

Text of Adopted New 19 TAC

Chapter 234. Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans

§234.1. Purpose.

- (a) The purpose of identifying military service members, military spouses, and military veterans is to establish a process to count applicable military service for timely admission into educator preparation programs, expedite the completion of certification credential reviews, support certification examination and licensure application fee exemptions as applicable, and support certification renewal of members of the military community.
- (b) In the event of conflict with any other rule in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 7, this chapter shall supersede with regard to the certification of military service members, military spouses, and military veterans.

§234.3. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Military service member--A person who is on active duty.
- (2) Military spouse--A person who is married to a military service member.
- (3) Military veteran--A person who has served on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.
- (4) Active duty--Current full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States or active duty military service as a member of the Texas military forces, as defined by the Texas Government Code, §437.001, or similar military service of another state.
- (5) Armed forces of the United States--The army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States or a reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed forces.

§234.5. Certification of Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans.

- (a) The application for certification of a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse, including an application based upon certification by a jurisdiction other than Texas that has certification requirements substantially similar to the Texas certification requirements, shall be processed as soon as practicable.
- (b) As soon as practicable after the issuance of a one-year certificate, Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall notify, in writing or by email, a military spouse of the requirements for obtaining a standard Texas certificate. A military spouse whose active duty spouse has been reassigned to another state during the validity period of the first one-year certificate would be eligible for a second one-year certificate.
- (c) The standard Texas certificate of a military service member, military spouse, or military veteran may be renewed if that certificate has expired within five years preceding the Texas application date.
- (d) A military service member or a military veteran shall be entitled to credit verified military service, training, or education toward the training, education, work experience, or related requirements (other than certification examinations) for educator certification. TEA staff and educator preparation programs (EPPs) shall use information from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other reliable sources to assist in crediting applicable military service, training, or education to certification requirements.
- (e) A military service member pursuing certification in career and technical education must meet requirements for the certificate, but for career and technical education certificate areas requiring experience and licensure, the military service member shall be entitled to substitute military experience in the trade for the required license or professional credential for the specific trade.

- (f) A military service member, military spouse, and military veteran shall complete educator examination requirements for certificate issuance as outlined in Texas Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, and rules in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 7.
- (g) Military service members and military veterans are exempt from certification application fees that are paid to the state that lead to initial certification. These members of the military community are exempt from paying the portion of the examination registration fee that is paid to the TEA.
- (h) Military service members, military spouses, and military veterans are exempt from certification application fees that are paid to the state that lead to initial certification resulting from a review of credentials, one-year certificate, or out-of-state standard certificate. These members of the military community are exempt from paying the portion of the examination registration fee that is paid to the TEA.

§234.7. Renewal and Continuing Education Requirements for Military Service Members.

- (a) A military service member shall be exempted from any fee or penalty for failing to timely renew his or her Texas educator certificate if the delay occurred because the educator was serving as a military service member.
- (b) A military service member is entitled to two years of additional time to complete all continuing education requirements and any other requirements relating to the renewal of his or her Texas educator certificate.