

ATTACHMENT  
Text of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC

**Chapter 227. Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates**

**Subchapter A. Admission to Educator Preparation Programs**

**§227.5. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Accredited institution of higher education--An institution of higher education (IHE) 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) Alternative certification route--A pathway to certification ~~[program--An approved educator preparation program,]~~ delivered by entities described in §228.25 of this title (relating to Governance of Educator Preparation Programs), specifically designed as an alternative to a traditional ~~[undergraduate]~~ certification program, that may offer an internship or practicum experience for individuals already holding the degree that is required for Standard certification that was conferred by [at least a bachelor's degree from] an accredited IHE [institution of higher education] .
- (3) Applicant--An individual seeking admission to an educator preparation program (EPP) for any class of certificate.
- (4) Candidate--An individual who has been formally or contingently admitted to an EPP ~~[educator preparation program]~~ ; also referred to as an enrollee or participant.
- (5) Certification category--A certificate type within a certification class, as described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates).
- (6) Certification class--A certificate, as described in §230.33 of this title (relating to Classes of Certificates), that has defined characteristics; may contain one or more certification categories as described in Chapter 233 of this title.
- (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 instructional setting. This term does not include an educational aide, a full-time administrator, or a substitute teacher. For the purposes of this chapter, a classroom teacher includes an educator who may not yet hold a certificate issued under Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 21, Subchapter B.
- (8) ~~(7)~~ Clinical teaching--A supervised teacher assignment through an EPP in the classroom of a cooperating teacher at a public school accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or other school approved by the TEA for this purpose that may lead to completion of a standard certificate; also referred to as student teaching. [An assignment, as described in §228.67 of this title (relating to Clinical Teaching).]
- (9) ~~(8)~~ Content certification examination--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or SBEC ~~[State Board for Educator Certification]~~ rule that governs an individual's admission to an EPP ~~[educator preparation program]~~ .
- (10) ~~(9)~~ Content pedagogy examination--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or SBEC ~~[State Board for Educator Certification]~~ rule that governs an individual's certification as an educator.
- (11) ~~(10)~~ Contingency admission--Admission [Conditional admission] to an EPP [educator preparation program] when an applicant meets all admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title

(relating to Admission Criteria) except graduation and degree conferred from an accredited institution of higher education.

- (12) ~~(41)~~ Educator preparation program--An entity that is ~~is~~ must be approved by SBEC ~~[the State Board for Educator Certification]~~ to prepare and recommend candidates for certification in one or more certification classes ~~[classes of certificates]~~ .
- (13) ~~(42)~~ Formal admission--Admission to an EPP ~~[educator preparation program]~~ when an applicant meets all admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria).
- (14) Graduate degree--A degree earned from and conferred by an IHE after the initial undergraduate degree.
- (15) ~~(43)~~ Incoming class--Individuals contingently or formally admitted between September 1 and August 31 of each year by an EPP ~~[educator preparation program]~~ .
- (16) Late hire--An individual who is both accepted into an EPP after the 45th day before the first day of instruction and hired for a teaching assignment by a school after the 45th day before the first day of instruction or within the first semester of the academic year; or who is both admitted into the EPP and hired by the district or after the school's academic year has begun, and requires additional time to complete the pre-internship requirements.
- (17) Partnership preservice program--A Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) Preservice program established under TEC, §21.902, that includes a partnership between a school district or eligible charter school and an eligible EPP. Also known as PREP route as defined in §228.2 of this title (relating to Definitions). The PREP routes include PREP Traditional, Residency, and Preservice Alternative Certification.
- (18) ~~(44)~~ Post-baccalaureate program--An EPP ~~[educator preparation program]~~ , delivered by an accredited IHE ~~[institution of higher education]~~ and approved by SBEC ~~[the State Board for Educator Certification]~~ to prepare and recommend candidates for certification in non-teacher classes concurrent with obtaining a graduate degree ~~[recommend candidates for certification, that is designed for individuals who already hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and are seeking an additional degree]~~ .
- (19) Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) program--One of the five PREP programs under TEC, §§21.903-21.907 and 48.157.
- (20) Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) Alternative Preservice program--The PREP Alternative Preservice program established under TEC, §21.905. Also called Preservice Alternative Certification route as defined in §228.2 of this title (relating to Definitions).
- (21) Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) Residency Preservice program--The PREP Residency Preservice program established under TEC, §21.904. Also called Residency route as defined in §228.2 of this title (relating to Definitions).
- (22) Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) Traditional Preservice program--The PREP Traditional Preservice program established under TEC, §21.903. Also called PREP Traditional route as defined in §228.2 of this title (relating to Definitions).
- (23) ~~(45)~~ Semester credit hour--One semester credit hour is equal to 15 clock-hours at an accredited IHE ~~[institution of higher education]~~ .
- (24) School year--The period of time starting with the first instructional day for students through the last instructional day for students as identified on the calendar of the campus or district for the school year in which the candidate is completing the clinical experience.
- (25) 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.

(26) Traditional route--A pathway to teacher certification that provides a clinical teaching experience for candidates who are seeking a degree concurrent with certification.

(27) ~~(16)~~ Undergraduate degree--A bachelor's degree earned from and conferred by an accredited IHE [institution of higher education] .

### **§227.6. Implementation Date.**

The provisions of this chapter that were in effect on the date an educator preparation program (EPP) candidate was admitted to an EPP shall determine the program requirements applicable to that candidate.

### **§227.10. Admission Criteria.**

- (a) The educator preparation program (EPP) delivering educator preparation shall require the following minimum criteria of all applicants seeking initial certification in any class of certificate, unless specified otherwise, prior to admission to the program.
- (1) For a university traditional teacher route or a university post-baccalaureate route for a class other than teacher [undergraduate or post baccalaureate program] , an applicant shall be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education (IHE).
  - (2) For an alternative certification or Preservice Alternative Certification route [program] or a university post-baccalaureate route for a class other than teacher [program] , an applicant shall have, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree earned from and conferred by an accredited IHE. Applicants to a Superintendent program must hold, at minimum, a master's degree or higher earned from and conferred by an accredited IHE as required in §242.5 of this title (relating to Minimum Requirements for Admission to a Superintendent Preparation Program).
  - (3) [For an undergraduate university program, alternative certification program, or post baccalaureate program, to] To be eligible for admission into an EPP, an applicant shall have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale or the equivalent [2.5] before admission.
    - (A) The GPA shall be calculated from an official transcript as follows:
      - (i) 2.50 [2.5] on all coursework previously attempted by the person at an accredited IHE:
        - (I) at which the applicant is currently enrolled [undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission] ; or
        - (II) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred [alternative certification program formal admission or post baccalaureate program formal admission] ; or
      - (ii) 2.50 [2.5] in the last 60 semester credit hours on all coursework previously attempted by the person at an accredited IHE:
        - (I) at which the applicant is currently enrolled [undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission] . If an applicant has less than 60 semester credit hours on the official transcript from the accredited IHE at which the applicant is currently enrolled, the EPP shall use grades from all coursework previously attempted by a person at the most recent accredited institution(s) of higher education, starting with the most recent coursework from the official transcript(s), to calculate a GPA for the last 60 semester credit hours; or
        - (II) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred. If an applicant has hours beyond the

most recent degree, an EPP may use grades from the most recent 60 hours of coursework from an accredited IHE [~~alternative certification program formal admission or post-baccalaureate program formal admission~~].

- (B) In accordance with the Texas Education Code, (TEC), §21.0441(b), an exception to the minimum GPA requirement may be granted by the program director only in extraordinary circumstances and may not be used by a program to admit more than 10% of any incoming class of candidates. An applicant is eligible for this exception only if these requirements are met:
- (i) the program director documents [~~documentation and certification from the program director~~] that the [~~an~~] applicant's work, business, or career experience demonstrates achievement equivalent to the academic achievement represented by the GPA requirement; and
  - (ii) in accordance with the TEC, §21.0441(a)(2)(B), the [~~an~~] applicant achieves a passing score on [~~must pass~~] an appropriate content certification examination as specified in paragraph (4)(C) of this subsection for each subject in which the applicant seeks certification prior to admission. [~~In accordance with the TEC, §21.0441(b), applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement and have previously been admitted into an EPP may request permission to register for an appropriate content certification examination if the applicant is not seeking admission to the same EPP that previously granted test approval for a certification examination in the same certification class.~~]
- (C) An applicant who is seeking a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that does not require a degree from an accredited IHE as described in §233.14(c) and (d) of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)) is exempt from the minimum GPA requirement.
- (D) An applicant who does not meet the minimum GPA requirement and is seeking certification in a class other than classroom teacher must perform at or above a score equivalent to a 2.50 [~~2.5~~] GPA on the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytic Writing sections of the GRE® (Graduate Record Examinations) revised General Test. The State Board for Educator Certification will use equivalency scores established by the Educational Testing Service, and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will publish those equivalency scores annually on the TEA website.
- (4) For an applicant who will be seeking an initial certificate in the classroom teacher class of certificate, the applicant shall have successfully completed, prior to admission, at least:
- (A) a minimum of 12 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for the certification sought, unless certification sought is for mathematics or science at or above Grade 7; or
  - (B) 15 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for the certification sought if the certification sought is for mathematics or science at or above Grade 7; or
  - (C) a passing score on the appropriate content certification examination as specified in the figure provided in this subparagraph.
- Figure: 19 TAC §227.10(a)(4)(C) (No change.)
- (5) For an applicant who will be seeking an initial certificate in a class other than classroom teacher, the applicant shall meet the minimum requirements for admission described in Chapter 239 of this title (relating to Student Services Certificates); Chapter 241 of this title (relating to Certification as Principal); and Chapter 242 of this title (relating to Superintendent Certificate). If an applicant has not met the minimum certification, degree, and/or experience requirement(s) for issuance of a standard certificate prior to admission, the EPP shall inform the applicant in writing of any deficiency prior to admission.

- (6) An applicant must demonstrate basic skills in reading, written communication, and mathematics by meeting the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative under the rules established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Texas Success Initiative), including one of the requirements established by §4.54 of this title (relating to Exemption [~~Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers~~]).
- (7) An applicant must demonstrate the English language proficiency skills as specified in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).
- (A) An applicant for CTE certification that does not require a bachelor's degree from an accredited IHE may satisfy the English language proficiency requirement with an associate's degree or high school diploma or the equivalent that was earned at an accredited IHE or an accredited high school in the United States.
- (B) An applicant to a university Traditional, PREP Traditional, or Residency program [~~undergraduate program~~] that leads to a bachelor's degree may satisfy the English language proficiency requirement by meeting the English language proficiency requirement of the accredited IHE at which the applicant is enrolled.
- (8) An applicant must submit an application [~~and participate in either an interview or other screening instrument to determine if the EPP applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought~~].
- (9) An applicant must participate in a screening process that uses at least one evaluative tool, scored on a rubric developed for that purpose, to determine if the EPP applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought.
- (10) [~~9~~] An applicant must fulfill any other academic criteria for admission that are published and applied consistently to all EPP applicants.
- (b) A program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification to offer a Residency route shall use research-based best practices for recruiting and admitting candidates into the route and offer counseling and support for applicants and candidates to consider pursuing certification in the areas of need for partner local education agencies.
- (c) [~~b~~] An EPP may adopt admission requirements in addition to and not in conflict with those required in this section.
- (d) [~~e~~] An EPP may not admit an applicant who:
- (1) has been reported as completing all EPP requirements by another EPP in the same certification category or class, unless the applicant only needs certification examination approval; or
- (2) has been employed for three years in a public school under a permit, intern, or probationary certificate as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter D, of this title (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued), unless the applicant is seeking clinical teaching that may lead to the issuance of an initial standard certificate.
- (3) is seeking certification in a certificate category or class where the certificate and/or related certification examination is scheduled to expire within one calendar year of the admission date if the EPP is not approved to offer the next generation of that certificate.
- (e) Candidates who are admitted into certificate areas where the certification examination and/or certificate will expire must be notified by the EPP of the expiration timeline at admission and, thereafter, must be notified prior to expiration within a reasonable amount of time, based on the structure and requirements of the program, for the candidate to be able to complete requirements for standard certification before the certification examination and/or certificate expires.
- (f) [~~d~~] An EPP may admit an applicant for CTE certification who has met the experience and preparation requirements specified in Chapter 230 of this title (relating to Professional Educator Preparation and Certification) and Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates).

(g) ~~(e)~~ An EPP may admit an applicant for the Trade and Industrial Workforce Training: Grades 6-12 certification who has met all requirements specified in §233.14(e) of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area, Trade and Industrial Workforce Training: Grades 6-12 certificate). ~~[the following requirements:]~~

~~[(1) has been issued a high school diploma or a postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree;]~~

~~[(2) has seven years of full time wage earning experience within the preceding 10 years in an approved occupation for which instruction is offered;]~~

~~[(3) holds with respect to that occupation a current license, certificate, or registration, as applicable, issued by a nationally recognized accrediting agency based on a recognized test or measurement; and]~~

~~[(4) within the period described by paragraph (2) of this subsection, has not been the subject of a complaint filed with a licensing entity or other agency that regulates the occupation of the person, other than a complaint that was determined baseless or unfounded by that entity or agency.]~~

(h) ~~(f)~~ An EPP may admit an applicant who has met the minimum academic criteria through credentials from outside the United States that are determined to be equivalent to those required by this section using the procedures and standards specified in Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries). An EPP at an entity that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the THECB may use its own foreign credential evaluation service to meet the requirement described in §245.10(a)(2) of this title (relating to Application Procedures), if the entity is in good standing with its accrediting organization.

(i) ~~(g)~~ An applicant is eligible to enroll in an EPP for the purpose of completing the course of instruction, defined in §228.45(b) of this title (relating to Coursework and Training Requirements for Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 Certification), that is required for the issuance of an Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 certificate if the individual holds a valid standard, provisional, or one-year certificate specified in §230.31 of this title (relating to Types of Certificates) in one of the following certificate categories:

(1) Bilingual Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;

(2) Bilingual Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;

(3) Core Subjects: Early Childhood-Grade 6;

~~(4) Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;~~

~~(5) [(4)] Core/Fine Arts/Physical Education/Health with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;~~

~~(6) [(5)] Core/Special Education with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;~~

~~(7) [(6)] Core/Bilingual Education Spanish with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;~~

~~(8) [(7)] Core/English as a Second Language Supplemental with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;~~

~~(9) [(8)] Core with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;~~

~~(10) [(9)] Early Childhood Education;~~

~~(11) [(10)] Elementary--General;~~

~~(12) [(11)] Elementary--General (Grades 1-6);~~

~~(13) [(12)] Elementary--General (Grades 1-8);~~

~~(14) [(13)] Elementary Early Childhood Education (Prekindergarten-Grade 6);~~

~~(15) [(14)] Elementary Self-Contained (Grades 1-8);~~

- (16) ~~[(15)]~~ English as a Second Language Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- (17) ~~[(16)]~~ English as a Second Language Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (18) ~~[(17)]~~ Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- (19) ~~[(18)]~~ Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (20) ~~[(19)]~~ Kindergarten;
- (21) ~~[(20)]~~ Prekindergarten-Grade 5--General;
- (22) ~~[(21)]~~ Prekindergarten-Grade 6--General; or
- (23) ~~[(22)]~~ Teacher of Young Children--General.

### §227.15. Contingency Admission.

- (a) An applicant may be accepted into an alternative certification program preparing candidates in any certification class or a post-baccalaureate program preparing candidates in a class other than teacher on a contingency basis pending receipt of an official transcript showing the degree required for admission [conferred], as specified in §227.10(a)(1) and (2) ~~[(§227.10(a)(2))]~~ of this title (relating to Admission Criteria), has been conferred, provided that:
  - (1) the applicant is currently enrolled in and expects to complete the courses and other requirements for obtaining ~~[(7)]~~ the minimum [at a minimum, a bachelor's] degree required for admission at the end of the semester in which admission to the program is sought;
  - (2) all other admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title have been met;
  - (3) the educator preparation program (EPP) [EPP] must notify the applicant of the offer of contingency admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification; and
  - (4) the applicant must accept the offer of contingency admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (b) The effective date of contingency admission shall be included in the offer of contingency admission.
- (c) An EPP must notify the Texas Education Agency within seven calendar days of a candidate's contingency admission by creating an admission record in the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) for that entity.
- (d) An applicant admitted on a contingency basis may begin program training and may be approved to take a certification examination ~~[(3)]~~ but shall not be recommended for an intern or a probationary certificate until the EPP verifies on an official transcript that the required degree [bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education (IHE)] has been conferred.
- (e) Except as provided by this section, an alternative certification program or post-baccalaureate program, prior to admission on a contingency basis, shall not provide coursework, training, and/or examination approval to an applicant that leads to initial certification in any class of certificate. A program within a university-based EPP [post-baccalaureate or alternative certification program at an IHE] may admit an applicant if coursework and training was provided by the same institution of higher education (IHE) [IHE] as part of:
  - (1) the degree to be conferred; ~~[-]~~
  - (2) prerequisite courses for a degree [a prerequisite for a master's degree] leading to initial certification ; or
  - (3) a different ~~[(post-baccalaureate)]~~ program of study.
- (f) An applicant to an EPP may be admitted contingently within 16 weeks of completing requirements for the degree required for admission. [The contingency admission will be valid for only the fall, spring, or summer semester for which the contingency admission was granted and may not be extended for another semester. The end of the semester is determined by the calendar of the IHE in which the candidate is

~~enrolled.] [The end of each semester shall be consistent with the common calendar established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.]~~

- (g) ~~The EPP must collect an official transcript that reflects the required degree has been conferred. If the required degree is not conferred [at the end of the semester identified in subsection (f) of this section], the candidate must be removed from the EPP. [A candidate who is removed and who seeks reinstatement into the EPP must apply and meet all admission requirements as set forth in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria) and must be formally admitted as set forth in §227.17 of this title (relating to Formal Admission).]~~

#### **§227.17. Formal Admission.**

- (a) For an applicant to be formally admitted to an educator preparation program (EPP), the applicant must meet all the admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria).
- (b) For an applicant to be formally admitted to an EPP, the EPP must notify the applicant of the offer of formal admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (c) For an applicant to be considered formally admitted to the EPP, the applicant must accept the offer of formal admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (d) The effective date of formal admission shall be included in the offer of formal admission.
- (e) An EPP must notify the Texas Education Agency within seven calendar days of a candidate's formal admission by creating an admission record in the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) for that entity.
- (f) Except as provided by §227.15 of this title (relating to Contingency Admission), an alternative certification program or post-baccalaureate program, prior to formal admission, shall not provide coursework, training, and/or examination approval to an applicant that leads to initial certification in any class of certificate. A program within a university-based EPP [post-baccalaureate or alternative certification program at an institution of higher education (IHE)] may admit an applicant if coursework and training was provided by the same accredited institution of higher education [IHE] as part of:
- (1) a previous degree that was conferred;
  - (2) [a] prerequisite courses for a [master's] degree leading to initial certification; or
  - (3) a different [post-baccalaureate] program of study.

#### **§227.19. Incoming Class Grade Point Average.**

- (a) The overall grade point average (GPA) of each incoming class admitted between September 1 and August 31 of each year by an educator preparation program (EPP), including an alternative certification program, may not be less than 3.00 on a four-point scale or the equivalent. In computing the overall GPA of an incoming class, an EPP may include:
- (1) the GPA of each person in the incoming class based on all coursework previously attempted by the person at an accredited institution of higher education (IHE):
    - (A) at which the applicant is currently enrolled [~~undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission~~]; or
    - (B) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred [~~alternative certification program formal admission or post baccalaureate program formal admission~~]; or
  - (2) the GPA of each person in the incoming class based only on the last 60 semester credit hours of all coursework attempted by the person at an accredited IHE:
    - (A) at which the applicant is currently enrolled [~~undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate~~]

~~program contingency admission)~~ . If an applicant has less than 60 semester credit hours on the official transcript from the accredited IHE at which the applicant is currently enrolled, the EPP shall ~~may~~ use grades from all coursework previously attempted by a person at the most recent accredited IHE(s), starting with the most recent coursework from the official transcript(s), to calculate a GPA for the last 60 semester credit hours; or

(B) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred. If an applicant has hours beyond the most recent degree, an EPP may use grades from the most recent 60 hours of coursework from an accredited IHE [~~alternative certification program formal admission or post baccalaureate program formal admission)~~]

(b) A person seeking career and technical education certification is not included in determining the overall GPA of an incoming class.

**§227.20. Implementation Date.**

~~[The provisions of this chapter that were in effect on the date an educator preparation program (EPP) candidate was admitted to an EPP shall determine the program requirements applicable to that candidate.]~~