



**Compliance Report
for
Blinn College TEACH
Alternative Certification Program
February 18-19, 2010**

The Texas Education Agency administers Texas Administrative Code rules required by the Texas legislature for the regulation of all educator preparation programs in the state. Please see the complete Texas Administrative Code rules at www.tea.state.tx.us for details contained in each rule.

A continuing approval visit of the alternative certification program of Blinn College TEACH educator preparation program was conducted on February 18-19, 2010 by Texas Education Agency (TEA) program specialists Dr. Mary S. Black and Annabel Peña in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 228.10 (c).

Information concerning compliance with Texas Administrative Code rules governing educator preparation programs was collected by various qualitative means. TEA sent electronic surveys to all interns, faculty, Advisory Committee members, program staff members, field supervisors, mentors, and campus principals connected with the Blinn College educator certification program. A total of 61 surveys were returned: 21 from interns; 6 from Advisory Committee members; 10 from faculty; 4 from program staff; 11 from field supervisors; 17 mentors; and 11 from campus principals. In addition a review of documents, syllabi, and a curriculum correlation chart provided evidence regarding compliance. A self-report was submitted to TEA by the Blinn College TEACH program on January 21, 2010. Qualitative methods of content analysis, cross-referencing, and triangulation were used to evaluate the evidence.

COMPONENT I: GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS-- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20

Findings:

Blinn College TEACH alternative certification program is in compliance with TAC 228.20 regarding governance or Advisory Committees for educator preparation programs. Sign-in sheets from meetings, the self-report, and electronic surveys returned to TEA by Advisory Committee (AC) members indicate that the AC has representatives from various nearby school districts, community, the college and the program. Advisory Committee minutes and agendas show that the group

meets twice or more per year to discuss elements of design, delivery and evaluation of the program. Twelve AC members attended the Opening Session of the monitoring visit, including the President of Blinn College, Dr. Daniel Holt.

Based on the evidence presented above, Blinn College TEACH alternative certification program is in compliance with TAC 228.20.

COMPONENT II. ADMISSION CRITERIA - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §227.10

Findings:

Test scores in student folders reveal that the Blinn College TEACH program requires incoming students to have a score of 250 or above on the reading and math sections of the THEA in addition to a 2.5 GPA. A structured interview scored with a rubric, as seen in the student folders, is required for all applicants. In addition, a review of documents reveals that Blinn uses a “disposition to teach” instrument, which is in its third pilot year to validate the items. According to an informal interview with TEACH Director Theresa Warhmund, Fall of 2010 is the first time Blinn has filled the 10% cohort quota for admitting students with less than a 2.5, and this was because of exceptional circumstances in the applicants’ lives. The program also has a written “fitness to teach” policy which is included in student handbooks.

Based on the evidence presented above, Blinn College TEACH alternative certification program is in compliance with TAC 227.10.

COMPONENT III. EDUCATOR PREPARATION CURRICULUM -- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.30

Findings:

The Blinn College TEACH program is in compliance with TAC 228.30 concerning required curriculum for educator preparation. According to the self-report, faculty and intern surveys, the TEACH website and a chart titled *Essential Components for Educator Preparation Curriculum in Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities TAC §228.30* submitted by Blinn to TEA, instruction for Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) consists of 140 clock hours of 10 different online modules. Three exams are required over the 10 modules, along with four major projects and 90 activities that require outside reading, interviewing, analysis and online responses by a given deadline. Curriculum content in the online modules is aligned with the PPR EC-12 standards and covers all topics mandated in TAC §228.30. Program specialists reviewed the PPR curriculum online. Instructions were clear, readings were either included online or from selected textbooks, and activities enhanced depth and substance of learning for each topic.

Blinn also prepares students to take the TExES content examinations. Subject-specific content courses are taught in other parts of the college. While TEKS were not listed on each syllabus seen in the document review, it was clear from syllabus topics that content specific TEKS were being covered in those classes. Exams were indicated on syllabi.

Based on the evidence presented above, Blinn College TEACH is in compliance with TAC 228.30.

COMPONENT IV: PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ONGOING SUPPORT – PREPARATION PROGRAM COURSEWORK AND/OR TRAINING -- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.35

Findings:

According to the program hours chart submitted to TEA, The Blinn College TEACH program provides 210-222 clock hours of coursework and training prior to internship. Only 40 hours of documented training from the school district is counted in addition. At the end of the school year, the final 18 hours of training is held during the Beginning Teacher Academy. Total hours of training and coursework are 310, not including the internship.

The program requires six observations from the Field Supervisors plus one hour-long conference during the year. School principals sign agreements with Blinn College to provide two 15-minute walk-thrus and one conference with each intern as well. In addition, mentors are required to make monthly observations. Each mentor has a contract with Blinn and attends mandatory training. The program has developed comprehensive mentor and field supervisor handbooks. Logs of observations and conferences were seen in student folders. Document review revealed various forms for field supervisors, mentors, principals and interns to use regarding observation and support. Field supervisors leave copies of evaluations in binders on the intern's desk in the classroom for the principal and others to read.

Based on the evidence presented above, Blinn College TEACH is in compliance with TAC 228.35.

Commendations: The Blinn College TEACH program requires more than twice as much field supervision as mandated by the state. In addition, principals and mentors sign contracts with the program to provide necessary support for interns.

COMPONENT V. PROGRAM EVALUATION - ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATION AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.-- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.40 -

Findings:

The Blinn College TEACH program is in compliance with TAC 228.40 concerning assessment of candidates and overall program. Program benchmarks (Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III) and structured assessments are logged for each student and saved either in the student's folder or electronically. Various assessments of candidates and the overall program were observed during the document and curriculum review.

According to the self-report, Advisory Committee surveys and Advisory Committee minutes and agendas, the program is evaluated by the Advisory Committee and others once a year using TExES scores, intern surveys and intern retention and rehire statistics. Curriculum is kept up to date and revised according to new rules from TEA.

Based on the evidence presented above, Blinn College TEACH is in compliance with TAC 228.40.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Program Compliance Recommendations are based on the findings of the Texas Education Agency continuing approval visit. If the program is out of compliance with any component, please consult the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rules and correct the issue IMMEDIATELY. General Recommendations are suggestions for program improvement only. Failure to comply with TAC rules governing educator preparation programs may result in action by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) per TAC 229 beginning in 2010.

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE RECOMMENDATIONS: Blinn College is in compliance with all Texas Administrative Code rules at this time.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- List TEKS covered on content course syllabi
- List covered standards and competencies on all syllabi
- Add dates to Intern Supervision Record form