

Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC

Chapter 245. Certification of Educators from Other Countries

§245.1. General Provisions.

- (a) A Texas educator certificate may be issued to an individual who holds a college degree and an acceptable ~~[appropriate]~~ certificate or other credential issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country and who meets appropriate requirements specified in §230.11 ~~[§230.413]~~ of this title (relating to General Requirements) and in this chapter.
- (b) The degree held by an applicant from another country must be ~~[at a minimum,]~~ equivalent to at least a bachelor's [a baccalaureate] degree or higher issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or by the U.S. Department of Education .
- (c) The certificate(s) or other credential(s) issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country may not be a temporary permit, a credential issued by a city or school district, or a certificate for which academic or other program deficiencies are indicated. Specific examination or renewal requirements shall not be considered academic or program deficiencies.
- (d) A statement, approval letter, or certification entitlement card issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country specifying eligibility for full certification upon employment or completion of specified examination requirements shall have the same standing as a certificate.
- (e) The certificate(s) or other credential(s) and areas of certification issued by the authorized licensing agency in another country must be equivalent to a certificate or grade level that is within the early childhood-Grade 12 level and approved by [and certification areas issued by] the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). Based on the certificate(s) submitted with the application for review of credentials, the [The] Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall identify the certification areas for which the applicant qualifies in Texas. The certificate(s) [certificate, including all certification areas] for which the applicant qualifies ~~[]~~ may be issued by the TEA staff under the authority of the SBEC.
- (f) If a Texas examination or certification is scheduled to be eliminated, an individual requesting certification and examination comparability must ensure that the application and all review documentation, including examination scores, are received by TEA staff 60 calendar days before the application submission deadline for the examination and/or certification sought.

§245.5. Requirements for Issuance of a Texas Certificate Based on Certification from Another Country.

- (a) The appropriate standard certificate issued under Chapter 230 ~~[232]~~ , Subchapter D ~~[A]~~ , of this title (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued), may be issued to an applicant holding an acceptable ~~[a]~~ certificate or other credential and college degree as specified in §245.1 of this title (relating to General Provisions). The applicant must:
 - (1) pass the appropriate examination(s) prescribed in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.048(a), and §230.21 ~~[§230.5]~~ of this title (relating to Educator Assessment); or
 - (2) achieve an acceptable score on an examination(s) similar to and at least as rigorous as the requirements prescribed in the TEC, §21.048(a), and §230.21 ~~[§230.5]~~ of this title that was administered under the authority of another country. The applicant shall verify in a manner determined by the Texas Education Agency staff the level of performance on acceptable examinations administered under the authority of another country.
- (b) If all certification requirements are met, except successful completion of the appropriate certification examination(s), the applicant may request issuance of a one-year certificate in one or more of the certification areas authorized by the certificate(s) or other credential(s) from another country. An applicant who holds only a credential that is equivalent to a student services, principal, or superintendent certificate issued in accordance with Chapter 239 of this title (relating to Student Services Certificates), with the exception of Subchapter E (relating to Master Teacher Certificate); Chapter 241 of this title (relating to

Principal Certificate); or Chapter 242 of this title (relating to Superintendent Certificate) may be issued the equivalent Texas certificate. The applicant must verify two creditable years of public or private school experience, as defined in Chapter 153, Subchapter CC, of this title (relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service) and the TEC, §5.001(2), in the specific student services or administrative area sought.

- (c) After satisfying all certification requirements, including all appropriate examination requirements, the applicant is eligible to apply for issuance of the standard certificate issued under Chapter 230, Subchapter D, of this title (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued).
- (d) ~~(e)~~ An applicant issued a one-year certificate under Chapter 230, Subchapter D, ~~§232.1~~ of this title ~~[(relating to Types of Certificates)]~~ and this chapter who does not satisfy the appropriate examination requirements to establish eligibility for a standard certificate during the validity of the one-year certificate is not eligible for any type of certificate or permit authorizing employment for the same certification level or area until he or she has satisfied the examination requirements. If, due to extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the educator, examination requirements are not met during the validity period of the one-year certificate, the district ~~educator~~ may request an extension of the one-year certificate, not to exceed one calendar year in length.
- (e) An applicant shall not be required to complete the content specialization portion of the certification examination in a certification area for which he or she does not seek standard certification unless the examination is required to establish a base classroom teaching certificate. A supplemental certificate, as described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates), may not be issued as a standard certificate unless the educator has established a classroom teaching certificate.
- (f) ~~(d)~~ An applicant issued a one-year certificate under subsection (d) ~~(e)~~ of this section who, during or subsequent to the validity of the one-year certificate, satisfies the appropriate examination requirements and establishes eligibility for a standard certificate may apply for:
 - (1) a new one-year certificate in another certification area based on a certificate or other credential issued by a another country; or
 - (2) a second one-year certificate in an area previously authorized on a one-year certificate, provided the applicant was not assigned to the area and has not attempted the appropriate examination requirements for that area.

§245.10. Application Procedures.

- (a) An individual who has been issued an appropriate certificate or other credential by the authorized licensing agency in another country as specified in §245.1 of this title (relating to General Provisions) may apply for a review of credentials by submitting the following items to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff:
 - (1) a completed application;
 - (2) the original detailed report or course-by-course evaluation for professional licensing of all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the TEA staff. The evaluation must verify that the individual:
 - (A) holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States as specified in §245.1(b) of this title, including the date that the degree was conferred; and
 - (B) has completed an educator preparation program, including a teaching practicum;
 - (3) an original written statement, provided by the authorized licensing agency in the issuing country, that the educator certificate(s) or other credential(s) specified in §245.1 of this title is currently in good standing and has not been revoked, suspended, or sanctioned for misconduct and is not pending disciplinary or adverse action. The statement must be written in the English language or must be accompanied by a translation in the English language from a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the TEA staff or an accredited translation service;

- (4) official transcripts of any additional college credits and/or degrees earned in the United States; ~~[and]~~
 - (5) copies of any standard certificates issued by another state department of education; and
 - (6) ~~(5)~~ a nonrefundable review fee as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter G ~~[N]~~ , of this title (relating to Certificate Issuance Procedures).
- (b) Pursuant to §245.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements for Issuance of a Texas Certificate Based on Certification from Another Country) an applicant may apply for a one-year certificate by submitting the following items to the TEA staff:
 - (1) a completed application; and
 - (2) the appropriate fee as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter G ~~[N]~~ , of this title.
- (c) Pursuant to §245.5(a) of this ~~the~~ title, an applicant may apply for a standard certificate by submitting the following items to the TEA staff:
 - (1) a completed application; and
 - (2) the appropriate fee as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter G ~~[N]~~ , of this title.