The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) proposes amendments to §§230.1, 230.21, 230.36, 230.37, and 230.101, concerning professional educator preparation and certification. The proposed amendments would update the figure specifying required tests for issuance of the standard certificate; would create new requirements for issuance of intern and probationary certificates for the proposed new intensive pre-service option, as concurrently proposed in Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs; and would update the list of certification testing fees to include the performance-based assessment, edTPA, and content certification (subject-matter only) examinations.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** The SBEC rules in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 230 specify the requirements for issuance of educator certificates and permits, the testing requirements and associated fees, and the types and classes of certificates issued. These requirements ensure that educators are qualified and professionally prepared to instruct the schoolchildren of Texas.

Some of the changes correspond to revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, which are published in the Proposed Rules section of this issue, and to amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Programs, that were presented for discussion in a separate item in the April 2019 agenda.

§230.1. Definitions.

The proposed amendment to §230.1 would align the test descriptions in Chapter 230 with the changes to pre-admission content testing (PACT) examinations proposed in 19 TAC Chapter 228 and discussed in Chapter 227 at the April 2019 SBEC meeting.

Proposed new §230.1(8) would define the term content certification examination and proposed new §230.1(9) would define the term content pedagogy examinations. This amendment would ensure alignment and clarity across chapters regarding the content of certification examinations. Conforming technical edits would also be made.


The proposed amendment to §230.21(a)(1)(D) would confirm that a candidate who has not passed a computer- or paper-based certification examination is required to wait 45 days before attempting the examination again. This 45-day wait period would support the reliability and validity of examination results for computer- and paper-based examinations because a candidate could potentially memorize the material and examination questions if he/she were allowed to retake the examination more frequently. The proposed amendment would align with TEC, §21.048(a)(1), that states that the SBEC may not require that more than 45 days elapse before a person may retake an examination.

The SBEC proposes several revisions to the figure in §230.21(e). Based on feedback from the October and December 2018 and February 2019 SBEC meetings, TEA staff will be conducting a robust pilot of edTPA, a performance-based assessment for teachers prior to full implementation. A sample of the secondary mathematics edTPA tasks and rubrics can be found in Attachment X of the April 2019 agenda item.

At the February 2019 SBEC meeting, the SBEC asked about the level of interest from programs participating in the edTPA pilot. Staff sent out a pilot summary document which can be found as an attachment to the April 2019 agenda item and pilot application to collect data to answer this question and allow the agency to proceed with a formal pilot. A subsequent edTPA pilot FAQ was released and can be found as an attachment to the April 26 agenda item.

The proposed amendment to Figure §230.21(e) would add edTPA as an optional assessment in addition to the current Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR EC-12) exam for the demonstration of pedagogical knowledge and skills for the majority of initial educator certification categories. This change is necessary to enable a candidate taking part in the edTPA pilot to receive certification on the basis of edTPA and to prevent a pilot candidate from having to take an additional test, thus removing a potential disincentive from participating in the pilot and helping to ensure a more representative pilot sample.
The proposed amendment would align Figure §230.21(e) to the current list of active certifications by removing §233.10, Dance: Grades 8-12, and §233.5, Technology Applications: Grades 8-12, which are no longer offered. The proposed amendment would replace two TEES assessments: 141 Computer Science, 8-12 and 142 Technology Applications, EC-12, with the following updated TEES content assessments for those certificates: 241 Computer Science, 8-12 and 242 Technology Application, EC-12, respectively. These proposed changes are necessary to remove outdated provisions and provide clarity to candidates and preparation programs.

The proposed change to the column titles in Figure §230.21(e) would align the test descriptions in this chapter with the changes to PACT examinations, concurrently proposed in 19 TAC Chapter 228 and for discussion in Chapter 227 at the April 26 2019 meeting, and would align with the new definitions proposed in §230.1(8) and §230.1(9). The proposed amendment would adjust the "Required Content Test(s)" column name to "Required Content Pedagogy Test(s)" to reflect the distinction between examinations that test only pedagogy and those that test content in alignment with the new PACT examinations. The proposed amendment would adjust the "Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Requirements" column name to "Pedagogical Requirement(s)" as it is intended to encompass all pedagogical assessments for all classes of certification.

In addition, the proposed amendment to Figure §230.21(e) would move the Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL), the content test for the Principal as Instructional Leader certification and endorsement, from the proposed new "Required Content Pedagogy Test" column to the proposed new "Pedagogical Requirement" column. This amendment would align with the certificate issuance procedures found in §§230.36, 241.20, and 241.35 because the PASL is a performance-based pedagogical certification exam that will require additional time for candidates to complete during their intern year.

§230.36. Intern Certificates and §230.37. Probationary Certificates.

The SBEC is statutorily authorized to ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse population of this state. The SBEC rules in 19 TAC §230.36 and §230.37 specify the types and classes of certificates issued. These rules help ensure that applicants for certification and candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs (EPPs) are qualified and professionally prepared to instruct the schoolchildren of Texas.

Research has shown that teachers who engage in hands-on practice as educators prior to entering the classroom as teachers of record are better prepared for their first teaching assignments, leading to better student outcomes. The proposed amendments to §230.36 and §230.37, along with concurrently proposed amendments to Chapter 228, would add an optional new route toward certification for candidates called intensive pre-service. The programmatic requirements of this route are stated in proposed new §228.33. Candidates using the proposed new intensive pre-service would demonstrate their proficiency and readiness to enter a classroom through pre-service practice instead of a standardized assessment. This would allow candidates to focus on their pre-service practice prior to entering the classroom as a teacher of record. Candidates would then be held accountable to the same required certification assessments as other educator candidates before they could become teacher of record. The proposed amendments to §230.36 and §230.37 would set out the requirements for certificate issuance of candidates participating in this proposed new optional intensive pre-service route.

The proposed amendments also include minor technical edits.

§230.36. Intern Certificates.

The proposed amendment to §230.36(d)(1) and (2) would align the test descriptions in Chapter 230 with the forthcoming changes to PACT examinations as outlined in the Chapter 227 April 2019 SBEC discussion item and would align with the definition changes in §230.1(8) and §230.1(9). This change is necessary to ensure alignment across the chapters and to provide clarity and consistency for candidates and EPPs.
Proposed new §230.36(f) would align with proposed new 19 TAC §228.33, Intensive Pre-Service, which would allow certification candidates to be supported by their EPP as they complete the programmatic requirements of intensive pre-service.

Proposed new subsection (f) would clarify that the proposed new intensive pre-service option would apply to applicants for certification admitted into an EPP on or after January 1, 2020, and would clarify that these applicants must meet the requirements specified in rule. This amendment would align with the implementation date listed in proposed new §228.33, Intensive Pre-Service, and would ensure programs are not allowed to issue certifications under this route until the stated implementation date.

Proposed new §230.36(f)(1) would clarify that a passing score on the aligned pedagogical rubric specified in proposed new §228.33, Intensive Pre-Service, would be a requirement for issuance of an intern certificate for the intensive pre-service option. This amendment would define the proficiency level required for candidates to be issued an intern certification through intensive pre-service. This would ensure that the proficiency level is comparable to the proficiency required by the standardized assessment.

Proposed new §230.36(f)(2) would confirm successful completion of the required content certification (subject-matter only) examination and would be required for issuance of an intern certificate for the intensive pre-service option. This amendment would ensure that candidates issued an intern certificate through intensive pre-service have demonstrated a minimum amount of content knowledge needed to teach their specific certification category.

Proposed new §230.36(f)(3) would ensure that applicants meet all issuance requirements for the intern certificate.

Proposed new §230.36(f)(1) and (2) would apply to all certification categories except Special Education EC-12 and Bilingual Education, acknowledging that candidates teaching in special education and bilingual categories need special critical proficiencies to serve in these specialized areas. Section 230.36(f)(2)(A) and (B) would specify that Special Education EC-12 certification candidates must also pass the TExES Special Education Supplemental and that candidates for bilingual certificates would be required to pass the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) or related language proficiency exam. This amendment would ensure that candidates teaching in Special Education and bilingual categories demonstrate the required critical proficiencies to serve in these specialized areas.

§230.37. Probationary Certificates.

The proposed amendment to §230.37(e)(3) would clarify that the needed assessments for issuance of probationary certificates for certificate categories other than classroom teacher would be those listed in the content pedagogy column of Figure §230.21(e). The pedagogical assessments for certifications other than classroom teacher require extensive preparation and demonstration that would be unreasonable to complete before a candidate seeks a standard certificate. The proposed amendment would ensure that a candidate has the appropriate amount of time to complete the pedagogical assessment. Currently, this only applies to the Principal as Instructional Leader certification.

Proposed new §230.37(f) would allow candidates undertaking intensive pre-service to receive a probationary certificate without having to pass the PPR EC-12 examination. The proposed amendment would also clarify that an applicant must meet the requirements for the intern certificate options specified in §230.36(f) and successfully complete the required content pedagogy tests prescribed in Figure §230.21(e) by the end of the first school year. The proposed amendment would ensure that candidates participating in this optional route are held to the same certification requirements as other candidates and would allow candidates the time needed to complete the required assessments. Proposed new §230.37(f)(3) would ensure that candidates meet all issuance requirements for the probationary certificate.

The proposed amendment to §230.101(c)(6) would specify the required fee for edTPA. This would establish the fee for edTPA in rule and would allow for the pilot of edTPA. During the pilot period, candidates would have the option to take the edTPA or the current PPR EC-12 assessment. The proposed amendment to §230.101(c)(7) would add the fee for retaking the Performance-Based Assessments to the list of certification tests and applicable fees.

Proposed new §230.101(d) would differentiate between the examinations used for admission purposes and the examinations used for certification purposes.

FISCAL NOTE. Ryan Franklin, associate commissioner for educator leadership and quality, has determined that there is additional fiscal impact on state government required to comply with the proposal. The TEA estimates a cost of $128,909 for each of the next five fiscal years (FYs) from FYs 2020-2024 for the development and ongoing administrative costs needed to maintain assessments. However, the TEA will receive an $11 remittance for each Pre-Admission Content Test taken for an estimated total of $128,909 for FYs 2020-2024 to offset the costs. Based on the 2017-2018 testing data, the TEA estimated 11,719 test attempts under the Pre-Admission Content Test route. In most cases, because an EPP has a choice in their admission requirements, estimated costs to state government in this analysis do not include EPPs.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT: The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code (TGC), §2001.002.

SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT: The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis, specified in TGC, §2006.002, is required. The SBEC does not anticipate an adverse effect for EPPs as a result of this proposal, including EPPs that qualify as small businesses or microbusinesses. The SBEC expects that these proposed rule changes may allow more candidates to qualify for admission into EPPs as a result of the admittance test now only requiring subject-matter knowledge. If EPPs have been relying on the PACT test to screen out candidates who did not already understand pedagogy, rather than teaching pedagogy to the level required by the educator standards, the increased revenue brought by more candidates may be offset to some extent by increased instruction costs. Even for these EPPs, the increase in instructional costs is not expected to be so significant as to overcome the increase in revenue from the additional qualified candidates. The educator standards on which the EPPs' curriculum is based have not changed with these proposed amendments. Moreover, EPPs can avoid any economic impact from the new assessment by implementing an additional pre-admission pedagogy examination of their own as an additional admission requirement. SBEC also does not anticipate an adverse effect for educator preparation programs that choose to participate in the edTPA pilot, as the standards on which the EPPs’ curriculum is based have not changed.

COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS: The proposal does impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government, and, therefore, is subject to TGC, §2001.0045. However, the proposal is exempt from TGC, §2001.0045, as provided under that statute, because the proposal is necessary to reduce the burden or responsibilities imposed on regulated persons. In addition, the proposal is necessary to ensure that certified Texas educators are competent to educate Texas students and, therefore, necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the residents of this state.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under TGC, §2007.043.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT: The TEA staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would require an increase in fees paid to the agency, but those fees will only cover the increased costs of administering the new PACT examination and the edTPA performance assessment for those who choose to participate in the pilot. The proposed rulemaking would create new regulations. A new regulation in proposed §230.21(a)(1)(D) would require a candidate who has not passed a computer- or paper-based certification examination to wait 45 days before attempting the examination again in order to prevent the candidate from memorizing the material and examination questions. A new regulation in proposed new §230.37(f) would allow candidates undertaking intensive pre-service to receive a probationary certificate
without having to pass the PPR EC-12 examination and ensure that candidates participating in this optional route are held to the same certification requirements as other candidates. In addition, the new regulation would allow candidates the time needed to complete the required assessments.

The proposed rulemaking would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS: The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the proposed amendments would broaden the pool of potential educators in Texas by allowing EPPs to admit educator candidates who are competent in the subject they wish to teach but are not already well-versed in pedagogy. It would also offer continued and clear guidance on processes and procedures for testing and certificate issuance.

The TEA staff has determined that there is a cost to individuals required to comply with the proposal. Certain candidates for admission to an EPP--candidates who have neither a 2.5 undergraduate grade point average nor the required number of hours of college course work in the specific content area in which the candidate is seeking certification--would have to take a new, additional content certification examination prior to admission. Previously, these candidates could simply take the examination required for final certification as an educator prior to admission. Under the proposed rules, these candidates take three examinations in the course of the educator preparation process: (1) a content certification examination before admission to an EPP, and after completion of the EPP for certification as an educator, (2) the content pedagogy examination, and (3) the PPR EC-12 examination. The total estimated cost to persons will be $1,242,214 for each of the next five FYs from FY 2020-2024. The cost is based on 11,719 possible examinees estimated to take the tests (using 2017-2018 data) at the price of $106 per test. The $106 total testing fee will be required from each candidate applying to take the content certification examination. The remainder of the fee for the content certification examination will go to the testing vendor, NCS Pearson.

Since the edTPA pilot examination is optional, compliance with the proposal does not result in additional costs to regulated persons.

DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT: The proposal would have no data and reporting impact.

PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: The TEA staff has determined that the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public comment period on the proposal begins May 31, 2019 and ends July 1, 2019. A form for submitting public comments is available on the TEA website at https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/SBEC_Rules_(TAC)/Proposed_State_Board_for_Educator_Certification_Rules/. The SBEC will take registered oral and written comments on the proposal at the July 26, 2019 meeting in accordance with the SBEC board operating policies and procedures. All requests for a public hearing on the proposal submitted under the Administrative Procedure Act must be received by the Department of Educator Leadership and Quality, Texas Education Agency, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701, Attention: Mr. Ryan Franklin, associate commissioner for educator leadership and quality, not more than 14 calendar days after notice of the proposal has been published in the Texas Register on May 31, 2019.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The amendment is proposed under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.041(b)(1), (2) and (4), which require the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to 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; which require the SBEC to propose rules that specify the classes of educator certificates to be issued, including emergency certificates; and which specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate; TEC, §21.041(c), which states that the SBEC may adopt fees for the issuance and maintenance of an educator certificate; and TEC, §21.041(b)(4), which states that the SBEC may adopt rules that provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of the TEC.
certification to adequately cover the cost of the administration; TEC, §21.044(a), as amended by Senate Bills 7, 1839, and 1963, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, which requires the SBEC to propose rules establishing training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program; TEC, §21.048, which states that the SBEC shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the board that includes not requiring more than 45 days elapsing between examination retakes; TEC, §21.050(a), which states that a person who applies for a teaching certificate must possess a bachelor's degree; TEC, §21.050(b), which states that the SBEC may not require more than 18 semester credit hours of education courses at the baccalaureate level for the granting of a teaching certificate; TEC, §21.050(c), which states that 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 the TEC, §54.363, may not be required to participate in any field experience or internship consisting of student teaching to receive a teaching certificate; and TEC, §22.082, which requires SBEC to subscribe to the criminal history clearinghouse as provided by Texas Government Code, §411.0845, and may obtain any law enforcement or criminal history records that relate to a specific applicant for or holder of a certificate issued under Chapter 21, Subchapter B.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The proposed amendment implements the Texas Education Code, §§21.041(b)(1), (2), and (4) and (c), 21.044(a), as amended by Senate Bills 7, 1839, and 1963, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2017; 21.048, 21.050, and 22.082.

§230.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, Chapter 232 of this title (relating to General Certification Provisions), and Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates), shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

1. Accredited institution of higher education--An institution of higher education that, at the time it conferred the degree, was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

2. Appropriate--Suitable for a particular purpose. The term denotes compliance with State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) rules and with SBEC procedures and policies posted on the Texas Education Agency website that are related to the stated particular purpose.

3. Candidate--An individual who has been formally or contingently admitted into an educator preparation program; also referred to as an enrollee or participant.

4. Certificate--Any educator credential issued by the State Board for Educator Certification under the authority of the Texas Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter B.

5. Certification class--A certificate, as described in §230.33 of this title (relating to Classes of Certificates), that has defined characteristics and includes the following: superintendent, principal, classroom teacher, school counselor, school librarian, educational diagnostician, reading specialist, and master teacher.

6. Charter school--A Texas public school operated by a charter holder under an open-enrollment charter school granted either by the State Board of Education (SBOE) or commissioner of education, whichever is applicable, pursuant to Texas Education Code, §12.101, identified with its own county district number.

7. Classroom teacher--An educator who is employed by a school or district and who, not less than an average of four hours each day, teaches in an academic instructional setting or a career and technical education instructional setting. This term does not include an educational aide or a full-time administrator.
(8) Content certification examination--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or State Board for Educator Certification rule that governs an individual's admission to an educator preparation program.

(9) Content pedagogy examinations--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or State Board for Educator Certification rule that governs an individual's certification as an educator.

(10) Continuing professional education--Professional development required for the renewal of standard and/or lifetime certificates that is designed to ensure improvement in both the performance of the educator and achievement of his or her students.

(11) Educator--An individual who is required to hold a certificate issued under the Texas Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, also referred to as teacher.

(12) Educator preparation program--An entity approved by the State Board for Educator Certification to offer training and coursework that must adequately prepare candidates for educator certification and meet the standards and requirements of the board.

(13) Examination--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or State Board for Educator Certification rule that governs an individual's admission to an educator preparation program, certification as an educator, continuation as an educator, or advancement as an educator.

(14) Hearing impairment--As defined in the Texas Education Code, §21.048(d)(1), a hearing impairment so severe that the person cannot process linguistic information with or without amplification.

(15) Initial certification--The first Texas educator certificate for a particular class issued to an individual as specified in §230.33 of this title (relating to Classes of Certificates).

(16) Intern certificate--A type of certificate issued to a candidate who has passed all required content examinations and is completing requirements for certification through an approved educator preparation program.

(17) Private school--A non-public school whose educational program has been evaluated by a regional accrediting agency and whose program has met and is maintaining certain educational standards.

(18) Probationary certificate--A type of certificate issued to a candidate who has passed all required examinations and is completing requirements for certification through an approved educator preparation program.

(19) Professional class--A term that refers to certificates for duties other than classroom teacher (e.g., superintendent, principal, school counselor, school librarian, educational diagnostician, reading specialist, and master teachers).

(20) Standard certificate--A type of certificate issued to an individual who has met all requirements for a given class of certification, as specified in §230.33 of this title (relating to Classes of Certificates).

(21) Teacher--An individual who is required to hold a certificate issued under the Texas Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, also referred to as educator.

(22) Teacher of record--An educator who is employed by a school or district and who teaches in an academic instructional setting or a career and technical instructional setting not less than an average of four hours each day and is responsible for evaluating student achievement and assigning grades.

(23) Teacher service record--The official document used to record years of service and days used and accumulated under the state's former minimum sick leave program or the state's current personal leave program.
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)--The kindergarten-Grade 12 state curriculum in Texas adopted by the State Board of Education and used as the foundation of all state certification examinations.

Texas school district--A school district accredited and approved by the Texas Education Agency under the Texas Education Code, Chapter 11.

Subchapter C. Assessment of Educators


(a) A candidate seeking certification as an educator must pass the examination(s) required by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.048, and the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) in §233.1(e) of this title (relating to General Authority) and shall not retake an examination more than four times, unless the limitation is waived for good cause. The burden of proof shall be upon the candidate to demonstrate good cause.

(1) For the purposes of the retake limitation described by the TEC, §21.048, an examination retake is defined as a second or subsequent attempt to pass any examination required for the issuance of a certificate, including an individual core subject examination that is part of the overall examination required for the issuance of a Core Subjects certificate as described in §233.2 of this title (relating to Early Childhood; Core Subjects).

(A) A canceled examination score is not considered an examination retake.

(B) An examination taken by an educator during a pilot period is not considered part of an educator's five-time test attempt limit.

(C) Pursuant to TEC, §21.0491(d), the limit on number of test attempts does not apply to the trade and industrial workforce training certificate examination prescribed by the SBEC.

(D) A candidate who fails a computer- or paper-based examination cannot retake the examination before 45 days have elapsed following the candidate's last attempt to pass the examination.

(2) Good cause is:

(A) the candidate's highest score on an examination is within one conditional standard error of measurement (CSEM) of passing, and the candidate has completed 50 clock-hours of educational activities. CSEMs will be published annually on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website;

(B) the candidate's highest score on an examination is within two CSEMs of passing, and the candidate has completed 100 clock-hours of educational activities;

(C) the candidate's highest score on an examination is within three CSEMs of passing, and the candidate has completed 150 clock-hours of educational activities;

(D) the candidate's highest score on an examination is not within three CSEMs of passing, and the candidate has completed 200 clock-hours of educational activities;

(E) if the candidate needs a waiver for more than one of the individual core subject examinations that are part of the overall examination required for the issuance of a Core Subjects certificate, the candidate has completed the number of clock-hours of educational activities required for each individual core subject examination as described in subparagraphs (A)-(D) of this paragraph up to a maximum of 300 clock-hours. The number of clock-hours for each examination may be divided equally based on the number of examinations in the waiver request, but the number of clock-hours for an examination shall not be less than 50; or
(F) if a CSEM is not appropriate for an examination, the TEA staff will identify individuals who are familiar and knowledgeable with the examination content to review the candidate's performance on the five most recent examinations, identify the deficit competency or competencies, and determine the number of clock-hours of educational activities required.

(3) Educational activities are defined as:

(A) institutes, workshops, seminars, conferences, interactive distance learning, video conferencing, online activities, undergraduate courses, graduate courses, training programs, in-service, or staff development given by an approved continuing professional education provider or sponsor, pursuant to §232.17 of this title (relating to Pre-Approved Professional Education Provider or Sponsor) and §232.19 of this title (relating to Approval of Private Companies, Private Entities, and Individuals), or an approved educator preparation program (EPP), pursuant to §228.10 of this title (relating to Approval Process); and

(B) being directly related to the knowledge and skills included in the certification examination competency or competencies in which the candidate answered less than 70 percent of competency questions correctly. The formula for identifying a deficit competency is the combined total of correct answers for each competency on the five most recent examinations divided by the combined total of questions for each competency on the five most recent examinations.

(4) Documentation of educational activities that a candidate must submit includes:

(A) the provider, sponsor, or program's name, address, telephone number, and email address. The TEA staff may contact the provider, sponsor, or program to verify an educational activity;

(B) the name of the educational activity (e.g., course title, course number);

(C) the competency or competencies addressed by the educational activity as determined by the formula described in paragraph (3)(B) of this subsection;

(D) the provider, sponsor, or program's description of the educational activity (e.g., syllabus, course outline, program of study); and

(E) the provider, sponsor, or program's written verification of the candidate's completion of the educational activity (e.g., transcript, certificate of completion). The written verification must include:

(i) the provider, sponsor, or program's name;

(ii) the candidate's name;

(iii) the name of the educational activity;

(iv) the date(s) of the educational activity; and

(v) the number of clock-hours completed for the educational activity. Clock-hours completed before the most recent examination attempt or after a request for a waiver is submitted shall not be included. One semester credit hour earned at an accredited institution of higher education is equivalent to 15 clock-hours.

(5) To request a waiver of the limitation, a candidate must meet the following conditions:

(A) the candidate is otherwise eligible to take an examination. A candidate seeking a certificate based on completion of an EPP must have the approval of an EPP to request a waiver;

(B) beginning September 1, 2016, the candidate pays the non-refundable waiver request fee of $160;
the candidate requests the waiver of the limitation in writing on forms developed by the TEA staff; and

the request for the waiver is postmarked not earlier than:

(i) 45 calendar days after an unsuccessful attempt at the fourth retake of an examination as defined in the TEC, §21.048; or

(ii) 90 calendar days after the date of the most recent denied waiver of the limitation request; or

(iii) 180 calendar days after the date of the most recent unsuccessful examination attempt that was the result of the most recently approved request for waiver of the limitation.

(6) The TEA staff shall administratively approve each application that meets the criteria specified in paragraphs (2)-(5) of this subsection.

(7) An applicant who does not meet the criteria in paragraphs (2)-(5) of this subsection may appeal to the SBEC for a final determination of good cause. A determination by the SBEC is final and may not be appealed.

(b) A candidate seeking a standard certificate as an educator based on completion of an approved EPP may take the appropriate certification examination(s) required by subsection (a) of this section only at such time as the EPP determines the candidate's readiness to take the examinations, or upon successful completion of the EPP, whichever comes first.

(c) The holder of a lifetime Texas certificate effective before February 1, 1986, must pass examinations prescribed by the SBEC to be eligible for continued certification, unless the individual has passed the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers (TECAT).

(d) The commissioner of education approves the satisfactory level of performance required for certification examinations, and the SBEC approves a schedule of examination fees and a plan for administering the examinations.

(e) The appropriate examination(s) required for certification are specified in the figure provided in this subsection.

Figure: 19 TAC §230.21(e) [Figure: 19 TAC §230.21(e)]

(f) Scores from examinations required under this title must be made available to the examinee, the TEA staff, and, if appropriate, the EPP from which the examinee will seek a recommendation for certification.

(g) The following provisions concern ethical obligations relating to examinations.

(1) An educator or candidate who participates in the development, design, construction, review, field testing, scoring, or validation of an examination shall not reveal or cause to be revealed the contents of the examination to any other person.

(2) An educator or candidate who administers an examination shall not:

   (A) allow or cause an unauthorized person to view any part of the examination;

   (B) copy, reproduce, or cause to be copied or reproduced any part of the examination;

   (C) reveal or cause to be revealed the contents of the examination;

   (D) correct, alter, or cause to be corrected or altered any response to a test item contained in the examination;

   (E) provide assistance with any response to a test item contained in the examination or cause assistance to be provided; or

   (F) deviate from the rules governing administration of the examination.
(3) An educator or candidate who is an examinee shall not:
   (A) copy, reproduce, or cause to be copied or reproduced any test item contained in the examination;
   (B) provide assistance with any response to a test item contained in the examination, or cause assistance to be provided;
   (C) solicit or accept assistance with any response to a test item contained in the examination;
   (D) deviate from the rules governing administration of the examination; or
   (E) otherwise engage in conduct that amounts to cheating, deception, or fraud.

(4) An educator, candidate, or other test taker shall not:
   (A) solicit information about the contents of test items on an examination that the educator, candidate, or other test taker has not already taken from an individual who has had access to those items, or offer information about the contents of specific test items on an examination to individuals who have not yet taken the examination;
   (B) fail to pay all test costs and fees as required by this chapter or the testing vendor; or
   (C) otherwise engage in conduct that amounts to violations of test security or confidentiality integrity, including cheating, deception, or fraud.

(5) A person who violates this subsection is subject to:
   (A) sanction, including, but not limited to, disallowance and exclusion from future examinations either in perpetuity or for a period of time that serves the best interests of the education profession, in accordance with the provisions of the TEC, §21.041(b)(7), and Chapter 249 of this title (relating to Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases); and/or
   (B) denial of certification in accordance with the provisions of the TEC, §21.041(b)(7), and Chapter 249 of this title; and/or
   (C) voiding of a score from an examination in which a violation specified in this subsection occurred as well as a loss of a test attempt for purposes of the retake limit in subsection (a) of this section.

Subchapter D. Types and Classes of Certificates Issued

§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 pedagogy examinations, 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 pedagogy 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.

(4) The following provisions apply to the intern certificate for Principal as Instructional Leader.

(A) During the transition period of December 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019, the SBEC may issue an intern certificate to a candidate who meets the requirements specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection.

(B) Effective September 1, 2019, the SBEC may issue an intern certificate to a candidate who meets requirements specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection and has passed the Principal as Instructional Leader examination specified in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Assessment of Educators).

(f) Intern certificate for intensive pre-service. An intern certificate may be issued to an applicant who is admitted to an EPP intensive pre-service as prescribed in §228.33 of this title (relating to Intensive Pre-Service) on or after January 1, 2020, and meets the following requirements:

(1) obtained a passing score on the aligned pedagogical rubric specified in §228.33 of this title;

(2) successfully completed the required content certification (subject-matter only) examination and the following additional requirements for special education and bilingual assignments:

(A) Special education assignments also require successful completion of the TExES Special Education Supplemental examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title (relating to Educator Assessment); and

(B) Bilingual education assignments also require successful completion of the TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency examination or the related language proficiency examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title; and

(3) met the requirements as prescribed in subsections (a)-(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 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 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) 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 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 EPP.
   (2) Inactive status. A probationary certificate will become inactive 30 calendar days after the holder's separation 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).
   (3) Term of a probationary certificate. A probationary certificate shall be valid for a 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 described in this subsection;
      (C) emergency permits as specified in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Permits); or
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 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 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), 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 appropriate content area certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter, 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, 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, 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 category 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 content pedagogy 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.

(f) Probationary certificate for intensive pre-service. A probationary certificate may be issued to an applicant who is admitted to an EPP intensive pre-service as prescribed in §228.33 of this title (relating to Intensive Pre-Service) on or after January 1, 2020, who:

(1) meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section;

(2) has met requirements of §230.36(f) of this title:
(3) has met the requirements as prescribed in subsections (a)-(c) of this section; and
(4) has successfully completed the required content pedagogy tests prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title (relating to Educator Assessment).

Subchapter G. Certificate Issuance Procedures


(a) An applicant for a certificate or a school district requesting a permit shall pay the applicable fee from the following list.

(1) Educational aide certificate:
   (A) prior to September 1, 2017--$30; and
   (B) after August 31, 2017--$15.

(2) Standard certificate--$75.

(3) Probationary or intern certificate:
   (A) prior to September 1, 2017--$50; and
   (B) after August 31, 2017--$75.

(4) Addition of certification based on completion of appropriate examination--$75.

(5) Review of a credential issued by a jurisdiction other than Texas (nonrefundable):
   (A) prior to September 1, 2016--$175; and
   (B) after August 31, 2016--$160.

(6) One-year certificate based on a credential issued by a jurisdiction other than Texas--$50.

(7) Emergency permit (nonrefundable)--$55.

(8) National criminal history check (nonrefundable)--The fee, posted on the Texas Education Agency website, shall include a $10 criminal history review fee in addition to the current cost of fingerprint scanning, processing, and obtaining national criminal history record information from the Texas Department of Public Safety, its contractors, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The same fee will be paid by current certified educators who are subject to a national criminal history check pursuant to the Texas Education Code, §§22.082, 22.0831, and 22.0836.

(9) Review of the superintendent application for the substitution of managerial experience for the principal certificate requirement (nonrefundable)--$160.

(10) On-time renewal of educational aide certificate:
    (A) prior to September 1, 2017--$10; and
    (B) after August 31, 2017--no charge.

(11) Additional fee for late renewal of educational aide certificate:
    (A) prior to September 1, 2017--$5; and
    (B) after August 31, 2017--no charge.

(12) Reactivation of an inactive educational aide certificate--$15.

(13) Reinstatement following restitution of child support or student loan repayment for educational aide certificate--$20.

(14) On-time renewal of a standard certificate--$20.

(15) Additional fee for late renewal of a standard certificate--$10.
(16) Reactivation of an inactive standard certificate--$40; except for an inactivation pursuant to §232.9 of this title (relating to Inactive Status and Late Renewal).

(17) Reinstatement following restitution of child support or student loan repayment--$50.

(18) Visiting international teacher certificate--$75.

(19) Request for preliminary criminal history evaluation (nonrefundable)--$50.

(b) The fee for correcting a certificate or permit when the error is not made by the Texas Education Agency shall be equal to the fee for the original certificate or permit.

(c) An individual registering to take certification tests shall pay the applicable fee(s) from the following list of categories:

2. Single Subject Area Tests (801-809) -- $58.
6. Performance-Based Assessments for teachers--$311.
7. Performance-Based Assessments for teachers, retake per task--$111.

(d) An individual registering to take a content certification examination prior to admission to an EPP shall pay the applicable fee(s) from the following list of categories:

1. Content Certification Examinations except American Sign Language (ASL)--$106.
2. Essential Academic Skills Sub-Tests Retake (701-703)--$56.
3. Content Certification Examinations for ASL Sub-Tests (784-785)--$56.