

Memorandum

TO: THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED

FROM: Joseph W. Mezher, State Funding Division

DATE: February 20, 2002

SUBJECT: Nurses' Prior Year(s) of Experience and their Placement on the Minimum Salary Schedule.

This is in response to requests concerning nurses (RN) prior year(s) of experience and their placement on the state-mandated minimum salary schedule.

The State Board of Education (SBOE) amended 19 TAC Chapter 153, School District Personnel, Subchapter CC of the Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service, § 153.1021, Recognition of Creditable Years of Service, effective April 9, 2000. The amendment to the rule added references to new positions that are eligible under statute for service credit recognition for purposes of minimum salary schedule placement conforming to changes enacted by Senate Bill 4, 76th Texas Legislature, 1999.

The amendment addressed Peace Corps nursing experience and hospital nursing experience, as follows:

- Peace Corps nursing experience shall be acceptable and recognized in the same manner as teaching experience in the Peace Corps, provided the nursing service in the Peace Corps was as a registered nurse. (TAC, § 153.1021, Subsection (a) (16)) and (h) (18) (A) & (B)).
- Hospital nursing experience shall be acceptable provided the person held a registered nurse position with a recognized accredited university-operated hospital. (TAC, § 153.1021 (h) (12) (A) (B) & (C)).

Therefore, nursing experience with the Peace Corps as a registered nurse, and with a university-operated hospital accredited by a recognized accrediting entity in the United States, (TAC, § 153.1021, Subsection (a) (14)) shall be recognized for salary increment purposes provided the minimum requirements specified in Subsection (f) are met. All eligible prior-year service in this area can be claimed for placement on the 2000-01 minimum salary schedule.

This ruling is mandatory and school districts must accept eligible nursing experience for salary increment purposes beginning with the 2000-01 school year as prescribed in Subchapter CC of the Commissioner's Rules.

During the rule adoption process, the agency had proposed a more restrictive provision that would have required service at a university-operated hospital to be recognized only if the employment was in a school nurse capacity. After public comments and the January 26, 2000, public hearing with the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) and Texas Association of School Nurses (TASN), the agency modified the proposed rules to reflect the amended 19 TAC Chapter 153.1021 as it is currently in effect.

8-20-2014

Please note that the references for a registered nurse it is now TAC, § 153.1021, Subsection (a) (17)) and the reference to a recognized accrediting entity is now (TAC, § 153.1021, Subsection (a) (15)).