

Item 7:

2023–2024 Continuing Approval Reviews of Educator Preparation Programs

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve educator preparation programs (EPPs) for continuing approval for five years based on the results of the 2023-2024 reviews.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§229.6(a), 228.13(a) and 229.9 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.0443, 21.041, 21.0452, 21.0454, and 21.061.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval.

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Annual approval of EPPs who complete the 5-year review process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: TEC §21.0443 authorizes the SBEC to adopt rules providing for educator preparation program 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 regarding EPPs to the public. TEC §21.0454 authorizes the Board to propose rules that develop a set of risk factors for each preparation program to be used by the agency to guide the five-year review process.

The continuing approval process provides the SBEC with the opportunity to approve existing educator preparation programs for continued operation. In the 2023-2024 academic year, 20 EPPs were reviewed for continuing approval and an additional 6 EPPs finished their review cycle from the previous year. Each of these programs has corrected any areas of noncompliance identified during the review and has met requirements for renewal.

Educator Preparation Program Continuing Review Purpose and Process:

The purpose of a regular periodic review of an approved EPP, as required by statute in TEC §21.0443 and supported by SBEC rule in 19 TAC §228.13(a), is to provide evidence to ensure an EPP is adequately preparing candidates for educator certification and meeting the standards and requirements set by the SBEC. In the review process, TEA gathers evidence to determine EPP compliance with the TEC and TAC in the program approval components of:

- governance;
- admission practices;
- curriculum;
- coursework, training, program delivery, and ongoing support of candidates;

- assessment and evaluation of candidates and the program;
- professional conduct;
- complaints procedures;
- certification procedures;
- integrity of data submission; and
- as required under Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.0443(b)(1) and (2), instruction for all candidates in proactive instructional planning techniques and inclusive practices for all students throughout coursework and clinical experiences.

At the time of the review, the EPP must submit a status report regarding its compliance with existing standards for EPPs and the entity's original proposal to the SBEC. TEA uses the status report to focus on specific EPP processes and documents and to identify areas where EPP staff may not have a clear understanding of rules and requirements. For EPPs reviewed during 2023-2024, TEA staff used a desk review format to review the EPPs that were determined to be of low or medium risk based on data from the 2022-2023 reporting year. An on-site review was conducted for the EPPs that were in the high-risk level that allowed TEA staff to conduct an intensive look at the EPP internal processes as well as outcomes, including interviewing EPP program staff and instructors, to gain the clearest picture of how the EPP operates and what to address in a continuous improvement focus to assist the program.

After reviewing the status report, candidate records, and samples of coursework and assessments provided by the program, TEA staff may ask for additional information as part of the desk or on-site review based on the results of the risk assessment, current accreditation status, and submitted materials. This additional information might include:

- Curriculum to review areas where candidates may not be receiving sufficient instruction resulting in EPP pass rate or candidate performance issues
- Targeted areas arising from complaints
- Reporting processes if lowered accreditation status was based on, for example, observations reported not making the 95% target because the program did not upload the observations properly
- Educator preparation program advisory committee activities to evaluate the types of support the program was receiving

At the close of each continuing approval review, TEA staff provides the results of the review as well as the next steps the program must complete to correct deficiencies identified in the review process. EPP staff have a four-month window in which to submit evidence to TEA that deficiencies identified in the review have been corrected, or to provide a plan to address deficiencies that may require more than four months to address.

Recommended Approvals and Status of Programs:

Attachment I provides a list of programs that met all requirements in their review and completed their required improvement (if needed). TEA staff notified each of the EPPs in advance of the recommendation presented to the SBEC.

Attachment II identifies a program that was on an agreed order, met requirements of that agreed order, and is ready for SBEC renewal of approval.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The development and application of EPP review criteria will help ensure educator preparation programs are preparing educators to positively influence the performance of the diverse student population of the state.

MOTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Approve the educator preparation programs as presented for a five-year renewal of approval.

Staff Member Responsible:

Lorrie Ayers, Director, EPP Management, Educator Preparation and Certification

Attachments:

- I. Programs Recommended for Continued Approval
- II. Program Met Requirements of the Agreed Order-Recommended for Continued Approval

ATTACHMENT I
Programs Recommended for Continued Approval

County/District Number	EPP Name
243501	Midwestern State University
227950	Region 13 Education Service Center
057508	Amberton University
057507	University of Dallas
015504	Trinity University
174501	Stephen F Austin State University
015702	Teachworthy
161503	Baylor University
061502	Texas Woman's University
220701	Education Career Alternative Program (ECAP)
227703	240 Certification
061501	University of North Texas
237501	Prairie View A&M University
137501	Texas A&M University - Kingsville
015712	Texas A&M University – San Antonio
178504	Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
021501	Texas A&M University
057709	iteachTEXAS
015505	University of Texas – San Antonio
101912	Houston ISD
091502	Austin College
227505	Concordia University
178950	Region 2 Education Service Center
250501	Jarvis Christian College
220703	Arlington Baptist University

ATTACHMENT II
Program Met Requirements of the Agreed Order-Recommended for Continued Approval

County/District Number	EPP Name
101702	Lone Star College