

Item 13:

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

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. Proposed revisions would update current requirements for candidate admission into educator preparation programs (EPPs) and the preliminary criminal history evaluation process to 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), specifies 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.

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff anticipate presenting proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 227, to the SBEC at a future meeting for approval to be published in the *Texas Register*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC rules in 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, establish requirements for admission to an EPP and to complete preliminary evaluation of a candidate's certification eligibility.

The proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 227, are described below.

Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs

TEA staff will discuss potential updates to include:

- definitions;
- admission requirements for the residency route; and
- contingency and formal admission requirements

These potential updates would align with recent legislation, respond to stakeholder input, and complement proposed updates to Chapter 228 and Chapter 230 being discussed in separate agenda items.

Subchapter B, Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility

TEA staff will explain the current Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation (PCHE) process and volume of requests. TEA staff will also share ideas on opportunities to improve processes as

needed, and establish alignments where applicable, with recent legislation and other anticipated SBEC rulemaking.

NEXT STEPS: TEA staff anticipates continued conversations with stakeholders to obtain helpful input prior to presenting proposed rules for approval by the Board at a future SBEC meeting.

Staff Members Responsible:

Lorrie Ayers, Director of EPP Management

David Rodriguez, Executive Director of Investigations