

## Item 17:

### COVER PAGE

#### Type of Agenda Rule Item:

- ✓ **Discussion Only:** TEA staff will present rule items with an update, potential future rule changes, and/or seek SBEC direction on potential rule changes. TEA staff will draft rule changes from the board's discussion on the item and start preparing rule text for proposal to the board.
- **Proposal:** First SBEC reading (vote). SBEC members will give input on proposed rule text and will approve rule changes that will go out for public comment as a proposed rule with the *Texas Register*. Important to make substantive changes now because only non-substantive changes can be made at adoption.
- **Adoption:** Second and final SBEC reading (vote). Only non-substantive changes are permissible at adoption phase. If approved will go to SBOE for review and filed as an SBEC rule with *Texas Register* if SBOE takes no action.

#### Summary:

This item is discussion of proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 245, which covers all the requirements for certification of educators from other countries. At the June 9, 2017 SBEC meeting, the Board discussed the requirements that determine which candidates certified outside the United State are required to demonstrate English language proficiency by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam and the Visiting International Teacher (VIT) program. This item will allow staff to provide further clarification of the process of certifying educators from outside the United States and to receive direction from the Board for potential rule changes.

#### Statutory Authority:

All of the relevant statutes pertaining to this chapter are listed for you on the agenda title page and the entire statutory language is on Attachment I. This is always helpful in referencing the law the TEA staff was working under when preparing this item.

#### Relevant SBEC Core Principles:

- *We believe well-prepared educators are essential.*
- *We believe high certification standards measured by rigorous and reliable assessments are essential.*
- *We believe student success is primary, and we must ensure the safety and welfare of Texas school children.*
- *We believe flexible and accessible certification programs, held to the same standards of accountability, are essential.*
- *We believe stakeholder input is essential, and we are accountable to all Texas stakeholders.*
- *We believe we must continually improve our policies and processes in response to changing needs.*

**Item 17:****Discussion of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 245, Certification of Educators from Other Countries****DISCUSSION**

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 245, Certification of Educators from Other Countries. The rules provide requirements relating to the certification of Texas educators from other countries.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority for 19 TAC Chapter 245 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.041(b)(1), (4), and (5); 21.048(a); 21.050; 21.052(a)-(e) and (g); and 22.0831(f).

TEC, §21.041(b)(1), states the SBEC must propose rules that provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, in a manner consistent with the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B.

TEC, §21.041(b)(4), states the SBEC must propose rules that specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate.

TEC, §21.041(b)(5), states the SBEC must propose rules that provide for the issuance of an educator certificate to a person who holds a similar certificate issued by another state or foreign country, subject to the TEC, §21.052.

TEC, §21.048(a), states the SBEC must propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the SBEC.

TEC, §21.050, states that a person who applies for a teaching certificate for which SBEC rules require a bachelor's degree must possess a bachelor's degree received with an academic major or interdisciplinary academic major, including reading, other than education, that is related to the curriculum as prescribed under TEC, Chapter 28, Subchapter A.

TEC, §21.052(a), states that the SBEC may issue a certificate to an educator who holds a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board or a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described by

TEC, §21.052(b), states that for purposes of §21.052(a)(2), a person is considered to hold a certificate or other credential if the credential is not valid solely because it has expired.

TEC, §21.052(c), states that the SBEC may issue a temporary certificate under this section to an educator who holds a degree required by §21.052(a)(1) and a certificate or other credential required by §21.052(a)(2) but who has not satisfied the requirements prescribed by §21.052(a)(3).

TEC, §21.052(d), states that a temporary certificate issued under §21.052(c) to an educator employed by a school district that has constructed or expanded at least one instructional facility as a result of increased student enrollment due to actions taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687) may not expire before the first anniversary of the date on which the SBEC completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under the TEC, §21.048, on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

TEC, §21.052(e), states that an educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a certificate as provided by subsection (a) must perform satisfactorily on the examination prescribed under Section 21.048 not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section 21.048 on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

TEC, §21.052(g), states the commissioner shall provide guidance to school districts that employ an educator certified as provided by subsection (a) on procedures to classify the educator as a highly qualified teacher in a manner consistent with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.).

TEC, §22.0831(f), states the SBEC is authorized to propose rules to implement the national criminal history record information review of certified educators.

**FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED:** Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff anticipates bringing this item back for proposal in October after receiving input from the Board at the August meeting and obtaining additional stakeholder feedback.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** The SBEC rules in 19 TAC Chapter 245, Certification of Educators from Other Countries, establish requirements for issuance of Texas certification to educators from other countries.

Attachment III provides an overview of the current credentials review and certification process for candidates licensed to teach in other countries.

The majority of credential reviews are completed for applicants from the following eleven countries: Mexico, Spain, Venezuela, Columbia, United Kingdom, Philippines, Canada, India, Turkey, Jamaica, and Kenya.

TEA staff utilize the following procedures to verify foreign-educated applicants graduated from institutions of higher education (IHE) where English was the primary language of instruction:

- Reviewing official university transcripts showing degree conferred and date;
- Requesting signed documentation on university letterhead confirming English is the primary language of instruction at the entire university, not just within the coursework completed for a particular area of certification; or
- Referencing an extensive in-house manual that documents the English-instructing universities that have already been verified by TEA staff.

If the information cannot be verified through one of the mechanisms referenced above, the applicant is required to take the TOEFL iBT to demonstrate English proficiency.

Attachment IV lists 38 countries with English as their official language and the language of instruction. This information was generated based on the results of various website searches, and while TEA staff does not consider this information to be the exhaustive, final list of countries, staff hopes that the information adds context to the ongoing discussion regarding English proficiency.

During the June meeting, TEA staff and the Board briefly discussed the Visiting International Teacher (VIT) certificate. Attachment V provides an overview of the VIT certificate process and includes other relevant information about participating candidates and the program.

Following is a description of the proposed amendments included in Attachment II.

#### §245.1. General Provisions

The proposed amendment to subsection (a), deletes the word “appropriate” and adds the word “acceptable” to align with wording used to describe the type of certificate that should be submitted to TEA for review of credentials issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country. This proposed wording matches that used in 19 TAC Chapter 230, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States, and staff believes that aligning the rule text provides further consistency to the credentials review process for Texas certification.

The proposed amendment to subsection (b) strikes the words “at a minimum, baccalaureate, and in the United States accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board” and adds the words “at least a bachelor’s, or higher, and accredited” to align with wording used to describe degree requirements for individuals issued certification by the authorized licensing agency in another country. This proposed wording matches that used in 19 TAC Chapter 230, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements, and staff believes that aligning the rule text provides further consistency to the credentials review process for Texas certification.

The proposed amendment to subsection (e) deletes “and certification areas, issued by, and including all certification areas” and replaces with wording that aligns with that used in 19 TAC Chapter 230, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States, as staff believes aligning the rule text provides further consistency to the credentials review process for Texas certification.

New proposed subsection (f) adds text identical to that referenced in 19 TAC Chapter 230, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States, 230.11(f), General Provisions, to align with the process in place and established deadlines for educators certified in other states that are working to meet certification requirements.

#### §245.5. Requirements for Issuance of a Texas Certificate Based on Certification from Another Country

The proposed amendment to subsection (a) replaces the incorrect reference to Chapter 232, Subchapter A with references to Chapter 230, Subchapter D, to accurately reflect the location of

the rule text relevant to the types and classes of certificates issued. TEA staff also recommends adding “an acceptable” to specify the type of certificate an applicant must hold to complete the out of country credentials review process and qualify for issuance of a Texas standard certificate.

The proposed amendment to subsection (a)(1) replaces the incorrect reference to now outdated, §230.5, with the correct reference to §230.21 as relates to required examinations for certification reflected in SBEC rule.

TEA staff proposes the same amendment to subsection (a)(2) to ensure that wording is updated to point to the correct information in SBEC rule.

Proposed new subsection (c) adds language to confirm an individual is eligible to apply for issuance of the standard certificate upon completion of all certification requirements, including examinations.

Former subsection (c) has been relettered to (d) and the incorrect reference to §232.1 has been replaced with §230 of this title (Subchapter D, relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued). The last sentence of this subsection has added the words “beyond the control of the educator” to emphasize the types of extenuating circumstances to be considered, and changed “educator” to “district” to confirm that any requests to extend the one-year certificate must be initiated by the school district, not the individual.

New proposed subsection (e) confirms an individual is only required to pass examinations for the certificate area(s) that he or she wishes to be issued a standard certificate, and clarifies that a supplemental certificate (e.g., bilingual, English as a Second Language, special education, gifted and talented, or visually impaired) cannot be issued as a standard certificate without first establishing a classroom certificate in a content area.

Former subsection (d) has been relettered to (f) and retains all original language.

#### 245.10. Application Procedures

The proposed amendment to subsection (a)(4) adds “and/or degrees” to allow completion of degrees earned in the United States to also be submitted as acceptable documentation for the out-of-country credentials review process.

The proposed amendments to subsections (a)(5), (b)(2), and (c)(2) replace the incorrect references to Subchapter N with the correct references to Subchapter G as that is the location for all information related to fees for certification services.

#### §245.15. Evaluation of College Credentials

There are no proposed changes to this section.

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 245 will result in clearly defined rules and requirements for individuals to obtain Texas certification based on already being certified to teach in other countries.

**Staff Members Responsible:** Marilyn Cook, Director  
Educator Certification and Testing

Tim Miller, Director  
Educator Preparation

Anna Amaro, Program Specialist  
Educator Certification and Testing

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Sherisse Reyes, Program Specialist  
Educator Certification and Testing

**Attachments:**

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 245, Certification of Educators from Other Countries
- III. Overview of the Out-of-Country Credentials Review and Certification Process
- IV. List of Countries with English as Official Language and Language of Instruction
- V. Overview of Visiting International Teacher Certificate Program

**ATTACHMENT I**  
**Statutory Citations**

**19 TAC Chapter 245, Certification of Educators from Other Countries**

**Texas Education Code, §21.041, Rules; Fees (excerpts):**

- (b) The board shall propose rules that:
  - (1) provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of this subchapter in a manner consistent with this subchapter;
  - (4) specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate;
  - (5) provide for the issuance of an educator certificate to a person who holds a similar certificate issued by another state or foreign country, subject to Section 21.052;

**Texas Education Code, §21.048, Certification Examinations (excerpt):**

- (a) The board shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the board. The commissioner shall determine the satisfactory level of performance required for each certification examination. For the issuance of a generalist certificate, the commissioner shall require a satisfactory level of examination performance in each core subject covered by the examination.

**Texas Education Code, §21.050, Academic Degree Required for Teaching Certificate; Internship:**

- (a) A person who applies for a teaching certificate for which board rules require a bachelor's degree must possess a bachelor's degree received with an academic major or interdisciplinary academic major, including reading, other than education, that is related to the curriculum as prescribed under Subchapter A, Chapter 28.
- (b) The board may not require more than 18 semester credit hours of education courses at the baccalaureate level for the granting of a teaching certificate. The board shall provide for a minimum number of semester credit hours of internship to be included in the hours needed for certification. The board may propose rules requiring additional credit hours for certification in bilingual education, English as a second language, early childhood education, or special education.
- (c) A person who receives a bachelor's degree required for a teaching certificate on the basis of higher education coursework completed while receiving an exemption from tuition and fees under Section 54.363 may not be required to participate in any field experience or internship consisting of student teaching to receive a teaching certificate.

**Texas Education Code, §21.052, Certification of Educators From Outside the State (excerpts):**

- (a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who applies for a certificate and:
  - (1) holds:
    - (A) a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board; or
    - (B) a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described by Paragraph (A);

- (2) holds an appropriate certificate or other credential issued by another state or country; and
- (3) performs satisfactorily on:
  - (A) the examination prescribed under Section 21.048; or
  - (B) if the educator holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state or country, an examination similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.
- (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a person is considered to hold a certificate or other credential if the credential is not valid solely because it has expired.
- (c) The board may issue a temporary certificate under this section to an educator who holds a degree required by Subsection (a)(1) and a certificate or other credential required by Subsection (a)(2) but who has not satisfied the requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(3). Subject to Subsection (d), the board may specify the term of a temporary certificate issued under this subsection.
- (d) A temporary certificate issued under Subsection (c) to an educator employed by a school district that has constructed or expanded at least one instructional facility as a result of increased student enrollment due to actions taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687) may not expire before the first anniversary of the date on which the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section 21.048 on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.
- (e) An educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a certificate as provided by Subsection (a) must perform satisfactorily on the examination prescribed under Section 21.048 not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section 21.048 on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.
- (g) The commissioner shall provide guidance to school districts that employ an educator certified as provided by Subsection (a) on procedures to classify the educator as a highly qualified teacher in a manner consistent with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.).

**Texas Education Code, §22.0831, National Criminal History Record Information Review of Certified Educators (excerpt):**

- (f) The board may propose rules to implement this section, including rules establishing:
  - (1) deadlines for a person to submit fingerprints and photographs in compliance with this section; and
  - (2) sanctions for a person's failure to comply with the requirements of this section, including suspension or revocation of a certificate or refusal to issue a certificate.

**ATTACHMENT II**  
**Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC**

**Chapter 245. Certification of Educators from Other Countries**

*Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Chapter 245 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.041(b)(1), (4), and (5); 21.048(a); 21.050; 21.052(a)-(e) and (g); and 22.0831(f).*

**§245.1. General Provisions.**

- (a) A Texas educator certificate may be issued to an individual who holds a college degree and an ~~[appropriate]~~ acceptable certificate or ~~[other]~~ credential issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country and who meets appropriate requirements specified in §230.~~[413]~~ 11 of this title (relating to General Requirements) and elsewhere in this chapter.
- (b) The degree held by an applicant from another country must be, ~~[at a minimum]~~, equivalent to ~~[a]~~ at least a bachelor's ~~[baccalaureate]~~ degree or higher issued by an accredited institution of higher education ~~[in the United States accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board]~~.
- (c) The certificate(s) or other credential(s) issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country may not be a temporary permit, a credential issued by a city or school district, or a certificate for which academic or other program deficiencies are indicated. Specific examination or renewal requirements shall not be considered academic or program deficiencies.
- (d) A statement, approval letter, or certification entitlement card issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country specifying eligibility for full certification upon employment or completion of specified examination requirements shall have the same standing as a certificate.
- (e) The certificate(s) or other credential(s) and areas of certification issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country must be equivalent to a certificate or grade level ~~[and certification areas]~~ that is within the early childhood-Grade 12 level and approved by ~~[issued by]~~ the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). Based on the certificates submitted with the application for review of credentials, ~~[T]~~ the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall identify the certification areas for which the applicant qualifies in Texas. The certificate(s), ~~[including all certification areas]~~ for which the applicant qualifies ~~[s]~~ may be issued by the TEA staff under the authority of the SBEC.
- (f) If a Texas examination or certification is scheduled to be eliminated, an individual requesting certification and examination comparability must ensure that the application and all review documentation, including examination scores, are received by TEA staff 60 calendar days before the application submission deadline for the examination and/or certification sought.

**§245.5. Requirements for Issuance of a Texas Certificate Based on Certification from Another Country.**

- (a) The appropriate standard certificate issued under Chapter ~~[232]~~ 230, Subchapter ~~[A]~~ D, of this title (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued), may be issued to an applicant holding a certificate or other credential and college degree as specified in §245.1 of this title (relating to General Provisions). The applicant must:
  - (1) pass the appropriate examination(s) prescribed in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.048(a), and §230.~~[5]~~ 21 of this title (relating to Educator Assessment); or
  - (2) achieve an acceptable score on an examination(s) similar to and at least as rigorous as the requirements prescribed in the TEC, §21.048(a), and §230.~~[5]~~ 21 of this title that was administered under the authority of another country. The applicant shall verify in a manner determined by the Texas Education Agency staff the level of performance on acceptable examinations administered under the authority of another country.
- (b) If all certification requirements are met, except successful completion of the appropriate certification examination(s), the applicant may request issuance of a one-year certificate in one or more of the certification areas authorized by the certificate(s) or other credential(s) from another country. An applicant

who holds only a credential that is equivalent to a student services, principal, or superintendent certificate issued in accordance with Chapter 239 of this title (relating to Student Services Certificates), with the exception of Subchapter E (relating to Master Teacher Certificate); Chapter 241 of this title (relating to Principal Certificate); or Chapter 242 of this title (relating to Superintendent Certificate) may be issued the equivalent Texas certificate. The applicant must verify two creditable years of public or private school experience, as defined in Chapter 153, Subchapter CC, of this title (relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service) and the TEC, §5.001(2), in the specific student services or administrative area sought.

- (c) After satisfying all certification requirements, including all appropriate examination requirements, the applicant is eligible to apply for issuance of the standard certificate issued under Subchapter D of this chapter (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued).
- [(e)](d) An applicant issued a one-year certificate under §23[2-1-] 0 of this title (Subchapter D, relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued) and this chapter who does not satisfy the appropriate examination requirements to establish eligibility for a standard certificate during the validity of the one-year certificate is not eligible for any type of certificate or permit authorizing employment for the same certification level or area until he or she has satisfied the examination requirements. If, due to extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the educator, examination requirements are not met during the validity period of the one-year certificate, the [educator] district may request an extension of the one-year certificate, not to exceed one calendar year in length.
- (e) An applicant shall not be required to complete the content specialization portion of the certification examination in a certification area for which he or she does not seek standard certification unless the examination is required to establish a base classroom teaching certificate. A supplemental certificate, as described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates), may not be issued as a standard certificate unless the educator has established a classroom teaching certificate.
- [(d)](f) An applicant issued a one-year certificate under subsection (c) of this section who, during or subsequent to the validity of the one-year certificate, satisfies the appropriate examination requirements and establishes eligibility for a standard certificate may apply for:
- (1) a new one-year certificate in another certification area based on a certificate or other credential issued by a another country; or
  - (2) a second one-year certificate in an area previously authorized on a one-year certificate, provided the applicant was not assigned to the area and has not attempted the appropriate examination requirements for that area.

#### **§245.10. Application Procedures.**

- (a) An individual who has been issued an appropriate certificate or other credential by the authorized licensing agency in another country as specified in §245.1 of this title (relating to General Provisions) may apply for a review of credentials by submitting the following items to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff:
- (1) a completed application;
  - (2) the original detailed report or course-by-course evaluation for professional licensing of all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the TEA staff. The evaluation must verify that the individual:
    - (A) holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States as specified in §245.1(b) of this title, including the date that the degree was conferred; and
    - (B) has completed an educator preparation program, including a teaching practicum;
  - (3) an original written statement, provided by the authorized licensing agency in the issuing country, that the educator certificate(s) or other credential(s) specified in §245.1 of this title is currently in good standing and has not been revoked, suspended, or sanctioned for misconduct and is not pending disciplinary or adverse action. The statement must be written in the English language or

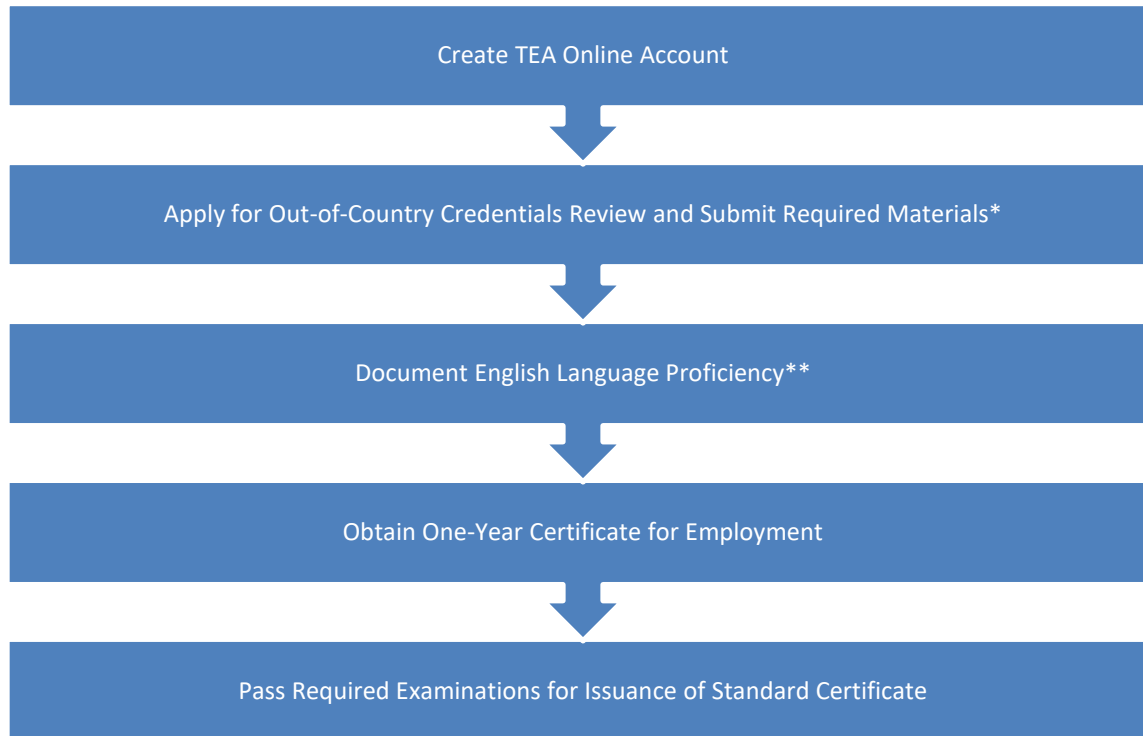
- must be accompanied by a translation in the English language from a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the TEA staff or an accredited translation service;
- (4) official transcripts of any additional college credits and/or degrees earned in the United States; and
  - (5) a nonrefundable review fee as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter [N] G, of this title (relating to Certificate Issuance Procedures).
- (b) Pursuant to §245.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements for Issuance of a Texas Certificate Based on Certification from Another Country) an applicant may apply for a one-year certificate by submitting the following items to the TEA staff:
- (1) a completed application; and
  - (2) the appropriate fee as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter [N] G, of this title.
- (c) Pursuant to §245.5(a) of the title, an applicant may apply for a standard certificate by submitting the following items to the TEA staff:
- (1) a completed application; and
  - (2) the appropriate fee as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter [N] G, of this title.

**§245.15. Evaluation of College Credentials.**

- (a) A request to evaluate an applicant's credentials for areas of certification that are not identified on the certificate(s) or other credential(s) issued in accordance with §245.1 of this title (relating to General Provisions) must be directed to a State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved educator preparation program for admission to and recommendation by the program for certification.
- (b) An individual who does not hold a certificate or other credential issued in accordance with §245.1 of this title must seek admission to an SBEC-approved educator preparation program and be recommended by the program for certification.

### ATTACHMENT III

#### Out-of Country Credentials Review and Certification Process



#### \*Required Materials for Out-of-Country Credentials Review

- An original, detailed report or course-by-course evaluation completed by a foreign evaluation service recognized by TEA that verifies the applicant:
  - holds the equivalent of a bachelor's degree granted by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States, including the month, day, and year that the degree was conferred
  - completed an educator preparation program, including a teaching practicum, and
  - holds an appropriate educator certificate or credential issued by another country, including the effective date and validity period of the certificate, certification area(s), and grade level(s).
- An original written statement from the applicant's country's licensing agency that states the credential is in good standing, and has not been revoked, suspended, or sanctioned for misconduct and is not pending disciplinary or adverse action. The statement must be in the English language or must be accompanied by a translation in English from an approved credential evaluation or accredited translation service. This written statement must be current and within the last year.

**\*\*Documentation of English Language proficiency evidenced by one of the following:**

- Completion of an undergraduate or graduate degree at an institution of higher education in the United States
- Completion of an undergraduate or graduate degree at an institution of higher education outside the United States where the primary language of instruction was English
- Verification of satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language - Internet Based Test (TOEFL-iBT). You must take all four portions (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) for your score to be calculated. Only a passing score on the Speaking portion is required at this time. The acceptable passing score on the Speaking portion is 26. To have scores submitted directly to TEA, use the agency code 8225.

**ATTACHMENT IV****List of Countries with English as Official Language and Language of Instruction\***

Anguilla	Scotland
Antigua and Barbuda	Seychelles
Australia	Singapore
Bahamas	St. Kitts and Nevis
Barbados	St. Lucia
Belize	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Bermuda	Trinidad and Tobago
British Virgin Islands	Turks and Caicos Islands
Canada (except Quebec)	Uganda
Cayman Islands	United Kingdom
Dominica	Wales
England	Zimbabwe
Ghana	
Gibraltar	
Grenada	
Guyana	
Ireland, Northern	
Ireland, Republic of	
Jamaica	
Kenya	
Lesotho	
Mauritius	
Montserrat	
Namibia	
New Zealand	
Nigeria	

\*Information obtained from website searches and should not be considered an official, exhaustive list.

**ATTACHMENT V****Overview of Visiting International Teacher Certificate Program**

The Visiting International Teacher (VIT) certificate was approved by the SBEC in 2004. Full implementation began with the 2005-2006 school year. Prior to this, the exchange teachers were issued a school district teaching permit.

A teacher may be issued a VIT certificate valid for no more than three school years upon recommendation by a school district participating in an officially recognized foreign teacher exchange program.

Every March, TEA staff meets with the participating school districts and the Region 13 staff for a status update on the prior year's VIT cohort and discusses the process for the upcoming year.

In April, school district recruiters, Region 13 staff, and the Spanish Education and Language Advisor (educational consultant) travel to Spain. The team collaborates with the Spain Ministry of Education in the selection of a number of qualified teachers from Spain who may be hired under local contract in elementary, middle, and/or secondary classrooms in school districts across the state of Texas.

VIT teachers are generally assigned to bilingual programs and to teach Spanish language and culture in schools.

To participate in the VIT program selected individuals must:

- Meet general certificate requirements outlined in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 230.11;
- Hold a valid certificate from another country; equivalent to a bachelor's degree or higher in the United States;
- Demonstrate oral English proficiency;
- Demonstrate subject matter competence in the subject area they are teaching;
- Complete a background check;
- Pay a fee for certificate issuance to issue; and
- Complete a mentoring program for VIT applicants supported by school districts and representatives from Region 13 and the Ministry of Education of Spain

The VIT applications are taken to Spain during the recruiting phase and completed by the educator upon offer of employment.

The Region 13 service center sponsors the J1-Visas with support from the Ministry of Education of Spain. TEA issues the VIT certificate and processes background checks. VIT candidates are employed by participating school districts that offer intensive supervision consisting of structured guidance and regular ongoing support through a mentoring program.

The VIT is expected to return to Spain after the three-year period. If not, they must complete the out-of-country route to certification and comply with rules in 19 TAC Chapter 245.

**VIT Certificates Issued**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Processed</b>
2014-2015	216	206
2015-2016	236	227
2016-2017	267	260