

## Item 3:

# Educator Preparation Program Recognition: Region 4 Education Service Center and Yes Prep Public Schools

### Board Recognition

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to recognize the educator preparation programs (EPPs) at Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC) INSPIRE TEXAS and Yes Prep Public Schools.

In April 2018, the Region 4 ESC and the Yes Prep Public Schools, Inc. were recognized by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) among the top programs nationwide for elementary and secondary grade level certification. NCTQ researches, evaluates, and provides information and guidance in the field of education, including a review of educator preparation programs. Qualifying for this distinction means that a program is evidence-based and informed by available research. NCTQ examines candidate admissions practices, content knowledge, and the quality of practice opportunities, including a focus on classroom management. They also scrutinize student assignments, lecture topics, textbooks, forms, and agreements forged with school districts.

### **ESC 4 INSPIRE TEXAS**

Region 4 ESC, an EPP initially approved in 1990, offers an SBEC-accredited alternative teacher certification program, serving numerous school districts in the Houston area and across Texas through face-to-face and online interface. The program offers certification for classroom teacher, school counselor, principal, and superintendent.

The EPP has been rated by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) in 2018 as follows:

- In the 99th percentile of all educator preparation program's nationwide (both institutions of higher education and alternative routes) for its elementary teacher development curriculum; and
- In the 99th percentile of all educator preparation program's nationwide (both institutions of higher education and alternative routes) for its secondary teacher development curriculum.

### **Yes Prep Public Schools**

Yes Prep Public Schools, Inc., an EPP initially approved in 2009, offers an SBEC-accredited alternative teacher certification program in a face-to-face format exclusively serving its partner charter school districts. The program offers certification only for classroom teachers and had 168 finishers in 2017-2018.

The EPP has been rated by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) in 2018 as follows:

- In the 99th percentile of all educator preparation program's nationwide (both institutions of higher education and alternative routes) for its elementary teacher development curriculum; and

- In the 87th percentile of all educator preparation program's nationwide (both institutions of higher education and alternative routes) for its secondary teacher development curriculum.

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

TEA staff joins the SBEC in recognizing and thanking Region 4 Education Service Center INSPIRE TEXAS and Yes Prep Public Schools for their outstanding efforts to prepare future Texas teachers.

**Staff Members Responsible:**

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