk ticket. Your help desk ticket should indicate that you have a hearing test exemption and have submitted your certification application.