

Item 18:**Discussion of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 227,
Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates
Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs****DISCUSSION ONLY**

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss proposed revisions to 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates. The proposed revisions would update current requirements for candidate admission into educator preparation programs (EPPs) to align with proposed revisions to Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, and Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification and implement legislation passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for 19 TAC Chapter 227, is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.031; 21.041(b)(1) and (4); 21.044(a) and (g)(2) and (3); 21.0441; 21.04422(b)(1); 21.0489(c); 21.049(a); 21.050(a); and Texas Occupations Code (TOC), §§53.105, 53.151, 53.152, and 53.153.

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)(4), requires the SBEC to 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, §21.044(g)(2) and (3), requires each educator preparation program (EPP) to provide certain information related to the effect of supply and demand forces on the educator workforce of the state and the performance over time of the EPP.

TEC, §21.0441, requires the SBEC to adopt rules setting certain admission requirements for EPPs.

TEC §21.04422, requires the SBEC to propose rules for recruiting and admitting candidates into the Teacher Residency Preparation Route.

TEC, §21.0489(c), requires the SBEC to adopt rules establishing eligibility requirements for an Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 certificate.

TEC, §21.049(a), authorizes the SBEC to propose rules providing for educator certification programs as an alternative to traditional EPPs.

TEC, §21.050(a), requires a person who applies for a teaching certificate for which SBEC rules require a bachelor's degree must possess a bachelor's degree received with an academic major or interdisciplinary academic major, including reading, other than education, that is related to the curriculum as prescribed under the TEC, Chapter 28, Subchapter A.

TOC, §53.105, specifies that a licensing authority may charge a person requesting an evaluation under the TOC, Chapter 53, Subchapter D, a fee adopted by the authority. Fees adopted by a licensing authority under the TOC, Chapter 53, Subchapter D, must be in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of administering this subchapter.

TOC, §53.151, sets the definitions of "licensing authority" and "occupational license" to have the meanings assigned to those terms by the TOC, §58.001.

TOC, §53.152, requires EPPs to provide applicants and enrollees certain notice regarding potential ineligibility for a certificate based on convicted offenses, the SBEC rules regarding the certificate eligibility of an individual with a criminal history, and the right of the individual to request a criminal history evaluation letter.

TOC, §53.153, requires an EPP to refund tuition, application fees, and examination fees paid by an individual if the EPP failed to provide the required notice under the TOC, §53.152, to an individual who was denied a certificate because the individual was convicted of an offense.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC rules in 19 TAC Chapter 227 are organized as follows: Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs, and Subchapter B, Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility. These subchapters establish requirements for admission into an EPP and preliminary evaluation of certification eligibility.

Requirements in Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs, ensure that EPPs attract and admit applicants who demonstrate the knowledge

and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of Texas.

At the September 19, 2025 meeting, the SBEC engaged in discussion related to sections of Chapter 227 that would potentially need revisions relative to revisions in 19 TAC Chapters 228 and 230 and to implement the requirements in House Bill 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, that included:

- Definitions;
- Admission requirements for the Residency route; and
- Contingency and formal admission requirements.

In response to additional updates in Chapter 228, additional proposed refinements and revisions were added related to admissions requirements for other routes and to existing rules for clarity.

The following is a description of the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 227 that are reflected in Attachment I. Proposed revisions would update rule references and definitions based on the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 228 and based on the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 230.

Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs

Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC §227.5. Definitions

The proposed revisions to 19 TAC §227.5, Definitions includes the addition of definitions for Fast Start Candidate, Late Hire, Classroom Teacher, School Year, Teacher of Record, Partnership Preservice Program, Pre-service Alternative Certification Partnership Program, Pre-service Alternative Certification Route, Residency, Residency Route, Traditional Route, and Traditional Partnership Pre-service Program to align with requirements in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. Numbering of definitions was adjusted to account for the addition of new definitions.

The proposed revision to §227.5(2) Alternative Certification Route adds clarity and brings the definition into alignment with requirements in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

The proposed revision to §227.5(6) Certification Class adds clarity regarding the certification classes offered by educator preparation programs.

The proposed revision to §227.5(8) Clinical Teaching updates the definition to align with the revised definition in 19 TAC Chapter 228 for clarity and consistency.

The proposed revision to §227.5(11) removes the term “conditional” from the definition of Contingency admission for clarity and consistency.

The proposed revision to §227.5(12) updates the definition of educator preparation program for clarity.

The addition of the definition of Graduate Degree in §227.10(15) adds clarity to degree requirements for admissions.

The proposed revision to the definition of Post-baccalaureate program in §227.5(19) realigns the definition as applicable to a route that includes candidates pursuing certification in classes other than teacher at university-based EPPs. This revision results from the realignment of the Traditional route to include candidates in the Teacher class who are pursuing initial teacher certification concurrent with a graduate degree that is a result of new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC §227.10. Admission Criteria

The proposed revisions to 19 TAC §227.10(a)(1) clarify that candidates seeking a degree concurrent with certification must be enrolled in the university and align the route with new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Proposed revisions to 19 TAC §227.10(a)(2) clarify the degree required at admission based on the new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and add further clarity by aligning with existing admission requirements for the Superintendent class in 19 TAC §242.5, Minimum Requirements for Admission to a Superintendent Preparation Program.

Revisions to 19 TAC §227.10(a)(3)(A)-(B) maintain the statutory requirement in TEC §21.0441, Admission Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, requiring a 2.50 GPA at minimum and further refine the language in the rule to align with new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. A refinement to 19 TAC §227.10(a)(3)(C) clarifies the CTE certificate categories that are exempt from the minimum GPA requirement.

19 TAC §227.10(a)(8) has been divided into two items (8) and (9) to add clarity to and elevate quality in requirements for the applicant screening process in (9). The addition of a new (9) resulted in shifting the numbering of the following item to (10).

To align with the statutory requirements in TEC §21.04422(b)(1), Teacher Residency Preparation, related to recruiting and admissions for SBEC approved Residency programs, 19 TAC §227.10(b) was added that identifies Residency program shall use research-based best practices for recruiting and admitting candidates. Additional language elevates the partnership experience by encouraging EPPs in partnerships to provide counseling and support for applicants to consider pursuing certification in areas that support partner LEA hiring needs.

19 TAC §227.10(a)(7)(B) was updated to reflect the new Traditional route to align with requirements for routes identified in House Bill 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

The addition of the new §227.10(b), (e), (f), and (g) shifted the citations following the additions.

Proposed new 19 TAC §§227.10(d)(3) and 227.10(e) support transparency for applicants to, and candidates in, EPPs regarding expiring certification exams and

certificates so that candidates are informed of deadlines and can plan to complete preparation requirements efficiently to meet expiration deadlines.

The addition of §227.10(f) and (g) provide new admission requirements for admitting applicants into the Late Hire or Fast Start Intern pathways to align with requirements for those pathways in Chapter 228.

The proposed revisions to 19 TAC §227.10(i) clarifies the language related to admission requirements for applicants seeking certification in Trade and Industrial Workforce Training: Grades 6-12.

The proposed revision to §227.10(k) updates the list of certificates that include certification in early childhood that qualify for admission into the Early Childhood: PK-Grade 3 certificate area seeking additional training required in Chapter 228 for certification by examination purposes. The addition of one certificate category required the numbering to change for the subsequent certificate categories in the list.

Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC §227.15. Contingency Admission.

Proposed revisions throughout this section address updates to preparation routes in alignment with new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and refine some existing language for clarity.

A proposed revision to 19 TAC §227.15(c) clarifies the process EPPs use to notify the TEA of a candidate's contingency admission into the EPP.

A proposed revision to 19 TAC §227.15(d) clarifies that EPPs who contingently admit candidates must collect an official transcript to verify the degree has been conferred.

Proposed new 19 TAC §227.15(g) provides clarity around the consequence for a contingently admitted candidate if the required degree does not confer by the end of the semester in which the candidate was contingently admitted as expected and required in §227.15(f).

Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC §227.17. Formal Admission.

Proposed revisions throughout this section address updates to preparation routes in alignment with new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and refine some existing language for clarity.

A proposed revision to 19 TAC §227.17(e) clarifies the process EPPs use to notify the TEA of a candidate's formal admission into the EPP.

Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC §227.19. Incoming Class Grade Point Average.

Proposed revisions throughout this section address updates to preparation routes in alignment with new routes identified in House Bill 2 passed during the 89th Texas

Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and align revisions with the GPA language referenced in 19 TAC §227.10(a)(3).

Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC §227.20. Implementation Date.

The proposed implementation for the revisions to the admission requirements in Chapter 227 specify that the requirements should be effective for applicants admitted into EPPs on or after the date the requirements are effective.

The Implementation section was moved from §227.20 Implementation Date to the new §227.6 Implementation Date to align formatting with Chapter 228.

Staff Member Responsible:

Lorrie Ayers, Director, EPP Management

Attachment:

Text of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates

ATTACHMENT**Text of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC****Chapter 227. Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates****Subchapter A. Admission to Educator Preparation Programs**

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter A issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.031; 21.041(b)(1), (4), and (6); 21.044(a) and (g)(2) and (3); 21.0441; 21.0489(c); 21.049(a); 21.050(a); 22.083; and 22.0835; and Texas Occupations Code, §§53.151-53.153.

§227.1. General Provisions.

- (a) It is the responsibility of the education profession as a whole to attract applicants and to retain educators who demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.
- (b) Educator preparation programs (EPPs) shall inform all applicants that:
 - (1) pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §22.083, candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to employment as an educator; and
 - (2) pursuant to the TEC, §22.0835, candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching.
- (c) EPPs shall inform all applicants, in writing, of the following:
 - (1) the admission requirements as specified in this chapter;
 - (2) the requirements for program completion as specified in Chapter 228 of this title (relating to Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs); and
 - (3) in accordance with TEC, §21.044(g):
 - (A) the effect of supply and demand forces on the educator workforce in this state; and
 - (B) the performance over time of the EPP for the past five years.
- (d) EPPs shall notify, in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification, each applicant to and enrollee in the EPP of the following regardless of whether the applicant or enrollee has been convicted of an offense:
 - (1) the potential ineligibility of an individual who has been convicted of an offense for issuance of a certificate on completion of the EPP;
 - (2) the current State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) rules prescribed in §249.16 of this title (relating to Eligibility of Persons with Criminal History for a Certificate under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53, and Texas Education Code, Chapter 21); and
 - (3) the right to request a criminal history evaluation letter as provided in Chapter 227, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility).
- (e) If the SBEC determines that an EPP has failed to provide the notice required by subsection (d) of this section to an individual entitled to receive the notice and that the individual's application for a certificate for which the EPP prepares the individual was denied because the individual has been convicted of an offense prior to the EPP providing notice, the SBEC shall order the EPP to:
 - (1) refund the amount of any tuition paid by the individual to the EPP; and
 - (2) pay to the individual an amount equal to the total of the following, as applicable:
 - (A) the amount of any application fees paid by the individual to the SBEC; and

- (B) the amount of any examination fees paid by the individual to the SBEC and/or to a provider of examinations required for certification. An EPP is not liable for examination fees if the examination was not required to be passed to meet the admission requirements of the EPP and/or the EPP did not provide test approval for the examination.
- (f) If the governor of Texas declares a state of disaster consistent with the Texas Government Code, §418.014, Texas Education Agency staff may extend deadlines in this chapter for up to 90 days as necessary to accommodate persons in the affected disaster areas.

Source: The provisions of this §227.1 adopted to be effective July 11, 1999, 24 TexReg 5011; amended to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355; amended to be effective December 22, 2019, 44 TexReg 7683; amended to be effective August 4, 2024, 49 TexReg 5533.

§227.5. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Accredited institution of higher education--An institution of higher education (IHE) that, at the time it conferred the degree, was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (2) Alternative certification route-- ~~[program--An approved educator preparation program]~~ A pathway to certification delivered by entities described in §228.25 of this title (relating to Governance of Educator Preparation Programs), specifically designed as an alternative to a traditional [undergraduate] certification program, that may offer an internship or practicum experience for individuals already holding [at least a bachelor's degree] the degree that is required for Standard certification that was conferred by [from] an accredited IHE. [institution of higher education].
- (3) Applicant--An individual seeking admission to an educator preparation program for any class of certificate.
- (4) Candidate--An individual who has been formally or contingently admitted to an educator preparation program; also referred to as an enrollee or participant.
- (5) Certification category--A certificate type within a certification class, as described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates).
- (6) Certification class--A certificate, as described in §230.33 of this title (relating to Classes of Certificates), that has defined characteristics; may contain one or more certification categories as described in Chapter 233 of this title.
- (7) Classroom teacher—An educator who is employed by a school or district and who, not less than an average of four hours each day, teaches in an academic instructional setting or a career and technical instructional setting. This term does not include an educational aide, a full-time administrator, or a substitute teacher.
- ~~[(7)]~~ (8) Clinical teaching—~~[An assignment, as described in §228.67 of this title (relating to Clinical Teaching).]~~ A supervised teacher assignment through an EPP in the classroom of a cooperating teacher at a public school accredited by the TEA or other school approved by the TEA for this purpose that may lead to completion of a standard certificate; also referred to as student teaching.
- ~~[(8)]~~ (9) Content certification examination--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or State Board for Educator Certification rule that governs an individual's admission to an educator preparation program.
- ~~[(9)]~~ (10) Content pedagogy examination--A standardized test or assessment required by statute or State Board for Educator Certification rule that governs an individual's certification as an educator.

- ~~[(10)]~~ (11) Contingency admission—~~[Conditional]~~ Admission to an educator preparation program when an applicant meets all admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria) except graduation and degree conferred from an accredited institution of higher education.
- ~~[(11)]~~ (12) Educator preparation program--An entity that ~~[must be]~~ is approved by the State Board for Educator Certification to prepare and recommend candidates for certification in one or more ~~[classes of certificates]~~ certification classes.
- (13) Fast Start Candidate—An individual that served at least one full school year as an uncertified classroom teacher of record in a foundational subject area (reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies) during or prior to the 2025-2026 school year and within the three years prior to admission into an EPP and is pursuing certification in the subject area and grade level taught through an approved educator preparation program. The candidate must have held at minimum, a bachelor's degree while serving as a classroom teacher of record.
- ~~[(12)]~~ (14) Formal admission--Admission to an educator preparation program when an applicant meets all admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria).
- (15) Graduate degree—A degree earned from and conferred by an accredited institution of higher education (IHE) after the initial undergraduate degree.
- ~~[(13)]~~ (16) Incoming class--Individuals contingently or formally admitted between September 1 and August 31 of each year by an educator preparation program.
- (17) Late hire--An individual who is both accepted into an EPP after the 45th day before the first day of instruction and hired for a teaching assignment by a school after the 45th day before the first day of instruction or within the first semester of the academic year; or who is both admitted into the EPP and hired by the district after the school's academic year has begun.
- (18) Partnership Preservice program—A Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership Preservice program established under TEC §21.902. Also known as PREP. The PREP routes include PREP Traditional, Residency, and Pre-service Alternative Certification.
- ~~[(14)]~~ (19) Post-baccalaureate program--An educator preparation program, delivered by an accredited institution of higher education and approved by the State Board for Educator Certification to prepare and recommend candidates for certification in non-teacher classes concurrent with obtaining a graduate degree. [recommend candidates for certification, that is designed for individuals who already hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and are seeking an additional degree.]
- (20) PREP Traditional Route-- A pathway to teacher certification that requires candidates to complete a Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Traditional Preservice Program as identified in TEC §21.903.
- (21) Pre-service Alternative Certification Partnership Program—The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership Alternative Preservice Program established under TEC Section 21.905.
- (22) Pre-service Alternative Certification Route—A pathway to Teacher certification that requires candidates to complete a Pre-service Alternative Certification Partnership program.
- (23) Residency—A supervised educator assignment for an entire school year through a partnership between an EPP and a public school accredited by the TEA or other school approved by the TEA for this purpose that may lead to completion of an enhanced standard certificate.
- (24) Residency Route—A pathway to teacher certification that requires candidates to complete a Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Residency Preservice Program as identified in TEC §21.904.
- ~~[(15)]~~ (25) Semester credit hour--One semester credit hour is equal to 15 clock-hours at an accredited institution of higher education.

- (26) School Year—The period of time starting with the first instructional day for students through the last instructional day for students as identified on the calendar of the campus or district for the school year in which the candidate is completing the clinical experience.
- (27) Teacher of Record—An educator who is employed by a school or district and who teaches in an academic instructional setting or a career and technical instructional setting not less than an average of four hours each day and is responsible for evaluating student achievement and assigning grades.
- (28) Traditional Route—A pathway to teacher certification that provides a clinical teaching experience for candidates who are seeking a degree concurrent with certification.
- (29) Traditional Partnership Preservice Program—The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership Traditional Preservice Program established under TEC Section 21.903 for Traditional programs; also known as PREP Traditional.
- ~~[(16)]~~ (30) Undergraduate degree--A bachelor's degree earned from and conferred by an accredited institution of higher education.

Source: The provisions of this §227.5 adopted to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355; amended to be effective December 22, 2019, 44 TexReg 7683; amended to be effective August 4, 2024, 49 TexReg 5533.

§227.6 Implementation Date

The provisions of this chapter that were in effect on the date an educator preparation program (EPP) candidate was admitted to an EPP shall determine the program requirements applicable to that candidate.

§227.10. Admission Criteria.

- (a) The educator preparation program (EPP) delivering educator preparation shall require the following minimum criteria of all applicants seeking initial certification in any class of certificate, unless specified otherwise, prior to admission to the program.
 - (1) For a university ~~[undergraduate or post-baccalaureate]~~ Traditional teacher route or a university post-baccalaureate routefor a class other than teacher, an applicant shall be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education (IHE).
 - (2) For an alternative certification or Pre-service Alternative Certification route ~~[program]~~ or a university post-baccalaureate [program] route for a class other than teacher, an applicant shall have, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree earned from and conferred by an accredited IHE. Applicants to a Superintendent program must hold, at minimum, a master's degree or higher earned from and conferred by an accredited IHE as required in §242.5 of this title (relating to Minimum Requirements for Admission to a Superintendent Preparation Program).
 - (3) ~~[For university program, alternative certification program, or a university post baccalaureate program to]~~ To be eligible for admission into an EPP, an applicant shall have a grade point average (GPA) of at least ~~[2.5]~~ 2.50 before admission.
 - (A) The GPA shall be calculated from an official transcript as follows:
 - (i) ~~[2.5]~~ 2.50 on all coursework previously attempted by the person at an accredited IHE:
 - (I) at which the applicant is currently enrolled ~~[(undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission)]~~; or

- (II) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred [~~(alternative certification program formal admission or post baccalaureate program formal admission)~~]; or
- (ii) ~~[2.5]~~ 2.50 in the last 60 semester credit hours on all coursework previously attempted by the person at an accredited IHE:
 - (I) at which the applicant is currently enrolled [~~(undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission)~~]. If an applicant has less than 60 semester credit hours on the official transcript from the accredited IHE at which the applicant is currently enrolled, the EPP shall use grades from all coursework previously attempted by a person at the most recent accredited institution(s) of higher education, starting with the most recent coursework from the official transcript(s), to calculate a GPA for the last 60 semester credit hours; or
 - (II) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred. If an applicant has hours beyond the most recent degree, an EPP may use grades from the most recent 60 hours of coursework from an accredited IHE [~~(alternative certification program formal admission or post baccalaureate program formal admission)~~].
- (B) In accordance with the Texas Education Code, (TEC), §21.0441(b), an exception to the minimum GPA requirement may be granted by the program director only in extraordinary circumstances and may not be used by a program to admit more than 10% of any incoming class of candidates. An applicant is eligible for this exception only if these requirements are met:
 - (i) the program director documents [documentation and certification from the program director] that [an] the applicant's work, business, or career experience demonstrates achievement equivalent to the academic achievement represented by the GPA requirement; and
 - (ii) in accordance with the TEC, §21.0441(a)(2)(B), [an] the applicant achieves a passing score on [must pass] an appropriate content certification examination as specified in paragraph (4)(C) of this subsection for each subject in which the applicant seeks certification prior to admission. [In accordance with the TEC, §21.0441(b), applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement and have previously been admitted into an EPP may request permission to register for an appropriate content certification examination if the applicant is not seeking admission to the same EPP that previously granted test approval for a certification examination in the same certification class.]
- (C) An applicant who is seeking a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that does not require a degree from an accredited IHE as described in §233.14(c) and (d) of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area) is exempt from the minimum GPA requirement.
- (D) An applicant who does not meet the minimum GPA requirement and is seeking certification in a class other than classroom teacher must perform at or above a score equivalent to a ~~[2.5]~~ 2.50 GPA on the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytic Writing sections of the GRE® (Graduate Record Examinations) revised General Test. The State Board for Educator Certification will use equivalency scores established by the Educational Testing Service, and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will publish those equivalency scores annually on the TEA website.

- (4) For an applicant who will be seeking an initial certificate in the classroom teacher class of certificate, the applicant shall have successfully completed, prior to admission, at least:
- (A) a minimum of 12 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for the certification sought, unless certification sought is for mathematics or science at or above Grade 7; or
 - (B) 15 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for the certification sought if the certification sought is for mathematics or science at or above Grade 7; or
 - (C) a passing score on the appropriate content certification examination as specified in the figure provided in this subparagraph.

Figure: 19 TAC §227.10(a)(4)(C)

- (5) For an applicant who will be seeking an initial certificate in a class other than ~~[classroom]~~teacher, the applicant shall meet the minimum requirements for admission described in Chapter 239 of this title (relating to Student Services Certificates); Chapter 241 of this title (relating to Certification as Principal); and Chapter 242 of this title (relating to Superintendent Certificate). If an applicant has not met the minimum certification, degree, and/or experience requirement(s) for issuance of a standard certificate prior to admission, the EPP shall inform the applicant in writing of any deficiency prior to admission.
- (6) An applicant must demonstrate basic skills in reading, written communication, and mathematics by meeting the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative under the rules established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Texas Success Initiative), including one of the requirements established by §4.54 of this title (relating to Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers).
- (7) An applicant must demonstrate the English language proficiency skills as specified in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).
- (A) An applicant for CTE certification that does not require a bachelor's degree from an accredited IHE may satisfy the English language proficiency requirement with an associate's degree or high school diploma or the equivalent that was earned at an accredited IHE or an accredited high school in the United States.
 - (B) An applicant to a university ~~[undergraduate]~~ Traditional route ~~[program]~~ that leads to a bachelor's degree may satisfy the English language proficiency requirement by meeting the English language proficiency requirement of the accredited IHE at which the applicant is enrolled.
- (8) An applicant must submit an application. ~~[and participate in either an interview or other screening instrument to determine if the EPP applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought.]~~
- (9) An applicant must participate in a screening process that is based on a set of normed criteria and uses multiple measures to determine if the EPP applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought.
- ~~[(9)]~~ (10) An applicant must fulfill any other academic criteria for admission that are published and applied consistently to all EPP applicants.
- (b) A program approved by the SBEC to offer a Teacher Residency route shall use research-based best practices for recruiting and admitting candidates into the route and offer counseling and support for applicants and candidates to consider pursuing certification in the areas of need for partner LEAs.
- ~~[(b)]~~ (c) An EPP may adopt admission requirements in addition to and not in conflict with those required in this section.
- ~~[(c)]~~ (d) An EPP may not admit an applicant who:
- (1) has been reported as completing all EPP requirements by another EPP in the same certification category or class, unless the applicant only needs certification examination approval; or

- (2) has been employed for three years in a public school under a permit, intern, or probationary certificate as specified in Chapter 230, Subchapter D, of this title (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued), unless the applicant is seeking clinical teaching that may lead to the issuance of an initial standard certificate.
- (3) is seeking certification in a certificate area where the certificate and/or related certification exam is scheduled to expire within one calendar year of the admission date if the EPP is not approved to offer the next generation of that certificate.
- (e) Candidates who are admitted into certificate areas where the certification exam and/or certificate will expire must be notified by the EPP of the expiration timeline at admission and thereafter, must be notified prior to expiration within a reasonable amount of time, based on the structure and requirements of the program, for the candidate to be able to complete requirements for standard certification before the certification exam and/or certificate expires.
- (f) An EPP may admit an applicant as a late hire candidate if:
 - (1) The applicant meets all requirements for formal or contingency admission.
 - (2) No more than 5% of interns in an academic year are late hires.
- (g) An EPP may admit an applicant as a fast start candidate if:
 - (1) The applicant meets all requirements for formal or contingency admission.
 - (2) The applicant presents an official service record reflecting at least one year as teacher of record within the three years preceding admission into the EPP in a classroom teaching assignment in a foundational subject area including reading/language arts, math, science, or social studies at the elementary or secondary level and is qualified by the EPP to pursue certification in the certificate category that matches the assignment.
 - (3) The EPP verifies through an official transcript that the applicant possessed at minimum a bachelor's degree while teaching in the classroom in (g)(2) of this section.
- ~~(d)~~ (h) An EPP may admit an applicant for CTE certification who has met the experience and preparation requirements specified in Chapter 230 of this title (relating to Professional Educator Preparation and Certification) and Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates).
- ~~(e)~~ (i) An EPP may admit an applicant for the Trade and Industrial Workforce Training: Grades 6-12 certification who has met ~~[the following]~~ all requirements specified in §233.14(e) of this title (related to Career and Technical Education Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area, Trade and Industrial Workforce Training: Grades 6-12 certificate.):
 - ~~[(1) has been issued a high school diploma or a postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree;]~~
 - ~~[(2) has seven years of full time wage earning experience within the preceding 10 years in an approved occupation for which instruction is offered;]~~
 - ~~[(3) holds with respect to that occupation a current license, certificate, or registration, as applicable, issued by a nationally recognized accrediting agency based on a recognized test or measurement; and]~~
 - ~~[(4) within the period described by paragraph (2) of this subsection, has not been the subject of a complaint filed with a licensing entity or other agency that regulates the occupation of the person, other than a complaint that was determined baseless or unfounded by that entity or agency.]~~
- ~~(f)~~ (j) An EPP may admit an applicant who has met the minimum academic criteria through credentials from outside the United States that are determined to be equivalent to those required by this section using the procedures and standards specified in Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries). An EPP at an entity that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the THECB may use its own foreign credential evaluation service to meet the requirement described in

§245.10(a)(2) of this title (relating to Application Procedures), if the entity is in good standing with its accrediting organization.

~~[(g)]~~ (k) An applicant is eligible to enroll in an EPP for the purpose of completing the course of instruction, defined in §228.45(b) of this title (relating to Coursework and Training Requirements for Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 Certification), that is required for the issuance of an Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 certificate if the individual holds a valid standard, provisional, or one-year certificate specified in §230.31 of this title (relating to Types of Certificates) in one of the following certificate categories:

- (1) Bilingual Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- (2) Bilingual Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (3) Core Subjects: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (4) Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(4)]~~ (5) Core/Fine Arts/Physical Education/Health with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(5)]~~ (6) Core/Special Education with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(6)]~~ (7) Core/Bilingual Education Spanish with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(7)]~~ (8) Core/English as a Second Language Supplemental with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(8)]~~ (9) Core with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(9)]~~ (10) Early Childhood Education;
- ~~[(10)]~~ (11) Elementary--General;
- ~~[(11)]~~ (12) Elementary--General (Grades 1-6);
- ~~[(12)]~~ (13) Elementary--General (Grades 1-8);
- ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Elementary Early Childhood Education (Prekindergarten-Grade 6);
- ~~[(14)]~~ (15) Elementary Self-Contained (Grades 1-8);
- ~~[(15)]~~ (16) English as a Second Language Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- ~~[(16)]~~ (17) English as a Second Language Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(17)]~~ (18) Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- ~~[(18)]~~ (19) Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- ~~[(19)]~~ (20) Kindergarten;
- ~~[(20)]~~ (21) Prekindergarten-Grade 5--General;
- ~~[(21)]~~ (22) Prekindergarten-Grade 6--General; or
- ~~[(22)]~~ (23) Teacher of Young Children--General.

Source: The provisions of this §227.10 adopted to be effective July 11, 1999, 24 TexReg 5011; amended to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355; amended to be effective December 22, 2019, 44 TexReg 7683; amended to be effective October 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 7249; amended to be effective August 4, 2024, 49 TexReg 5533.

§227.15. Contingency Admission.

- (a) An applicant may be accepted into an alternative certification program preparing candidates in any certification class or a post-baccalaureate program preparing candidates in a class other than teacher on a contingency basis pending receipt of an official transcript showing the degree required for admission ~~[conferred]~~, as specified in §227.10(a)(1)-(2) of this title (relating to Admission Criteria), has been conferred provided that:
- (1) the applicant is currently enrolled in and expects to complete the courses and other requirements for obtaining, ~~[at a minimum, a bachelor's]~~ the minimum degree required for admission, at the end of the semester in which admission to the program is sought;
 - (2) all other admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this ~~subchapter~~ title have been met;
 - (3) the EPP must notify the applicant of the offer of contingency admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification; and
 - (4) the applicant must accept the offer of contingency admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (b) The effective date of contingency admission shall be included in the offer of contingency admission.
- (c) An EPP must notify the Texas Education Agency within seven calendar days of a candidate's contingency admission by creating an admission record in the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) for that entity.
- (d) An applicant admitted on a contingency basis may begin program training and may be approved to take a certification examination but shall not be recommended for an intern or a probationary certificate until the ~~[bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education (IHE)]~~ EPP verifies on an official transcript that the required degree has been conferred.
- (e) Except as provided by this section, an ~~[alternative certification]~~ educator preparation program ~~[or post-baccalaureate program]~~, prior to admission on a contingency basis, shall not provide coursework, training, and/or examination approval to an applicant that leads to initial certification in any class of certificate. A ~~[post-baccalaureate] program within a university-based EPP [or alternative certification program at an IHE]~~ may admit an applicant if coursework and training was provided by the same IHE as part of:
- (1) the degree to be conferred; or
 - (2) ~~[a prerequisite for a master's degree leading to initial certification]~~ prerequisite courses for a degree leading to initial certification; or
 - (3) a different ~~[post-baccalaureate]~~ program of study.
- (f) The contingency admission will be valid for only the fall, spring, or summer semester for which the contingency admission was granted and may not be extended for another semester. The end of each semester shall be consistent with the common calendar established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (g) The EPP must collect an official transcript that reflects the required degree has been conferred. If the required degree is not conferred by the end of the valid semester as identified in (f) of this sub-section, the candidate must be removed from the EPP. Candidates who are removed and who seek reinstatement into the EPP must apply and meet all admission requirements as set forth in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria) and must be formally admitted as set forth in §227.17 of this title (relating to Formal Admission).

Source: The provisions of this §227.15 adopted to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355; amended to be effective October 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 7249.

§227.17. Formal Admission.

- (a) For an applicant to be formally admitted to an educator preparation program (EPP), the applicant must meet all the admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria).
- (b) For an applicant to be formally admitted to an EPP, the EPP must notify the applicant of the offer of formal admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (c) For an applicant to be considered formally admitted to the EPP, the applicant must accept the offer of formal admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (d) The effective date of formal admission shall be included in the offer of formal admission.
- (e) An EPP must notify the Texas Education Agency within seven calendar days of a candidate's formal admission by creating an admission record in the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) for that entity.
- (f) Except as provided by §227.15 of this title (relating to Contingency Admission), an ~~[alternative certification]~~ educator preparation program ~~[or post baccalaureate program]~~, prior to formal admission, shall not provide coursework, training, and/or examination approval to an applicant that leads to initial certification in any class of certificate. A program within a university-based EPP ~~[post baccalaureate program or alternative certification program at an institution of higher education (IHE)]~~ may admit an applicant if coursework and training was provided by the same IHE as part of:
 - (1) a previous degree that was conferred;
 - (2) ~~a~~ prerequisite courses for a ~~[master's]~~ degree leading to initial certification; or
 - (3) a different ~~[post baccalaureate]~~ program of study.

Source: The provisions of this §227.17 adopted to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355.

§227.19. Incoming Class Grade Point Average.

- (a) The overall grade point average (GPA) of each incoming class admitted between September 1 and August 31 of each year by an educator preparation program (EPP), including an alternative certification program, may not be less than 3.00 on a four-point scale or the equivalent. In computing the overall GPA of an incoming class, an EPP may include:
 - (1) the GPA of each person in the incoming class based on all coursework previously attempted by the person at an accredited institution of higher education (IHE):
 - (A) at which the applicant is currently enrolled ~~[(undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission)]~~; or
 - (B) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred ~~[(alternative certification program formal admission or post baccalaureate program formal admission)]~~; or
 - (2) the GPA of each person in the incoming class based only on the last 60 semester credit hours of all coursework attempted by the person at an accredited IHE:
 - (A) at which the applicant is currently enrolled ~~[(undergraduate university program formal admission, alternative certification program contingency admission, or post baccalaureate program contingency admission)]~~. If an applicant has less than 60 semester credit hours on the official transcript from the accredited IHE at which the applicant is currently enrolled, the EPP ~~[may]~~ shall use grades from all coursework previously attempted by a person at the most recent accredited IHE(s), starting with the most recent coursework from the official transcript(s), to calculate a GPA for the last 60 semester credit hours; or
 - (B) from which the most recent bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited IHE was conferred. If an applicant has hours beyond the most recent degree, an EPP may use

grades from the most recent 60 hours of coursework from an accredited IHE ~~[(alternative certification program formal admission or post-baccalaureate program formal admission)]~~.

- (b) A person seeking career and technical education certification is not included in determining the overall GPA of an incoming class.

Source: The provisions of this §227.19 adopted to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198.

~~§227.20. Implementation Date.~~

~~The provisions of this chapter that were in effect on the date an educator preparation program (EPP) candidate was admitted to an EPP shall determine the program requirements applicable to that candidate are effective for applicants admitted September 1, 2026 and after.~~

Source: The provisions of this §227.20 adopted to be effective July 11, 1999, 24 TexReg 5011; amended to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355.