

Frequently Asked Questions About TEEAC

1. What is TEEAC?

TEEAC stands for the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee. Initially established by the 72nd Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 1340, TEEAC serves educators and informal science providers throughout the state. TEEAC continues to maintain a network of providers of environmental education professional development, including universities, local and state agencies, museums, and nature centers. These providers meet yearly with Texas Education Agency staff for cross-disciplinary professional development related to environmental education. The TEEAC Providers network helps ensure that teacher professional development is educationally sound and consistent with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

2. What are TEEAC Providers?

TEEAC Providers offer professional development to educators and/or environmental experiences to students that incorporate the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These providers of environmental education and professional development include universities, state agencies, museums, non-profits, and nature centers. Providers help ensure that teacher professional development is educationally rigorous and consistent with the TEKS.

- Benefits:
 - Receive annual updates from TEA staff
 - Help schools and teachers meet state standards
 - Earn a certificate of attendance from the annual meeting
 - Are listed on the TEA website
- Obligations:
 - Attend the annual meeting in-person or virtually, held on the first Friday after January 1st
 - Offer professional development to educators and/or provide educational opportunities for Texas students based on the TEKS
 - Respond to the annual request for updates to the Providers List

Difference between being a TEEAC Provider and a CPE Provider:

- TEEAC Providers may offer TEEAC hours for approved workshops. Teachers who complete 45 hours receive a TEEAC certificate of recognition.
- CPE Providers offer continuing professional education (CPE) hours for professional development. CPE hours are required to renew a standard Texas teaching certificate. Additional information is available at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Certification/Certification_Renewals/

3. Do I have to attend the providers meeting to remain or become a TEEAC Provider?

No, Providers will not be dropped from the Providers List for failing to attend the annual meeting. However, participation in-person, virtually, or asynchronously is highly encouraged to maintain consistency and alignment with the current TEKS and state-wide programs and initiatives.

4. How do I become a TEEAC Provider?

To become a TEEAC Provider, complete a [Program Description Form](#) for each workshop or other program offered to educators. Send the completed form to Liz.Baker@tea.texas.gov for approval. Participants will earn hours of TEEAC credit for each hour engaged in the program.

TEEAC Providers are listed on the TEA website. To include your program, send your institution's description and contact information with your completed Program Description Form.

Questions regarding [Continuing Professional Education \(CPE\)](#) activities should be directed to the [CPE Help Desk](#), cpe@tea.texas.gov, or (512) 463-5280.

5. What is the TEEAC Certificate of Recognition?

After teachers have completed 45 hours of professional development from approved workshops, courses, or seminars at a TEEAC-endorsed site or program, they may apply for an environmental education Certificate of Recognition. Teachers should send the [Coursework Verification Form](#) and the certificates verifying their hours to [Liz Baker](#), Science Specialist at the Texas Education Agency (TEA), to receive the Certificate of Recognition.

6. Is this a teaching endorsement?

No, Texas does not have a teaching endorsement in environmental education.

7. Do programs completed in other states count towards the certificate?

No, programs must be completed through a TEEAC-endorsed institution.

8. May I receive credit for the same program more than once?

No, the purpose of issuing the Certificate of Recognition is to encourage a broad awareness of various environmental issues. Teachers are encouraged to take courses from as many of the 10 core themes in environmental education as possible. The 10 core themes of environmental education designated by TEEAC are:

- Soil & Land Use
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Communities & Ecosystems, including Human Population
- Wildlife & Domestic Animals
- Plants, Food, & Fiber
- Aesthetics & the Built Environment
- Minerals, Energy, & Resource Recovery
- Hazards
- Society, Economics, Politics & Culture

9. I've attended excellent workshops at places not affiliated with TEEAC. Can I get credit for those workshops?

No, you may not unless the provider chooses to affiliate with TEEAC. Only TEEAC-endorsed programs provide credit toward the certificate. You can mention the TEEAC program to your workshop provider. If they affiliate with TEEAC, they may offer retroactive credit for workshops.

10. There are no TEEAC-endorsed programs near my town. How can I work toward a certificate?

If no TEEAC-endorsed programs are held near you can:

- Check with local nature centers, colleges, museums, and other workshop providers to see if they want to become a TEEAC-endorsed program,
- Travel to environmental education workshops, or
- Become a provider – your school district or organization could offer TEEAC-approved workshops.

11. Can I get TEEAC credit for the workshops I teach?

Yes, you may receive credit one time for each workshop presented. The developer or presenter receives the same hours of credit as a participant in the workshop.

12. If I still have questions, who should I contact?

Email Liz Baker, Secondary Science Specialist, at Liz.Baker@tea.texas.gov or call (512) 463-9581.