

Chapter 229. Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs

Subchapter E. Review Procedures

§229.7. Informal Review of Texas Education Agency Recommendations.

- (a) Applicability. This section applies only to a notice required under §229.5(d) of this title (relating to Accreditation Sanctions and Procedures) or under §229.6(c) of this title (relating to Continuing Approval) proposing to:
- (1) require an educator preparation program (EPP) or a particular class or category of certification offered by an EPP to obtain technical assistance as provided by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.0451(a)(2)(A);
 - (2) require an EPP or a particular class or category of certification offered by an EPP to obtain professional services as provided by the TEC, §21.0451(a)(2)(B);
 - (3) appoint a monitor for an EPP or a particular class or category of certification offered by an EPP as provided by the TEC, §21.0451(a)(2)(C);
 - (4) assign a change in accreditation status of Accredited-Warned, Accredited-Probation, or Not Accredited-Revoked, as specified in §229.4 of this title (relating to Determination of Accreditation Status);
 - (5) issue a public reprimand or impose conditions on the continuing approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for certification pursuant to §229.6(b) of this title;
 - (6) revoke the approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for certification in a particular class or category of certification; or
 - (7) revoke the approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for certification.
- (b) Notice. Notice of a proposed recommendation for an order or change in accreditation status, subject to this section, shall be made as provided by §229.5(d) and §229.6(c) of this title, and this section.
- (1) The notice shall attach or make reference to all information on which the proposed recommendation is based.
 - (A) Information maintained on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) websites may be referenced by providing a general citation to the information.
 - (B) The TEA and SBEC reports previously sent to the EPP may be referenced by providing the title and date of the report.
 - (C) On request, the TEA shall provide copies of, or reasonable access to, information referenced in the notice.
 - (2) The notice shall state the procedures for requesting an informal review of the proposed recommendation or change in accreditation status under this section, including the name and department of the TEA staff to whom a request for an informal review may be addressed.
 - (3) The notice shall set a deadline for requesting an informal review, which shall not be less than 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of the notice. The notice may be delivered by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, or email.
- (c) Request. The chief operating officer or designee of the EPP may request, in writing, an informal review under this section.
- (1) The request must be properly addressed to the member of the TEA staff identified in the notice under subsection (b)(2) of this section and must be received by TEA staff on or before the deadline specified in subsection (b)(3) of this section.

- (2) The request must set out the reasons the EPP believes the proposed recommendation or change in accreditation status is incorrect, with citations to include supporting evidence. The EPP may submit any written information to TEA as evidence to support its request, without regard to admissibility under the Texas Rules of Evidence. The request for review shall concisely state, in numbered paragraphs:
 - (A) if alleging the proposed recommendation would violate a statutory provision, the statutory provision violated and the specific facts supporting a conclusion that the statute was violated by the proposed recommendation;
 - (B) if alleging the proposed recommendation would be in excess of the SBEC's statutory authority, the SBEC's statutory authority and the specific facts supporting a conclusion that the proposed recommendation would be in excess of this authority;
 - (C) if alleging the proposed recommendation was made through unlawful procedure, the lawful procedure and the specific facts supporting a conclusion that the proposed recommendation was made through unlawful procedure;
 - (D) if alleging the proposed recommendation is affected by other error of law, the law violated and the specific facts supporting a conclusion that the proposed recommendation violated that law;
 - (E) if alleging the proposed recommendation is not reasonably supported by a preponderance of the evidence, each finding, inference, or conclusion of the proposed recommendation that is unsupported by a preponderance of the evidence, and the evidence that creates a preponderance against the specific finding, inference, or conclusion at issue;
 - (F) if alleging the proposed recommendation is arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion, each finding, inference, conclusion, or proposed recommendation affected and the specific facts supporting a conclusion that each is so affected;
 - (G) for each violation, error, or defect alleged under subparagraphs (A)-(F) of this paragraph, the substantial rights of the EPP that are prejudiced by such violation, error, or defect;
 - (H) a concise statement of the relief sought by the EPP (petitioner); and
 - (I) the name, mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, and email address of the petitioner's representative.
 - (3) Failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection may result in dismissal of the request for informal review.
- (d) No review requested. If the TEA staff does not receive the EPP's request for an informal review by the deadline set in accordance with subsection (b)(3) of this section, the proposed recommendation will become a final recommendation and will proceed in accordance with subsection (f) of this section.
 - (e) Informal review. In response to a request under subsection (c) of this section, TEA staff will review the materials and documents provided by the EPP and issue a final recommendation. The final recommendation may include changes or additions to the proposed recommendation and such modifications are not subject to another informal review.
 - (f) Final recommendation.
 - (1) 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 State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), as provided by §229.8 of this title (relating to Contested Cases for Accreditation Revocation).

- (2) 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 of a final order.
- (g) Other law. Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, and the TEC, §7.057, do not apply to an informal review under this section.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §229.7 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.041(a), (b)(1), and (d); 21.043(b) and (c); 21.0441(c) and (d); 21.0443; 21.045; 21.0451; and 21.0452.

Source: The provisions of this §229.7 adopted to be effective April 18, 2010, 35 TexReg 2849; amended to be effective October 26, 2014, 39 TexReg 8395; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10302; amended to be effective January 7, 2024, 49 TexReg 39.

§229.8. Contested Cases for Accreditation Revocation.

- (a) This section applies only to a final recommendation issued under §229.5 of this title (relating to Accreditation Sanctions and Procedures) or §229.6 of this title (relating to Continuing Approval) that proposes revocation of approval and closure of an educator preparation program (EPP), or withdraws approval to offer a specific certification class or category, and does not apply to a final recommendation proposing the assignment of Accredited-Warned or Accredited-Probation status or ordering any other sanction, including, without limitation, public reprimand, imposing conditions upon continuing approval, requiring technical assistance, requiring professional services, or appointing a monitor.
- (b) If an EPP declines to sign a final recommendation, or if the EPP fails to respond timely to a notice of a proposed recommendation, Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff may proceed with the filing of a contested case with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) in accordance with the contested case procedures set out in §§249.19-249.40 of this title, and Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001.
- (c) Upon the finality of a decision from the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) under the Administrative Procedure Act ordering the EPP closed under this subsection in keeping with §249.39 of this title (relating to Final Decisions and Orders), the approval of an EPP to provide educator preparation is:
 - (1) automatically revoked, void, and of no further force or effect on the effective date of the SBEC final order; and
 - (2) automatically modified to remove authorization for an individual certification class or category on the effective date of the SBEC final order.
- (d) This section satisfies the hearing requirements of the Texas Education Code, §21.0451(a)(2)(D) and (a)(3).

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §229.8 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.041(a), (b)(1), and (d); 21.043(b) and (c); 21.0441(c) and (d); 21.0443; 21.045; 21.0451; and 21.0452.

Source: The provisions of this §229.8 adopted to be effective April 18, 2010, 35 TexReg 2849; amended to be effective October 26, 2014, 39 TexReg 8395; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10302; amended to be effective December 22, 2019, 44 TexReg 7689.