

Item 16:

Discussion of Options for the Development of the Texas-Specific Teacher Performance Assessment

DISCUSSION ONLY

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to review and discuss options for the development of the Texas-specific teacher performance assessment (TPA).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for the proposed amendments is Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.041(b)(1), (2), and (4); 21.044(a)-(f); and 21.048.

TEC, §21.041(b)(1), (2), and (4), require the SBEC to propose rules that provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, in a manner consistent with the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B; specify the classes of educator certificates to be issued, including emergency certificates; and specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate.

TEC, §21.044(a)-(f), requires SBEC to make rules specifying what each educator is expected to know and be able to do, establishing training requirements that a candidate must accomplish to attain a certificate, and setting out the minimum academic qualifications required for certification. It also specifies certain required training and minimum academic qualifications for certification.

TEC, §21.048, states the SBEC shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the board that includes not requiring more than 45 days elapsing between examination retakes and that starting January 1, 2021, all candidates teaching prekindergarten through grade six must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification examination.

The full text of statutory citations can be found in the statutory authority section of this agenda.

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff will pursue the recommendations of the Board following the April 2024 meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Background Information on Development of the Texas-Specific TPA

During the July 2022 SBEC work session, the SBEC discussed feedback received by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and other stakeholders related to the implementation of a teacher performance assessment as a pedagogy certification exam. Two key trends in the feedback included (1) the need for a Texas-specific performance assessment and (2) the need to explore options for a performance assessment that could be developed locally via a Texas Institution of Higher Education (IHE) versus by a large vendor.

At the December 2022 SBEC meeting, the Board directed TEA staff to begin exploration of procurement processes to develop a Texas-specific, state-owned performance assessment certification exam and vet potential alternative performance assessment certification exams.

During the April 2023 SBEC meeting, the Board decided to move forward first with the development of a Texas-specific, state-owned TPA to ensure that there would be a clear set of options provided to the field and that time and resources could be focused on the development of a Texas TPA. TEA staff also shared that the Request for Proposal (RFP) process would be run by Educator Service Center (ESC) Region 13.

Following the April 2023 SBEC meeting, TEA staff solicited feedback during a series of stakeholder work sessions to discuss and collect feedback regarding components for consideration in the development of a Texas-specific TPA.

At the July 2023 SBEC meeting, TEA staff shared a summary of feedback provided during the stakeholder sessions along with draft Texas-specific TPA components, informed by stakeholder feedback, for SBEC member input and feedback.

Informed by feedback shared by stakeholders and the Board, ESC 13 launched the Texas-specific TPA RFP in November 2023.

At the February 2024 SBEC meeting, staff shared with the Board that the procurement did not result in a vendor who met the qualifications required to develop the Texas TPA and stated that they would present potential options related to the future development of the assessment for the Board's feedback at the April 2024 SBEC meeting.

TEA staff plan to share proposed options and seek direction from the Board during the April 2024 meeting.

Next Steps: TEA staff will pursue the recommendations of the Board and provide an update at the July 2024 SBEC meeting.

Staff Members Responsible:

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