

Item 12:

Discussion of Test Development and Performance Assessment Updates

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an update on certification test development through 2028 and status update on the development of the Texas-specific teacher performance assessment.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for the classroom teacher class certificate structure is Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.003(a), 21.031, and 21.041(b)(1), (2), and (4), 21.041(c), 21.044(a), 21.0441.

TEC, §21.003(a), states that a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B.

TEC, §21.031, authorizes the SBEC to regulate and oversee all aspects of the certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators, and states that in proposing rules under the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, the SBEC shall ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

TEC, §21.041(b)(1), requires 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.

TEC, §21.041(b)(2), requires the SBEC to propose rules that specify the classes of educator certificates to be issued, including emergency certificates.

TEC, §21.041(b)(4), requires the SBEC to propose rules that specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate.

TEC, §21.044(a), requires the SBEC to propose rules establishing training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program.

TEC, §21.0441, requires the SBEC to propose rules that specify requirements for admission into educator preparation programs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: This item provides an update on the development of a Texas-specific teacher performance assessment and current certification exam development. The updated assessments are a part of the teacher certification redesign plan that has been regularly discussed with the SBEC to improve the quality and consistency of newly certified teachers.

Test Development Update

Since 2018 and the launch of the SBEC's Certification Redesign initiative, the SBEC has emphasized teacher certification exams' role as quality measures for determining a candidate's readiness to serve in Texas classrooms. Under the SBEC's direction, TEA staff is actively working to update current content pedagogy tests to increase their rigor and relevance, ensure their alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and implement legislation. Pursuant to 19 TAC Ch. 230, effective May 2024, see the table below for a summary of anticipated first operational dates of new assessments.

Year	Exam	Aligned Certificate
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Specialist EC-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Specialist EC-12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deafblind Early Childhood- Grade 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deafblind Supplemental: Early Childhood-Grade 12
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual Education Spanish Supplemental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual Education Supplemental: Spanish
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core w/STR: EC-6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/Fine Arts/PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/Fine Arts/PE/Health w/STR: EC-6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/Special Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/Fine Arts/PE/Health w/STR: EC-6
2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/Bilingual Education Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/Bilingual Education Spanish w/STR: EC-6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/ESL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core/ESL w/STR: EC-6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English as a Second Language (ESL) Supplemental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English as a Second Language Supplemental
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual Special Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual Special Education Supplemental: Early Childhood-Grade 12

September 2025 Exam Launch

Special Education Specialist EC-12: The Special Education Specialist EC-12 exam and aligned certificate will replace the current Special Education EC-12 and Special Education Supplemental exam and certificate.

Deafblind EC-12: The Deafblind EC-12 exam and aligned certificate represent a new certification field. This certification exam was developed to assess the knowledge and skills of teachers who intend to serve students who are Deafblind. During the February 2024 SBEC meeting, the Board adopted rules that would require candidates to complete coursework and training to sit for this exam.

Preparation manuals for both the Special Education Specialist EC-12 and Deafblind EC-12 exams launched March 2025. Interactive practice tests and representative exams are expected no earlier than Summer 2025.

September 2026 Exam Launch

Bilingual Education Spanish Supplemental: The new Bilingual Education Spanish Supplemental exam will replace the current Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test and streamline Spanish language proficiency and bilingual education pedagogy into one exam. TEA staff anticipates pilot testing for this exam to begin Summer 2025.

September 2027 Exam Launch

Core Subjects Redesign Phase 1: Phase 1 of the Core Subjects Redesign is anticipated to launch in 2027 with the Core, Core/Special Education, and Core/Fine Arts/PE/Health exams and aligned certificates. These exams will replace the current Core Subjects exam and aligned certificate. The launch of Core Subjects Redesign Phase 1 will provide candidates additional testing flexibility and options to experience streamlined exam content that results in a credential that qualifies an individual to serve in multiple contexts at the elementary level.

September 2028 Exam Launch

Core Subjects Redesign Phase 2: Phase 2 of the Core Subjects Redesign is anticipated to launch in 2028 with the Core/Bilingual Education Spanish and Core/ESL exams and aligned certificates. This will add to the list of options for candidates seeking certification at the elementary level.

ESL Supplemental: The new ESL supplemental will replace the current ESL supplemental and will align to the updated English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) approved by the SBOE during the September 2024 meeting.

Bilingual Special Education: The Bilingual Special Education exam and aligned certificate represent a new certification field that is a result of requirements outlined in HB 2256, 87th Legislative Session, 2021. Candidates seeking to certify in this area must complete required coursework and training. The Board is currently engaged in additional rulemaking that would further operationalize the Bilingual Special Education exam and aligned certificate.

Performance Assessment Updates*Background Information on Development of the Texas-Specific Teacher Performance Assessment*

During the April 2024 meeting, the SBEC gave TEA staff direction to pursue the development of a Texas-specific, state-owned performance assessment through a collaboration between a set of Texas Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) and the Texas Educator Certification Examination Program (TECEP) vendor.

During the September 2024 SBEC meeting, TEA staff provided an updated plan on development which included launching an application to select EPPs that would serve on the assessment development team.

Since the September 2024 SBEC meeting, the Texas-specific teacher performance assessment has been named the Texas Test of Educator Proficiency (T-TEP) to establish the assessment's

alignment with Texas's current evaluative tool for teachers, the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS).

Texas Test of Educator Proficiency (T-TEP) EPP Development Team Grant

In January 2025, TEA launched the 2024-2025 Texas Test of Educator Proficiency (T-TEP) EPP Development Team Grant which aims to provide a selected group of Texas not-for-profit EPPs an opportunity to develop and apply expertise related to teacher performance assessments. The T-TEP EPP Development Team Grant will allow TEA to select 6-8 EPPs that will each select 1 faculty/staff member to serve on the assessment Development Team. Those selected to receive this grant will receive funding to support travel, resources, and required capacity building. Grant awards will be announced May 5, 2025.

T-TEP EPP Development Team and Additional Stakeholder Engagement

The T-TEP EPP Development Team will be responsible for designing all exam components and aligned implementation resources. More specifically, the Development Team will participate in professional learning communities to design exam components, engage in learning calls and focus groups with districts and EPPs, advise on content and design needs of TX EPPs and districts, and build and provide training, resources, and support to TX EPPs and districts.

In addition to the work of the EPP Development Team, the development of the T-TEP will include feedback from additional stakeholders across the state. Like the test development process for the SBEC's content pedagogy certification exams, extensive stakeholder engagement at critical milestones will be important to ensuring a quality assessment is produced. The approximately two-year exam development process will include ongoing opportunities for stakeholder engagement and feedback including:

- **Stakeholder Content Advisory Committee:** This group of stakeholders, consisting of EPP faculty/staff and district partners, will provide feedback on exam components, resources, and other design decision points. Applications for the Stakeholder Content Committee will be available no earlier than Fall 2025.
- **Subject Matter Experts:** Selected EPP faculty/staff and district partners will serve as subject matter experts who will provide content-specific feedback on T-TEP exam components. TEA staff will share additional information on the application process for subject matter experts.
- **Focus Group and Field Test Participants:** EPP and district stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide valuable feedback on the implementation of the T-TEP. This feedback will help inform potential shifts in exam features, the development of implementation resources, and important policy considerations.

Staff Member Responsible:

Beth Burkhart, Director, Educator Standards and Testing

DeMarco Pitre, Director, Educator Standards and Test Development

Attachment:

Texas Test of Educator Proficiency (T-TEP) EPP Development Team Grant Timeline

ATTACHMENT**Texas Test of Educator Proficiency (T-TEP) EPP Development Grant Timeline***T-TEP EPP Development Team Grant Application Timeline*

Date	Action
January 15, 2025	T-TEP EPP Development Team Grant launched
January 29	TEA staff facilitated a grant webinar for interested applicants
February 7	TEA staff posted an FAQ with questions collected from interested applicants
March 17	All T-TEP EPP Development Team Grant applications due
April 7-18	T-TEP EPP Development Team Grant interview window for selected applicants
May 5	T-TEP EPP Development Team Grant awards announced