

Chapter 228. Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs

Subchapter B. Approval of Educator Preparation Programs

§228.11. New Entity Approval.

- (a) An entity seeking initial approval to deliver an educator preparation program (EPP) shall attend a new applicant workshop conducted by Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff and, by December 1 of the same year as the entity attends the workshop, submit an application with evidence indicating the ability to comply with the provisions of this chapter, Chapter 227 of this title (relating to Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates), Chapter 229 of this title (relating to Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs), and Chapter 230 of this title (relating to Professional Educator Preparation and Certification).
- (1) The application will be in a format determined by the TEA and shall include all the following program components:
- (A) ownership and governance of the EPP;
 - (B) criteria for admission to the EPP;
 - (C) EPP curriculum;
 - (D) EPP coursework and training, including ongoing support during clinical teaching, internship, practicum, and residency experiences;
 - (E) assessment and evaluation of candidates for certification and EPP improvement;
 - (F) professional conduct of EPP staff and candidates;
 - (G) EPP complaint procedures;
 - (H) certification procedures;
 - (I) required submissions of information, surveys, and other accountability data; and
 - (J) 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.
- (2) The applicant may submit an application for one certificate class and up to five certificate categories within the certificate class requested for initial approval.
- (3) The applicant must provide evidence the proposed program has the staff, knowledge, and expertise to support individuals in each certificate class and category being requested.
- (b) TEA staff will review the application and conduct a pre-approval site visit.
- (c) TEA staff shall recommend to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) whether the entity should be approved.
- (d) A post-approval site visit will be conducted after the end of the first academic year in which the entity reports completers to TEA in accordance with §229.3 of this title (relating to Required Submissions of Information, Surveys, and Other Data).
- (e) All EPPs must be implemented as approved by the SBEC.
- (f) An individual or entity seeking approval from the SBEC as an EPP must have at least one physical location open for business in the state of Texas.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §228.11 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a); 21.031; 21.041(b)(1)-(4); 21.044; 21.0441; 21.0442(c); 21.0443; 21.045(a); 21.0452; 21.0453; 21.0454; 21.0455; 21.046(b) and (c); 21.048(a); 21.0485; 21.0487(c); 21.0489(c); 21.04891; 21.049(a); 21.0491; 21.050(a)-(c); and 21.051; and the Texas Occupations Code, §55.007.

Source: The provisions of this §228.11 adopted to be effective September 1, 2024, 49 TexReg 3531.

§228.13. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval.

- (a) An educator preparation program (EPP) under this chapter shall be reviewed at least once every five years; however, a review may be conducted at any time at the discretion of Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, continuing approval reviews will evaluate implementation of the requirements of this chapter, including implementation during the 2025-2026 academic year.
- (b) To conduct the five-year review, TEA staff may conduct either:
 - (1) an onsite visit, in which TEA staff go in person to an EPP's physical location to review the EPP's evidence of compliance; or
 - (2) a desk review, in which TEA staff review the EPP's evidence of compliance remotely.
- (c) To efficiently administer and implement the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)'s purpose under this chapter and the Texas Education Code (TEC), TEA staff must use the following risk factors to determine the need for discretionary reviews and the type of five-year reviews:
 - (1) a history of the EPP's compliance with state law and SBEC rules, standards, and procedures, with consideration given to:
 - (A) the seriousness of any violation of a rule, standard, or procedure;
 - (B) whether the violation resulted in an action being taken against the program;
 - (C) whether the violation was promptly remedied by the program;
 - (D) the number of alleged violations; and
 - (E) any other matter considered to be appropriate in evaluating the EPP's compliance history;
 - (2) whether the EPP meets the accountability standards under TEC, §21.045; and
 - (3) whether the EPP is accredited by other organizations.
- (d) When an EPP consolidates with another EPP as described in §228.21 of this title (relating to Program Consolidation or Closure), TEA staff shall conduct a review of the resulting program within one year after the effective date for the consolidation.
- (e) The EPP under review must pay the fee for the continuing approval review, as set out in §229.9 of this title (relating to Fees for Educator Preparation Program Approval and Accountability), prior to the start date of the review.
- (f) At the time of the review, the EPP shall submit to TEA staff a status report regarding its compliance with existing standards and requirements for EPPs and documentary evidence of its compliance. To determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the EPP shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Eighty percent of the records reviewed must be compliant with applicable requirements in the Texas Administrative Code and TEC. Evidence of compliance is described in the figure provided in this subsection.
[Figure: 19 TAC §228.13\(f\)](#)
- (g) An EPP's participation in a continuing approval review pilot may serve as the EPP's required five-year review as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section.
- (h) An EPP is responsible for establishing procedures and practices to ensure the security of information against unauthorized or accidental access, disclosure, modification, destruction, or misuse prior to the expiration of the retention period. Unless specified otherwise, the EPP must retain evidence of compliance described in the figure provided in subsection (f) of this section for a period of five years. The EPP shall retain documents that evidence a candidate's eligibility for admission to the EPP and all evidence of a candidate's completion of all EPP requirements for a period of five years after a candidate completes, withdraws from, or is discharged or released from the EPP.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §228.13 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a); 21.031; 21.041(b)(1)-(4); 21.044; 21.0441; 21.0442(c); 21.0443; 21.045(a); 21.0452; 21.0453; 21.0454; 21.0455; 21.046(b) and (c); 21.048(a); 21.0485; 21.0487(c); 21.0489(c); 21.04891; 21.049(a); 21.0491; 21.050(a)-(c); and 21.051; and the Texas Occupations Code, §55.007.

Source: The provisions of this §228.13 adopted to be effective September 1, 2024, 49 TexReg 3531.

§228.15. Additional Approval.

- (a) An alternative certification program seeking approval to implement a clinical teaching component shall submit a description of the following elements of the program for approval by Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff on an application in a form developed by TEA staff that shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- (1) general clinical teaching program description, including conditions under which clinical teaching may be implemented;
 - (2) selection criteria for clinical teachers;
 - (3) selection criteria for cooperating teachers;
 - (4) description of support and communication between candidates, cooperating teachers, and the alternative certification program;
 - (5) description of program supervision; and
 - (6) description of how candidates are evaluated.
- (b) An educator preparation program (EPP) seeking approval to implement a residency route as defined in §228.2 of this title (relating to Definitions) must submit a complete application in a form developed by TEA staff for consideration and approval by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). The application must include evidence indicating the ability to comply with the provisions of this chapter, Chapter 230 of this title (relating to Professional Educator Preparation and Certification), and Chapter 227 of this title (relating to Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates). Residency programs approved by the SBEC prior to the 2026-2027 academic year are approved to offer the residency route for the 2026-2027 academic year only.
- (1) For 2027-2028 academic year approval to offer a residency route, only SBEC-approved residency programs approved by the SBEC prior to the 2026-2027 academic year are eligible to complete the application process. To determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the program shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Requirements and evidence of compliance for the 2027-2028 academic year are described in the figure provided in this paragraph.
[Figure: 19 TAC §228.15\(b\)\(1\)](#)
 - (2) For 2028-2029 academic year approval to offer a residency route, SBEC-approved residency programs under paragraph (1) of this subsection and EPPs seeking new approval for a residency route must complete the application process. To determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the program shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Requirements and evidence of compliance are described in the figure provided in this paragraph.
[Figure: 19 TAC §228.15\(b\)\(2\)](#)
 - (3) TEA staff will review the application and required evidence and shall recommend to the SBEC whether the residency route should be approved.
 - (4) EPPs that currently have an SBEC-approved residency route must complete the additional application process in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection to secure a new SBEC approval. EPPs must be approved for the 2027-2028 cycle by June 30, 2027, and for the 2028-2029 cycle by June 30, 2028, or approval for the residency route shall be revoked.

- (5) An EPP with a status of Accredited Probation shall not be approved to implement a residency route.
 - (6) A post-approval site visit will be conducted during the program's scheduled five-year continuing approval review that occurs after the first year in which the program reports residency completers to the TEA in accordance with §229.3 of this title (relating to Required Submissions of Information, Surveys, and Other Data).
 - (7) The SBEC may take action to revoke approval to offer the route if an EPP is rated any combination of Accredited-Warned and/or Accredited-Probation for three consecutive years. If the route approval is revoked, the program shall adhere to the requirements for program closure contained in §228.21 of this title (relating to Program Consolidation or Closure).
- (c) An EPP seeking approval to implement a preservice alternative certification route as defined in §228.2 of this title must submit a complete application in a form developed by TEA staff for consideration and approval by the SBEC. The application must include evidence indicating the ability to comply with the provisions of this chapter, Chapter 230 of this title, and Chapter 227 of this title.
- (1) For 2027-2028 academic year approval to offer the preservice alternative certification route, EPPs must complete the application process. To determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the program shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Requirements and evidence of compliance for applications submitted are described in the figure provided in this paragraph.
[Figure: 19 TAC §228.15\(c\)\(1\)](#)
 - (2) For 2028-2029 academic year approval of SBEC-approved preservice alternative certification programs and for EPPs seeking new approval for a preservice alternative certification route, to determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the program shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Requirements and evidence of compliance are described in the figure provided in this paragraph.
[Figure: 19 TAC §228.15\(c\)\(2\)](#)
 - (3) TEA staff will review the application and required evidence and shall recommend to the SBEC whether the preservice alternative certification route should be approved.
 - (4) An EPP with a status of Accredited-Probation shall not be approved to implement a preservice alternative certification route.
 - (5) A post-approval site visit will be conducted during the program's scheduled five-year continuing approval review that occurs after the first year in which the program reports completers in the preservice alternative certification route to the TEA in accordance with §229.3 of this title.
 - (6) The SBEC may take action to revoke approval to offer the route if an EPP is rated any combination of Accredited-Warned and/or Accredited-Probation for three consecutive years or is rated Accredited-Probation for two consecutive years. If the route approval is revoked, the program shall adhere to the requirements for program closure contained in §228.21 of this title.
- (d) An EPP seeking approval to implement a Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) traditional route to meet requirements in TEC, §21.903, must submit a complete application in a form developed by TEA staff for consideration and approval by the SBEC. The application must include evidence indicating the ability to comply with the provisions of this chapter, Chapter 230 of this title, and Chapter 227 of this title.
- (1) For 2027-2028 academic year approval to offer the PREP traditional route, EPPs must complete the application process. To determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the program shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Requirements and evidence of compliance for applications are described in the figure provided in this paragraph.
[Figure: 19 TAC §228.15\(d\)\(1\)](#)

- (2) For 2028-2029 academic year approval of SBEC-approved PREP traditional programs and for EPPs seeking new approval for a PREP traditional route, to determine whether the EPP's evidence of compliance is sufficient, the program shall be scored on a rubric developed and published by TEA staff. Requirements and evidence of compliance are described in the figure provided in this paragraph.
Figure: 19 TAC §228.15(d)(2)
 - (3) TEA staff will review the application and required evidence and shall recommend to the SBEC whether the PREP traditional route should be approved.
 - (4) An EPP with a status of Accredited-Probation shall not be approved to implement a PREP traditional route.
 - (5) A post-approval site visit will be conducted during the program's scheduled five-year continuing approval review that occurs after the first year in which the program reports completers in the PREP traditional route to the TEA in accordance with §229.3 of this title.
 - (6) The SBEC may take action to revoke approval to offer the route if an EPP is rated any combination of Accredited-Warning and/or Accredited-Probation for three consecutive years or is rated Accredited-Probation for two consecutive years. If the route approval is revoked, the program shall adhere to the requirements for program closure contained in §228.21 of this title.
- (e) An EPP seeking the addition of certificate categories and classes must comply with the following as applicable.
- (1) An EPP that is rated Accredited, as provided in §229.4 of this title (relating to Determination of Accreditation Status), may request the addition of a certificate class that has not been previously approved by the SBEC but must present a complete application in a form developed by TEA staff for consideration and approval by the SBEC. The application at a minimum must include the components identified in §228.11(a)(1) of this title (relating to New Entity Approval) and must document evidence that the EPP has the staff knowledge and expertise to support individuals participating in the certificate class being requested.
 - (2) An EPP that is rated Accredited, as provided in §229.4 of this title, may request additional certificate categories be approved by TEA staff if the requested additional certificate categories are within the classes of certificates for which the EPP has been previously approved by the SBEC, by submitting an application in a form developed by TEA staff. The application shall include, at a minimum, the curriculum matrix, a description of how the educator standards for the certificate are incorporated into the coursework and training; and documentation showing that the program has the staff knowledge and expertise to support individuals participating in the certificate category being requested. The curriculum matrix must include the educator standards, the test framework competencies, the applicable Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, the course and/or module names, and the benchmarks and assessments used to measure mastery of the standards and competencies and candidate progress through coursework.
 - (3) An EPP rated Accredited, as provided in §229.4 of this title, and currently approved to offer a certificate for which the SBEC is changing the grade level of the certificate may request to offer the preapproved category at different grade levels if the requested additional certificate categories are within the classes of certificates for which the EPP has been previously approved by the SBEC, by submitting an application in a form developed by TEA staff that shall include, at a minimum, a modified curriculum matrix that includes:
 - (A) the educator standards;
 - (B) test framework competencies;
 - (C) course and/or module names; and
 - (D) the benchmarks and assessments used to measure successful program progress.
 - (4) An EPP that has an accreditation status other than Accredited, as listed in §229.4 of this title, may not apply to offer additional certificate categories or classes of certificates.

- (f) An EPP that is rated Accredited, may open additional locations, provided the program informs TEA staff of any additional locations at which the program is providing educator preparation 60 days prior to providing educator preparation at the location. Additional program locations must operate in accordance with the program components under which the program has been approved to operate. An EPP that has an accreditation status listed in §229.4 of this title other than Accredited may not open additional locations.
- (g) A PREP program and a traditional program may seek approval to offer coursework in an asynchronous, online format by submitting an application in a form developed by TEA staff for consideration and approval by the TEA. Any coursework submitted by an EPP for approval in an asynchronous, online format will be reviewed by TEA staff and will be evaluated to ensure that all coursework:
 - (1) provides timely, consistent feedback to candidates regarding their assignments;
 - (2) includes performance tasks that are based on real classroom practices and/or the candidates' field-based experiences or clinical experiences. Candidates must be provided specific, targeted feedback that supports educator standards listed in Chapter 235 of this title (relating to Classroom Teacher Certification Standards);
 - (3) includes multiple performance benchmarks of candidate proficiency in the educator standards and test framework competencies related to the certification class or category sought; and
 - (4) provides a weekly opportunity for synchronous touchpoints with an assigned instructor.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §228.15 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031; 21.041(b)(1)-(4) and (e); 21.0412, as added by House Bill (HB) 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025; 21.044; 21.044(i) and (j), as added by HB 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025; 21.0441; 21.0442(c); 21.04421, 21.04422, and 21.04423, as added by HB 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025; 21.0443, as amended by HB 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025; 21.045(a); 21.0452, 21.0453; 21.0454; 21.0455; 21.046(b) and (c); 21.048(a); 21.0485; 21.0487(c); 21.0489(c); 21.04891; 21.049(a); 21.0491; 21.050(a)-(c); 21.051; 21.067, as added by HB 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025; and 21.901-21.905, as added by HB 2, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025; and the Texas Occupations Code, §55.007.

Source: The provisions of this §228.15 adopted to be effective September 1, 2024, 49 TexReg 3531; amended to be effective August 2, 2026, 51 TexReg 4845.

§228.17. Limitations on Educator Preparation Program Amendments.

- (a) An educator preparation program (EPP) that is rated Accredited or Accredited-Not Rated may amend its program, provided the program informs Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff of any amendments 60 days prior to implementing the amendments. An EPP must submit notification of a proposed amendment to its program on a letter signed by the EPP's legal authority or representative that explains the amendment, details the rationale for changes, and includes documents relevant to the amendment.
- (b) An EPP that is not rated Accredited or Accredited-Not Rated may amend its program, provided the program informs TEA staff of any amendments 120 days prior to implementing the amendments. An EPP must submit notification of a proposed amendment on a letter signed by the EPP's legally authorized agent or representative that explains the amendment, details the rationale for changes, and includes documents relevant to the amendment. The EPP shall be notified in writing of the approval or denial of its proposal within 60 days following the receipt of the notification by TEA staff.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §228.17 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a); 21.031; 21.041(b)(1)-(4); 21.044; 21.0441; 21.0442(c); 21.0443; 21.045(a); 21.0452; 21.0453; 21.0454; 21.0455; 21.046(b) and (c); 21.048(a); 21.0485; 21.0487(c); 21.0489(c); 21.04891; 21.049(a); 21.0491; 21.050(a)-(c); and 21.051; and the Texas Occupations Code, §55.007.

Source: The provisions of this §228.17 adopted to be effective September 1, 2024, 49 TexReg 3531.

§228.19. Contingency of Approval.

- (a) Approval of an educator preparation program (EPP), including each specific certificate class and category, by the State Board for Educator Certification, is contingent upon approval by other lawfully established

governing bodies such as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, boards of regents, or school district boards of trustees.

- (b) Continuing EPP approval is contingent upon compliance with superseding state and federal law.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §228.19 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a); 21.031; 21.041(b)(1)-(4); 21.044; 21.0441; 21.0442(c); 21.0443; 21.045(a); 21.0452; 21.0453; 21.0454; 21.0455; 21.046(b) and (c); 21.048(a); 21.0485; 21.0487(c); 21.0489(c); 21.04891; 21.049(a); 21.0491; 21.050(a)-(c); and 21.051; and the Texas Occupations Code, §55.007.

Source: The provisions of this §228.19 adopted to be effective September 1, 2024, 49 TexReg 3531.