

Item 24:

Discussion of 2014-2015 Continuing Approval Reviews of Educator Preparation Programs

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to review and discuss the educator preparation program (EPP) continuing approval review process and the results of the 2014-2015 reviews.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for 19 TAC §§229.6(a), 228.10(b) and 229.9 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.045, 21.061, 21.041 and 21.0452.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 19 TAC §229.6 was last amended effective March 22, 2015. TAC §228.10 was last amended effective December 14, 2008. 19 TAC §229.9 was last amended effective April 18, 2010.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: The SBEC adopted 19 TAC §§229.6 and 229.9 to be effective April 18, 2010. The SBEC adopted TAC §228.10 to be effective July 11, 1999.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: TEC §21.045 authorizes the SBEC to adopt rules providing for EPP approval and renewal of approval. TEC §21.061 states that the SBEC is to carry out a process for reviewing and, as necessary, updating standards and requirements for EPPs. TEC 21.041 allows the board to set fees for the approval or renewal of approval of an EPP. TEC 21.0452 authorizes the board to make information available to consumers.

19 TAC Chapter 228.20(b) requires that every EPP approved by the SBEC shall be reviewed at least once every five years under procedures approved by Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff. A review may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the TEA staff. At the time of the review, the entity shall submit to a status report regarding its compliance with existing standards for EPPs and the entity's original proposal. The adoption of 19 TAC §229.9 required an EPP requesting approval and continuation of accreditation status to pay a fee of \$1,500 for a five-year continuing approval visit, monitoring visit, or technical visit.

FISCAL IMPACT: Fees are collected from an EPP to provide for the administrative cost of approving and renewing the approval of EPPs.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the discussion are the development of EPP review criteria that would ensure educators are prepared to positively influence the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS: None.

LOCALLY MAINTAINED PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ALTERNATIVES: None.

OTHER COMMENTS AND RELATED ISSUES: None.

Staff Members Responsible: Tim Miller, Director
Educator Preparation Programs

Sandra Jo Nix, Manager
Educator Preparation Programs

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations Relating to Continuing Approval Review
- II. Continuing Approval Review Process
- III. Explanation of Components Reviewed
- IV. Results of 2014-2015 Reviews to Date

ATTACHMENT I**Statutory Citations Relating to Continuing Approval Reviews****Texas Education Code, §21.041, Rules: Fees**

- (d) The board may propose a rule adopting a fee for the approval or renewal of approval of renewal of an educator preparation program, or for the addition of a certificate or field of certificate to the scope of a program's approval. A fee imposed under this sub-section may not exceed the amount necessary, as determined by the board, to provide for the administrative cost of approving, renewing the approval of, and appropriately ensuring the accountability of educator preparation programs under this subchapter.

Texas Education Code, §21.045, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs (excerpt):

- (c) The board shall propose rules establishing performance standards for the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for accrediting educator preparation programs. At a minimum, performance standards must be based on Subsection (a). The board may propose rules establishing minimum standards for approval or renewal of approval of:
- (1) educator preparation programs; or
 - (2) certification fields authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.

Texas Education Code, §21.0452, Consumer Information Regarding Educator Preparation Programs (excerpt):

- (b) The board shall make available at least the following information regarding each educator preparation program:

(4) the extent to which the program prepares teachers, including general education teachers and special education teachers, to effectively teach:

(A) student with disabilities; and

(B) students of limited English proficiency, as defined by Section 29.052;

(5) the activities offered by the program that are designed to prepare teachers to:

(A) integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction, including activities consistent with the principles of universal design for learning; and

(B) use technology effectively to collect, manage, and analyze data to improve teaching and learning for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement;

- (e) The board may develop procedures under which each educator preparation program receives a designation or ranking based on the information required to be made available under Subsection (b). If the board develops procedures under this subsection, the designation or ranking received by each program must be included in the information made available under this section.

Texas Education Code, §21.061, Review and Updating of Educator Preparation Programs:

The board shall, after consulting with appropriate higher education faculty and public school teachers and administrators and soliciting advice from other interested persons with relevant knowledge and experience, develop and carry out a process for reviewing and, as necessary, updating standards and requirements for educator preparation programs.

Texas Administrative Code §228.10 Approval Process (excerpt)

- (b) Continuing Entity Approval. An entity approved by the SBEC under this chapter shall be reviewed at least once every five years under procedures approved by the TEA staff; however, a review may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the TEA staff. At the time of the review, the entity shall submit to the SBEC a status report regarding its compliance with existing standards for EPPs and the entity's original proposal.

Texas Administrative Code §229.6 Continuing Approval

- (a) The continuing approval of an educator preparation program (EPP) to recommend candidates for educator certification, which shall be reviewed pursuant to §228.10(b) of this title (relating to Approval Process), will be based upon the EPP's accreditation status and compliance with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) rules regarding program admissions, operations, coursework, training, recommendation for certification, and the integrity of required data submissions.
- (b) After a continuing approval review pursuant to §228.10(b) of this title or a complaint investigation pursuant to §228.70 of this title (relating to Complaints and Investigations Procedures), if the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff finds that an EPP has failed to comply with SBEC rules, the TEA staff may issue a proposed recommendation for SBEC action relating to the EPP's approval to recommend candidates for educator certification. The proposed recommendation for SBEC action may include, but is not limited to, public reprimand, revocation of program approval, or the imposition of conditions upon continuing program approval.
- (c) TEA staff shall provide notice of the proposed recommendation for SBEC action relating to the EPP's continuing approval to recommend candidates for educator certification in the manner provided by §229.7 of this title (relating to Informal Review of Texas Education Agency Recommendations), and an EPP shall be entitled to an informal review of the proposed recommendation, under the conditions and procedures set out in §229.7 of this title, prior to the submission of the recommendation for action to either the SBEC or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). If the EPP fails to request an informal review in a timely manner, the proposed recommendation will become a final recommendation.
- (d) Following the informal review, a final recommendation will be issued by the TEA staff. The final recommendation may include changes or additions to the proposed recommendation and such modifications are not subject to another informal review procedure.
- (e) If the final recommendation proposes revocation of approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for educator certification, within 14 calendar days of receipt of the final recommendation, the EPP may agree in writing to accept the final revocation without further proceedings or may request that TEA staff schedule the matter for a hearing

before an administrative law judge at the SOAH, as provided by §229.8 of this title (relating to Contested Cases for Accreditation Revocation).

- (f) If the final recommendation does not propose revocation of approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for educator certification, the final recommendation will be submitted to SBEC for consideration and entry of a final order.

Texas Administrative Code §229.9 Fees for Educator Preparation Program Approval and Accountability (excerpt)

An educator preparation program requesting approval and continuation of accreditation status shall pay the applicable fee from the following list.

- (4) Five-year continuing approval visit pursuant to §228.10(c) of this title (relating to Approval Process)--\$1,500.
- (5) Monitoring or technical assistance visit--\$1,500.

ATTACHMENT II
Continuing Approval Review Process

- Phase I**
- Risk assessment
 - Identification of EPP to be reviewed
 - Notification letter to EPP to be reviewed
 - TEA training of EPP on how to prepare for review
- Phase II**
- EPP submits Self-Report
 - EPP submits email addresses for stakeholders' questionnaires
 - TEA staff send questionnaires to candidates, mentors, principals, field supervisors, and advisory committee members
 - TEA staff research and review EPP data in preparation of review
- Phase III**
- On-site visit or desk audit conducted by TEA staff
 - Evaluation of evidence using a rubric correlated to TAC
 - Preliminary findings provided to EPP
 - Action Plan developed based on non-compliance area(s) if needed
- Phase IV**
- Review of all data and evidence gathered
 - TEA report developed and sent to EPP allowing EPP to respond in ten business days to discrepancies
 - Final Report issued after 10 business days of resolution of discrepancies
 - Final Report posted on the consumer website by the end of the review cycle

ATTACHMENT III

Explanation of Continuing Approval Review Components

Component 1: Governance – TAC §228.20 defines administration of the EPP by the chief executive officer and advisory committee composition and functions.

Component 2: Admission Criteria – TAC §227.10 defines minimum requirements for entry to an EPP (enrollment in undergraduate program or degree, grade point average, demonstration of content knowledge, application, basic skills assessment, oral language ability, interview or other screening instrument, etc.).

Component 3: Curriculum – TAC §228.30 defines curriculum requirements that must be covered in the preparation coursework including educator standards, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), Texas Teacher Standards, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Standards, Dyslexia and Mental Health Training, Texas Code of Ethics, and reading instruction.

Component 4: Program Delivery and On-going Support – TAC §228.35 defines clock hours of instruction, clock hours of field-based experiences including interacting directly with students, training for mentors and field supervisors, and requirements for clinical teaching or internship (length of time, number of observations, duration of observations, feedback to candidate, etc.).

Component 5: Program Evaluation – TAC §228.40 defines requirements for benchmarking progress as the candidate progresses through the program, candidate's readiness to test, curriculum evaluation, and program evaluation methods and timelines.

Component 6: Professional Conduct – TAC §228.50 defines requirements for adherence to Texas Educator Code of Ethics for candidates and EPP staff.

Component 7: Issuance of Probationary Certificates – TAC §230.37 defines requirements for appropriate issuance of probationary certificates for internships. (To be added for 2015-2016 reviews.)

Component 8: Complaints Process – TAC §228.70 defines requirements for EPPs to address complaints. (To be added for 2015-16 reviews.)

ATTACHMENT IV

Results of Continuing Approval Reviews for 2014-2015

Educator Preparation Program	Type of Review	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Component 6	Action Plan	Final Report	
University of Mary Hardin Baylor	Site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Yes	
TeacherBuilder.com	Site	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
ASTEP	Site	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	In progress	Yes	
21 st Century Principal Program	Site	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Texas A&M Commerce	Site	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Paul Quinn College	Site	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
North American University/ Texas Gulf Foundation	Site	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Rice Entrepreneurship Program	Site	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Wiley College	Site	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Houston Community College	Site	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Texas College	Site	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	Yes	
Region 14 Education Service Center	Site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	In progress	
TNTP Academy - Fort Worth	Site	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	In progress	
Texas Lutheran University	Site	Scheduled for May 19-21								
A Career in Education	Site	Scheduled for May 19-21								
McLennan Community College	Desk	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress	In progress	

Site – On-site Review

Desk – Desk review

Component Yes – Program is in compliance

Component No – Program is not in compliance

Action Plan None – Action plan not required

Action Plan In progress – Action Plan in process of being completed

Final Report Yes – Final report completed

Final Report In progress – Final report in process of being completed