Text of Adopted Revisions to 19 TAC

Chapter 230. Professional Educator Preparation and Certification

Subchapter D. Types and Classes of Certificates Issued

§230.31. Types of Certificates.

(a) "Type of certificate" means a designation of the period of validity for a certificate and includes the following certificate designations:

(1) standard, as specified in subsection (c) of this section;

(2) provisional, as specified in subsection (b) of this section;

(3) professional, as specified in subsection (b) of this section;

(4) one year, as specified in §230.113 of this title (relating to Requirements for Texas Certificates Based on Certification from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries);

(5) intern, as specified in §230.36 of this title (relating to Intern Certificates);

(6) [~~(5)~~] probationary, as specified in §230.37 of this title (relating to Probationary Certificates);

[~~(6) temporary, as specified in §230.39 of this title (relating to Temporary Teacher Certificates); and~~]

(7) emergency, as specified in §230.73 of this title (relating to Validity of Emergency Permits) ; and

(8) educational aide, as specified in Subchapter E of this chapter (relating to Educational Aide Certificate) .

(b) All provisional and professional educator certificates issued prior to September 1, 1999, shall be valid for the life of the individual unless suspended, surrendered in lieu of revocation, or revoked by lawful authority.

(c) Effective September 1, 1999, the standard certificate shall be issued for all classes of certificates and shall be valid for five years, subject to the requirements of Chapter 232, Subchapter A, of this title (relating to Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements). The standard certificate is issued to individuals who have met all requirements for a given subject area or class of certification.

(d) Effective September 1, 2017, the educational aide certificate shall be valid for two years. Educational aide certificates issued effective September 1, 2017, will expire at the end of the two-year validity period. Individuals issued an educational aide certificate prior to September 1, 2017, as well as new applicants for the educational aide certificate, will be required to reapply for certification every two years and meet any other requirements for the educational aide certificate as specified in §230.65 of this title (relating to Requirements for Reissuance of Educational Aide Certificates).

§230.33. Classes of Certificates.

(a) "Class of certificates" means a certificate with the following characteristics:

(1) specific job duties or functions associated with the certificate;

(2) standards established by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for the issuance of the certificate; and

(3) comprehensive examination(s) prescribed by the SBEC , as specified in §230.21 of this title (relating to Educator Assessment) [~~for the certificate~~] .

(b) Classes of certificates include the following:

(1) superintendent;

(2) principal;

(3) classroom teacher (categories of classroom teaching certificates are described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates));

(4) reading specialist;

(5) master teacher;

(6) school librarian;

(7) school counselor; and

(8) educational diagnostician . [~~; and~~]

[~~(9) educational aide.~~]

§230.35. Development, Approval, Implementation, and Evaluation of Teacher Certification Standards.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the certification standards shall be to ensure the highest level of educator preparation and practice to achieve student excellence.

(b) Objectives. The objectives of the certification standards are:

(1) to establish the knowledge and skills required of an individual seeking certification in a particular subject area;

(2) to guide the design and delivery of educator preparation programs (EPPs); and

(3) to direct the development of certification examinations and other requirements for issuance of the certificate.

(c) Policy. The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) shall appoint an advisory committee to develop and recommend [~~approve~~] certification standards for approval that are based on the applicable Texas essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and reflect current research-based practices and knowledge of the developmental stages of learning to promote successful outcomes and academic achievement from Early Childhood-Grade 12.

(d) Development. The SBEC shall develop the certification standards based on information provided by Texas educators, EPP representatives, parents, and citizens. Before approving standards for a certificate, the SBEC shall make the proposed standards available for public comment [~~from the public, the SBOE, and the commissioner of education~~] .

(e) Implementation. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall be primarily responsible for implementing the certification standards approved by the SBEC by having certification examinations developed or recommended to the SBEC on the basis of such standards.

(f) Evaluation. The TEA staff shall periodically evaluate approved certification standards based, at a minimum, on any changes to the TEKS or the job functions and duties of the related certificate.

§230.36. Intern Certificates.

(a) General provisions.

(1) Certificate classes. An intern certificate may be issued for any class of certificate except educational aide.

(2) Requirement to hold an intern certificate. A candidate seeking certification as an educator must hold an intern certificate while participating in an internship through an approved educator preparation program (EPP).

(b) Requirements for issuance. An intern certificate may be issued to a candidate seeking certification as an educator who meets the conditions and requirements prescribed in this subsection.

(1) Bachelor's degree. Except as otherwise provided in rules of the State Board for Educator Certification related to certain career and technical education certificates based on skill and experience, the candidate must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of

higher education. An individual who has earned a degree outside the United States must provide an original, detailed report or course-by-course evaluation for all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The evaluation must verify that the individual holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.

(2) General certification requirements. The candidate must meet the general certification requirements prescribed in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).

(3) Fee. The candidate must pay the fee prescribed in §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).

(4) Fingerprints. The candidate must submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code (TEC), §22.0831.

(c) Conditions. The validity and effectiveness of an intern certificate is subject to the following conditions.

(1) Internship. The holder of an intern certificate must be a participant in good standing of an approved Texas EPP, serving in an acceptable, paid internship supervised by the EPP.

(2) Inactive status. An intern certificate will become inactive 30 calendar days after the holder's separation from the school assignment or the EPP. The unexpired term of an intern certificate may be reactivated if the holder satisfies the requirements specified in this section.

(3) Term of an intern certificate. An intern certificate shall be valid for one 12-month period from the date of issuance.

(4) Limit on preliminary certifications and permits. Without obtaining standard certification, an individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods while holding any combination of the following:

(A) intern certificates, limited to one 12-month period maximum, as described in this subsection;

(B) probationary certificates, limited to two 12-month periods maximum, as specified in §230.37 of this title (relating to Probationary Certificates)

(C) emergency permits as specified in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Permits); or

(D) one-year certificates as specified in Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).

(5) Reduction in force exception. If an educator is employed under an intern certificate and is terminated or resigns in lieu of termination before the end of the school year due to a reduction in force, that intern term shall not count as one of the three years referenced in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

(d) Testing requirements for issuance of an intern certificate. Beginning September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet the subject matter knowledge requirements for issuance of an intern certificate to serve an internship in a classroom teacher assignment for each subject area to be taught.

(1) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued an intern certificate for an internship in a classroom teacher assignment on or after September 1, 2017, a candidate must pass all of the appropriate certification content examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.

(2) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued an intern certificate for an internship in a career and technical education classroom teacher assignment that is based on skill and experience on or after September 1, 2017, a candidate must satisfy the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)) and pass the appropriate content certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.

(e) Intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher. An intern certificate may be issued for assignment as a superintendent, principal, reading specialist, master teacher, school librarian, school counselor, and educational diagnostician to an individual who meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and who also meets the requirements prescribed in this subsection.

(1) An applicant for an intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher must meet all requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements for the class of certification sought and the duties to be performed by the holder of an intern certificate in that class.

(2) The individual must have also been:

(A) accepted and enrolled to participate in a Texas EPP that has been approved to prepare candidates for the certificate sought; and

(B) assigned in the certificate area being sought in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or, pursuant to §228.35 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training), other school approved by the TEA.

(3) The holder of an intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher is subject to all terms and conditions of an intern certificate prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.

§230.37. Probationary Certificates.

(a) General provisions.

(1) Certificate classes. A probationary certificate may be issued for any class of certificate except educational aide.

(2) Requirement to hold a probationary certificate. A candidate seeking certification as an educator must hold a probationary certificate while participating in an internship through an approved educator preparation program (EPP).

(b) Requirements for issuance. A probationary certificate may be issued to a candidate seeking certification as an educator who meets the conditions and requirements prescribed in this subsection.

(1) Bachelor's degree. Except as otherwise provided in rules of the State Board for Educator Certification [~~SBEC~~] related to certain career and technical education certificates based on skill and experience, the candidate must hold [~~at least~~] a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education. An individual who has earned a degree outside the United States must provide an original, detailed report or course-by-course evaluation of all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The evaluation must verify that the individual holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.

(2) General certification requirements. The candidate must meet the general certification requirements prescribed in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).

[~~(3) Preparation program and assignment. The candidate's internship assignment must:~~]

[~~(A) be supervised by an approved Texas EPP;~~]

[~~(B) be in the subject area and at the grade level of certification sought or, if applicable, be in an assignment consistent with the professional class certification sought;~~]

[~~(C) take place in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or other school approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for this purpose pursuant to §228.35(d) of this title (relating to Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training); and~~]

[~~(D) if applicable, commence after the candidate for initial certification has met the pre-internship requirements specified in §228.35(a) and (c) of this title and the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.051.~~]

(3) [~~(4)~~] Fee. The candidate must pay the fee prescribed in §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).

(4) [~~(5)~~] Fingerprints. The candidate must submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code (TEC) [~~TEC~~] , §22.0831.

(c) Conditions. The validity and effectiveness of a probationary certificate is subject to the following conditions.

(1) Internship. The holder of a probationary certificate must be a participant in good standing of an approved Texas EPP, serving in an acceptable, paid internship supervised by the [~~an approved~~] EPP.

[~~(2) Supervision and professional development. An EPP shall provide field supervision, as prescribed in §228.35 of this title, and high-quality professional development throughout the entire term of the internship, including all extensions of the initial term.~~]

[~~(3) Mentor. The EPP shall collaborate with the campus administrator to assign a campus mentor to each intern throughout his or her internship.~~]

[~~(4) Notice. An EPP must immediately notify TEA by email if the holder of a probationary certificate:~~]

[~~(A) resigns or is terminated from the school assignment for which a probationary certificate was issued; or~~]

[~~(B) is discharged or released from the EPP. In this case, the program must also notify the employing school district.~~]

(2) [~~(5)~~] Inactive status. A probationary certificate will become inactive 30 calendar days after the holder's separation [~~termination~~] from the school assignment or the EPP. The unexpired term of a probationary certificate may be reactivated if the holder satisfies the program enrollment and school assignment requirements specified in §228.35 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training. [~~subsection (b)(3) of this section.~~]

(3) [~~(6)~~] Term of a probationary certificate. A probationary certificate shall be valid for a 12-month period from the date of issuance.

[~~(7) Additional terms. A probationary certificate issued to an individual enrolled in a post-baccalaureate or alternative certification program for initial certification, or any program for professional class certification, may be extended for no more than two additional 12-month terms following the expiration of the initial term, subject to the following conditions.~~]

[~~(A) A probationary certificate may be issued for an additional 12-month term only if the Texas EPP recommends the additional term and certifies that the holder is making satisfactory progress toward standard certification.~~]

[~~(B) The EPP must provide supervision to the educator for the full term of any such additional probationary certificate, unless, prior to the expiration of that term, a standard certificate is issued to the educator.~~]

(4) [~~(8)~~] Limit on preliminary certifications and permits. Without obtaining standard certification, an individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods while holding any combination of the following:

(A) intern certificates, limited to one 12-month period maximum, as described in this subsection;

(B) [~~(A)~~] probationary certificates , limited to two 12-month periods maximum, as described in this subsection;

(C) [~~(B)~~] emergency permits as specified in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Permits); or

(D) [~~(C)~~] one-year certificates as specified in Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).

(5) [~~(9)~~] Reduction in force exception. If an educator is employed under a probationary certificate and is terminated or resigns in lieu of termination before the end of the school year due to a reduction in force, that probationary term shall not count as one of the two [~~three~~] allowed annual probationary terms.

(d) Testing requirements for issuance of a probationary certificate.

(1) Prior to September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet the subject matter knowledge requirements for issuance of a probationary certificate to serve an internship in a classroom teacher assignment for each subject area to be taught:

(A) At the elementary school level, by passing the appropriate content area certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Assessment of Educators) , [~~that are~~] appropriate to the grade level and subject matter assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title (relating to Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments).

(B) At the middle or high school level:

(i) by passing the [~~an~~] appropriate content area certification examination(s), [~~including the appropriate pedagogy and professional responsibilities examination~~] as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter , [~~that are~~] appropriate to the grade level and subject matter assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title; or

(ii) by completing coursework that complies with the TEC, §21.050, and comprised of not fewer than 24 semester credit hours, including 12 semester credit hours of upper division coursework in the subject area(s) taught; or

(iii) in the case of career and technical education assignments based on skill and experience, by satisfying the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)).

(C) A candidate who is the teacher of record in a special education assignment must meet the appropriate subject matter knowledge requirements prescribed in subparagraph (A) and/or (B) of this paragraph and pass the appropriate special education certification examination(s) , as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter , [~~that are~~] appropriate to the assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title. If a candidate has not passed the special education supplemental-examination prior to the beginning of an internship, an EPP may permit the internship assignment if:

(i) the EPP has developed a plan to address any deficiencies identified through the candidate's previous attempt(s) on the examination; and

(ii) the EPP implements the plan during the initial internship, an EPP shall not permit an additional internship if all examinations requirements are not met.

(D) A candidate who is in a bilingual education and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) assignment must meet the appropriate subject matter knowledge requirements prescribed in subparagraph (A) and/or (B) of this paragraph and pass the appropriate bilingual education and/or ESL certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter , [~~that are~~] appropriate to the assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title. If a candidate has not passed the bilingual education supplemental examination, ESL supplemental examination, or the bilingual target language proficiency test prior to the beginning of an internship, an EPP may permit the internship if:

(i) the EPP has developed a plan to address any deficiencies identified through the candidate's previous attempt(s) on the examination(s); and

(ii) the EPP implements the plan during the initial internship. An EPP shall not permit an additional internship if all examination requirements are not met.

(2) Beginning September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet all testing requirements for issuance of a probationary certificate.

(A) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued a probationary certificate for an internship in a classroom teacher assignment, a candidate must pass the appropriate certification examination(s), including the appropriate pedagogy and professional responsibilities examination, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.

(B) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued a probationary certificate for an internship in a career and technical education classroom teacher assignment that is based on skill and experience, a candidate must satisfy the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title and pass the appropriate certification examination(s), including the appropriate pedagogy and professional responsibilities examination, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.

(e) Probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher. A probationary certificate may be issued for an assignment as a superintendent, principal, reading specialist, master teacher, school librarian, school counselor, and/or educational diagnostician to an individual who meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and who also meets the requirements prescribed in this subsection.

(1) An applicant for a probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher must meet all requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements for the class of certification sought and the duties to be performed by the holder of a probationary certificate in that class.

(2) The individual must have also been:

(A) accepted and enrolled to participate in a Texas EPP that has been approved to prepare candidates for the certificate sought; and

(B) assigned in the certificate area being sought in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or, pursuant to §228.35 of this title, other school approved by the TEA.

(3) Effective September 1, 2017, to meet the subject matter requirements for issuance of the probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher, the individual must pass the appropriate examination(s) for that certificate.

(4) The holder of a probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher is subject to all terms and conditions of an intern certificate prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.

[~~(d) Traditional undergraduate preparation program internship.~~]

[~~(1) A candidate who has completed a bachelor's degree in a traditional teacher certification program at an accredited institution of higher education, but who has failed to meet the testing requirements necessary for issuance of a standard certification, may serve an internship under the supervision of the traditional undergraduate certification program.~~]

[~~(2) Such a candidate may be issued a probationary certificate for a period of one year. The traditional undergraduate certification program may not recommend any extensions of this term.~~]

[~~(e) Subject matter knowledge for classroom teaching assignments.~~]

[~~(1) To obtain a probationary certificate for a classroom teaching assignment, a candidate must demonstrate knowledge of each subject area to be taught:~~]

[~~(A) at the elementary school level (Early Childhood-Grade 6), by passing an appropriate certification examination as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Assessment of Educators);~~]

[~~(B) at the middle or high school level (Grades 7-12):~~]

[~~(i) by passing an appropriate content area certification examination as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter;~~]

[~~(ii) by completing coursework that complies with the TEC, §21.050, and comprised of not fewer than 24 semester credit hours, including 12 semester credit hours of upper division coursework in the subject area taught; or~~]

[~~(iii) in the case of career and technical education assignments based on skill and experience, by satisfying the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)); or~~]

[~~(C) for professional class probationary certificates, by meeting requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements relating to the class of certification sought and on the duties performed by the holder of a probationary certificate in that class.~~]

[~~(2) The individual in a special education classroom teaching assignment must demonstrate both knowledge of special education and knowledge of each subject to be taught, as follows:~~]

[~~(A) at the elementary school level (Early Childhood-Grade 6):~~]

[~~(i) by passing a certification examination appropriate to the individual's grade level or subject matter assignment, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter; and~~]

[~~(ii) by passing a special education examination; or~~]

[~~(B) at the middle or high school level (Grades 7-12):~~]

[~~(i) by either:~~]

[~~(I) passing a certification examination appropriate to the individual's subject matter assignment, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter; or~~]

[~~(II) completing coursework comprised of not fewer than 24 semester hours, including 12 semester hours of upper division coursework in the subject area taught; and~~]

[~~(ii) by passing a special education examination.~~]

[~~(f) Probationary certificate for professional class certificates. A probationary certificate may be issued for a professional class assignment to an individual who meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and who also meets the requirements prescribed in this subsection.~~]

[~~(1) An applicant for a professional class probationary certificate must meet all requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements for the class of certification sought and the duties to be performed by the holder of a probationary certificate in that class.~~]

[~~(2) The individual must have been:~~]

[~~(A) accepted and enrolled to participate in a Texas EPP that has been approved to prepare candidates for the certificate sought; and~~]

[~~(B) assigned in the professional class certification area being sought in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or, pursuant to §228.35 of this title, other school approved by TEA.~~]

[~~(3) The holder of a professional class probationary certificate is subject to all the terms and conditions of a probationary certificate prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.~~]

[~~§230.39. Temporary Teacher Certificates.~~]

[~~(a) A person may be temporarily certified to teach only in Grades 8-12 if the person:~~]

[~~(1) holds a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education received with an academic major or interdisciplinary academic major, including reading, other than education, that is related to at least one area of the curriculum as prescribed under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 28, Subchapter A;~~]

[~~(2) performs satisfactorily on the appropriate examinations prescribed under the TEC, §21.048;~~]

[~~(3) passes a criminal history background check by submitted fingerprints for review; and~~]

[~~(4) submits fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the TEC, §22.0831.~~]

[~~(b) A certificate issued under this section is valid for a term not to exceed two academic years.~~]

[~~(c) A person may receive a certificate to teach only in a subject area of the curriculum prescribed under the TEC, Chapter 28, Subchapter A, in which the person holds a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education with an academic major related to that area of the curriculum. Guidelines for determining the academic major related to the current Grades 8-12 certificate structure will be developed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff.~~]

[~~(d) A person who applies for a temporary teaching certificate under this section shall pay a fee equal to that required of applicants for a probationary certificate under §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).~~]

[~~(e) A person who holds a certificate under this section may be employed by a school district only if the person and the school district agree that the person will be employed under a probationary contract for each year of the person's employment with the district.~~]

[~~(f) A school district employing a person who holds a certificate issued under this section must provide the same coursework, mentoring, and training that is required by Chapter 228 of this title (relating to Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs), except that a certificate issued under this section shall require 380 total clock-hours of training.~~]

[~~(g) A school district delivering the required intensive support for an educator holding the temporary teacher certificate must follow guidelines established by the TEA staff with evidence indicating the ability to comply with the provisions of this chapter.~~]

[~~(h) A school district may require that a person who will be employed by the district and who holds a temporary teacher certificate issued under this section complete a teacher training program.~~]

[~~(i) At the end of the two years of employment, the person must apply to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for a standard certificate. The person must also be recommended by the current employing school district for certification. All employing school districts must provide evidence to the SBEC that each district complied with the requirements of subsection (f) of this section.~~]

[~~(j) A standard teaching certificate may be issued to a person under this section if:~~]

[~~(1) the person held a temporary teacher certificate issued under this section;~~]

[~~(2) the person has been continuously employed as a teacher of record in a school district for two academic years; and~~]

[~~(3) the employing district(s) has (have) favorably reviewed the person's performance, including classroom performance and performance in any teacher training program(s). Each school district must predominately base the review of a person's performance on the increase in achievement of his or her students.~~]

[~~(k) At the end of the two years of employment, if a person is granted a standard certificate, the person may not apply for or receive another temporary certificate under this section.~~]

§230.41. Visiting International Teacher Certificates.

(a) A teacher may be issued a visiting international teacher certificate valid for no more than three school years upon recommendation by a school district participating in an officially recognized foreign teacher exchange program. [~~The program shall be based upon an agreement made between the State Board for Educator Certification and/or the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and a ministry of education in a foreign country.~~]

(b) The visiting international teacher certificate will be issued to an individual who meets conditions and requirements presented in this subsection. The individual must:

(1) meet appropriate requirements prescribed in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements);

(2) hold valid teaching credentials from the country of origin based, at a minimum, on the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an institution of higher education in the United States accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

(3) demonstrate English language proficiency;

(4) have criminal activity clearance from country of origin;

(5) demonstrate subject matter competence in subject area(s) taught, as defined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) [~~TEA~~] in compliance with federal requirements;

(6) pay appropriate fee prescribed by §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services); and

(7) submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code, §22.0831.

(c) Participating school districts agree to provide the visiting international teachers with intensive supervision consisting of structured guidance and regular ongoing support through a mentoring program.

(d) The TEA staff shall establish reasonable procedures to implement this section.

(e) Issuance of a visiting international teacher certificate does not prohibit issuance of a one-year certificate following a successful review of credentials, as specified in Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).