

Item 10:

Renewal of Educator Preparation Programs 2024-2025 Reviews

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 2024-2025 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 review (CAR) process, required in TEC §21.0443(c) at least once every five years, allows the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to evaluate existing Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) for continued operation. During the 2024-2025 academic year, 22 EPPs underwent review for continuing approval. Five of the EPPs, Dallas ISD, Texas State University, Texas Wesleyan University, Region 5 Education Service Center, and West Texas State University, fulfilled their CAR requirement by participating in the CAR Pilot initiative through a quality inspection conducted by the approved vendor, Teacher Preparation Institute (TPI-US), per §228.13(g). All programs were reviewed for compliance with SBEC requirements, including those that participated in the CAR Pilot initiative.

All programs completing reviews in this cycle addressed areas of noncompliance and met requirements for renewal.

Additionally presented for renewal is, A+ Texas Teachers, who has met the requirements of the Agreed Order issued by the SBEC.

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 2024-2025, 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 2023-2024 Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs (ASEP) 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 EPP operations relative to SBEC requirements. Each of the five quality Pilot Reviews was conducted on-site.

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 that may have impacted accreditation status.
- 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 entered into an agreed order with the SBEC on September 19, 2024, 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
Keena Sandlin, Education Specialist, 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 – Five Year Review**

County/District Number	EPP Name
108708	A Career in Teaching-McAllen
108701	ACT-RGV
057715	American College of Education
057703	Dallas Christian College
057905	Dallas ISD
101000	Harris County Department of Education
025501	Howard Payne University
015502	Our Lady of the Lake University
181950	Region 5 ESC
057950	Region 10 ESC
072501	Tarleton State University
108704	TeacherBuilder.com
240502	Texas A&M International University
101503	Texas Southern University
105501	Texas State University
220504	Texas Wesleyan University
161701	University of North Texas-Dallas
220503	University of Texas-Arlington
071501	University of Texas-El Paso
108501	University of Texas-RGV
057722	Urban Teachers
191501	West Texas A&M University

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

County/District Number	EPP Name
101714	A+ Texas Teachers