

Item 3:

Educator Preparation Program Recognition: Texas Tech University

Board Recognition

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to recognize Texas Tech University as an outstanding educator preparation program (EPP) for aspiring Texas educators. Texas Tech University has formally partnered with 18 school districts across the state of Texas to provide effective, qualified new teachers. Tech's EPP, Tech Teach, is home to a traditional undergraduate and an accelerated 2+1 undergraduate teacher certification program. In this 2+1 program, Texas Tech has articulation agreements with 8 community colleges in the state. Candidates complete the Associate of Arts in Teaching at the community college in two years and then complete the remainder of the Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies, including clinical teaching and all certification requirements, with Texas Tech in online format in one full calendar year. Candidates complete 15-18 weeks of clinical teaching in one of 18 partner districts. These two paths, when combined, will produce over 500 teachers in the 2015-2016 reporting year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The SBEC is statutorily authorized to establish the standards for EPP approval and renewal. The Board has set minimum standards for program approval and renewal addressing the components of program governance, admission criteria, educator preparation curriculum, program coursework, delivery and ongoing support, assessment and evaluation of candidates and program, professional conduct and complaints procedures. At each SBEC meeting, the Board discusses, proposes, and adopts rules related to EPPs to improve educator quality through educator preparation.

In addition to the minimum standards for program approval and renewal, Tech Teach, at Texas Tech University, has gone above the SBEC minimum standards to provide outstanding preparation and resources for aspiring teachers. Program highlights include:

National recognition that addresses the most pressing needs in educator preparation:

- Tech Teach has been identified as a **national model by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)** and earned high marks from the innovative Teacher Preparation Analytics.
- Tech Teach is a **national leader in university-based teacher preparation reform**, supported through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support other EPPs to adopt competency-based approaches and meaningful district partnerships.

True district-program partnership that focuses on the real work of schools:

- Tech Teach has formed **meaningful partnerships with 18 Texas school districts and provides programs in 10 locations across the state** with a traditional and an innovative 2+1 training model.
- Teacher candidates **participate in a full-year of clinical teaching.**
- Enrollment in **Tech Teach programs continue to grow** even as the rest of the nation experiences a downturn in EPP enrollment.

Innovative program design ensures that new teachers are ready on Day 1:

- Tech Teach provides a rigorous course of study and preparation that **exceeds state requirements** for coursework, clinical experience, and GPA, all within the timeframe of a three or four-year degree.

SBEC Requirements	Texas Tech Requirements
12 weeks of clinical teaching	1 full year of clinical teaching
30 hours of field-based experiences	275 hours of field-based experiences
3 formal observations	4 formal observations
Admission 2.5 minimum GPA	Admission 2.75 minimum GPA

- **Candidates are held to higher standards**, including the requirement that they pass the TExES exam before advancing to the student-teaching year, which ensures candidates are knowledgeable in content before they begin working with students. Candidates conduct themselves throughout the program in a professional manner. Each semester, candidates are “exited” from the program if, after support, they are unable to meet this standard.
- Candidates are supported throughout the entire program by an experienced, full-time site coordinator (i.e., faculty member with certified expertise in clinical coaching) to **bridge the gap between theory and practice** through continuous on-site coaching and clinically-based coursework.
- Site coordinators, housed in partner districts, **meet regularly to review data with principals and mentor teachers** about candidate instructional performance and provide continuous “job-embedded” professional development aimed at supporting and improving instruction of the candidate and mentor.
- Field supervision includes **competency-based evaluation and clinical “shaping”** using multiple iterations of a formal “POP” cycle (**p**re-conference, **o**bservation, **p**ost-conference) grounded in the TAP instructional rubric. During this process, the field supervisor holds a pre-conference with the candidate prior to observation. During the observation, the candidate uses an iPad with a recording device (issued to all Tech Teach candidates) to record the lesson observed. After the observation, the field supervisor and candidate use the recorded lesson as part of the interactive, post-conference discussion.

TEA staff joins the SBEC in recognizing and thanking Texas Tech University for their outstanding efforts to prepare future Texas educators.

Staff Members Responsible: Tim Miller, Director
Educator Preparation