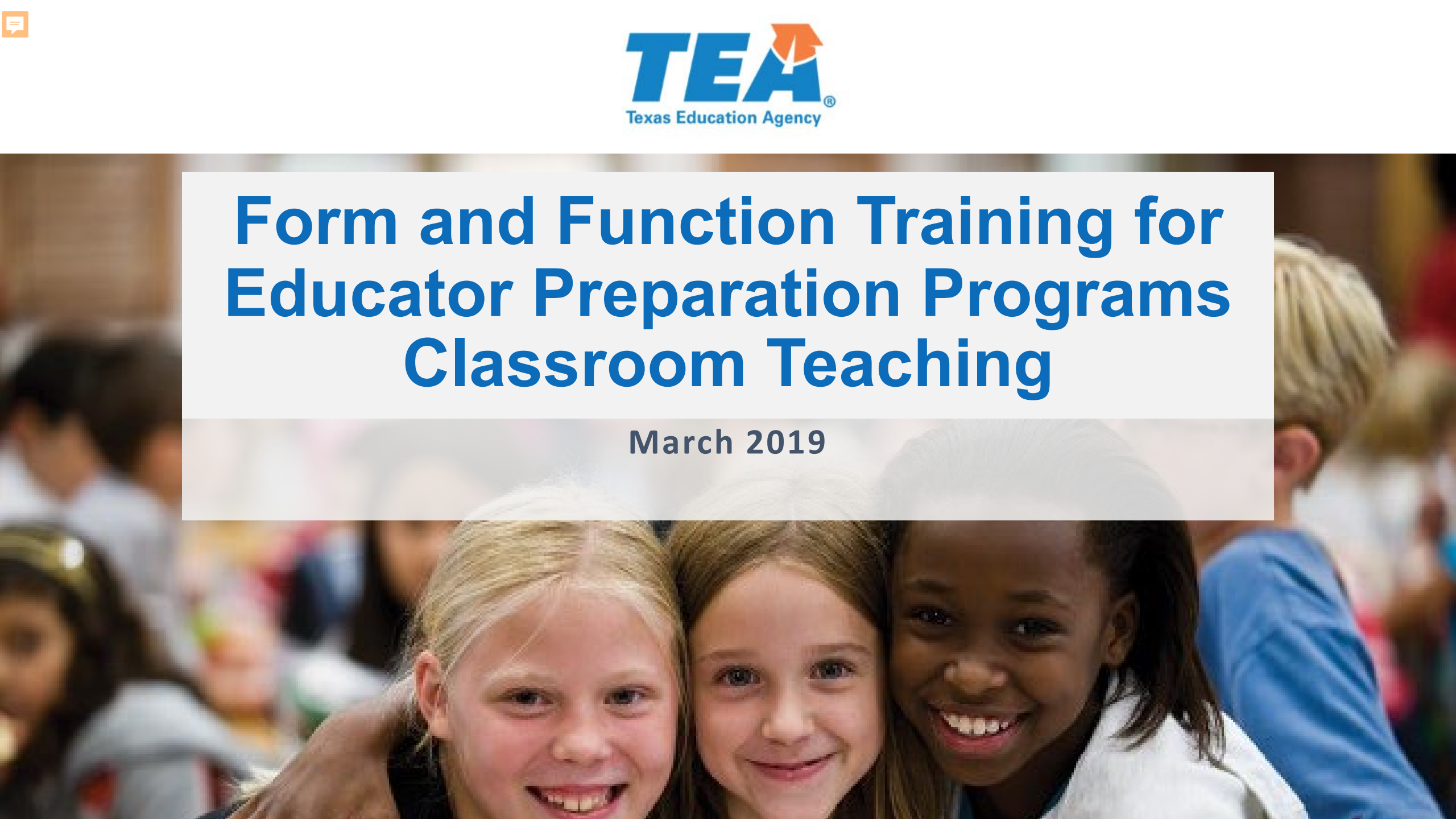




Form and Function Training for Educator Preparation Programs Classroom Teaching

March 2019





Welcome to the Webinar

TEA Division of Educator Standards, Testing & Preparation

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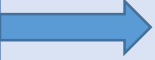
Beth Burkhart – Program Specialist, Educator Standards

Background and Purpose

- Provide an overview of some of the recent changes to the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) governing educator preparation and certification and provide clarification of existing rules.
- The last Form and Function webinar was conducted in January 2017, following rule changes that were effective 12-27-2016.
- Since rules are frequently revised as a result of legislation, stakeholder and TEA staff recommendations, or to align with other state guidelines, we feel this training may help you to stay abreast of these changes.



Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters

Chapter	Chapter Title	
 227	Subchapter A – Admission to Educator Preparation Programs	Subchapter B – Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility
228	Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs	
230	Professional Educator Preparation and Certification	



**What's new (and not new) about EPP admission rules?
19 TAC - Chapter 227**



Alternative vs. Post-Baccalaureate Program

Alternative Certification Program is an approved EPP designed as an alternative to a traditional undergraduate certification program. Individuals already hold an appropriate college degree.

Post-Baccalaureate Program is an EPP delivered by an accredited and approved institution of higher education, and is designed for individuals who already hold at least a bachelor's degree and are seeking an additional degree. Often, these individuals are seeking a master's degree as well as certification.

[19 TAC §227.5]

To be formally admitted, the candidate must:

- meet all requirements in TAC and those specific to the EPP.
- receive the offer in writing and accept in writing.
- be given a specific date for admission.

The EPP must:

- notify TEA within 7 days by uploading test approval in ECOS.
- use the same admission date in the Test Approval upload.
- use the same admission date on the GPA spreadsheet.
- upload the candidate to the Finisher Records List as Enrolled.

[19 TAC §227.17 and §229.3]

Providing Coursework Prior to Admission

Prior to formal admission, an Alternative or Post-Baccalaureate EPP shall not provide coursework, training and/or examination approval. (Not a new rule)

New Rule Exception for University Programs:

An Alternative or Post-Baccalaureate EPP at an institution of higher education (IHE) may admit a candidate based on coursework provided by the same IHE if the coursework was part of a:

- previously conferred degree;
- prerequisite for a master's degree leading to initial certification; or
- different post-baccalaureate program of study.

[19 TAC §227.17(f)(1-3)]

10% Exception to the 2.5 GPA Minimum

An EPP may admit a candidate whose GPA is less than 2.5 only in extraordinary circumstances and may not use this provision for more than 10% of an incoming class of candidates.

- Document work, business, or career experiences equivalent to academic achievement represented by a 2.5 GPA
- Must pass the content examination (PACT)

NOTE: The overall GPA of each incoming class (Sept 1 to Aug 31) may not be less than 3.0 on a four-point scale.

[19 TAC §227.10(a)(3)(B) and §227.19]

Contingency Admission

An applicant may be accepted into an ACP or Post-Bac program on a contingency basis, pending receipt of an official transcript showing degree conferred, provided that:

- Applicant is currently enrolled (in an IHE) and expects to earn a bachelor's degree at the end of the semester in which admission to the EPP is sought;
- All other admission requirements, are met;
- Written notification and acceptance is provided, with an effective date;
- The EPP must notify TEA within 7 days of the offer of contingency admission;
- May begin training and take examinations; however,
- May not be issued an intern or probationary certificate until a bachelor's degree is conferred.

Contingency admission is valid for the fall, spring, or summer semester for which it is granted and may not be extended if the candidate does not graduate or postpones admission.

Remember: There is no such thing as “conditional” or “provisional” admission.

[19 TAC §227.15]

Options for English Language Proficiency

Effective 10-17-2017

An applicant to an EPP must demonstrate the English language proficiency skills as specified in 19 TAC §230.11(b)(5).

- Undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States; or
- Undergraduate or graduate degree earned at an institution of higher education in a country outside the United States listed in

[Figure: 19 TAC §230.11\(b\)\(5\)\(C\)](#)

- Verification of minimum scaled scores on the **Texas of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)** -
Speaking - 24 Listening - 22 Reading - 22 Writing - 21

An applicant for a **Career and Technology Education (CTE)** certification that does not require a bachelor's degree 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 U.S.

An applicant to an **university undergraduate 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.

[19 TAC §227.10(a)(7)]

Background Checks and Fingerprinting

Educator preparation programs should 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.

Fingerprinting can be initiated as an applicant for certification, or through employment with a Texas school district or charter school.

- Applicants for Certification – *TEC §22.0831*
- School District Employees (Certified and Non-Certified) - *§22.0831 & §22.0833*
- Substitute Teachers - *§22.0836*

Fingerprinting requires the candidate to have a social security number. Persons issued temporary file numbers by TEA must obtain an SSN before they will be able to fingerprint. A copy of the SSN card must be sent to TEA through the Help Desk prior to the fingerprinting to allow the records to be corrected.

[19 TAC §227.1(b)]

Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation (PCHE)

Candidates may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation prior to admission to an EPP. (Adopted 10/28/2010, amended 2/28/2016)

The agency's written opinion about an individual's eligibility for certification is based on the individual's self-reported criminal history.

- Request the PCHE and make \$50 payment online (nonrefundable)

May be performed for anyone who:

- Is applying to an EPP or taking a test and,
- Has been convicted or received deferred adjudication for a crime.

Fingerprints will still be required when the individual applies for a certificate.

TEA may investigate at the time of application if additional details are discovered.

Not required and not needed if there is nothing to report.

[19 TAC, Chapter §227, Subchapter B]

EPPs must inform, in writing, each applicant and candidate of the:

- ❖ potential impact of criminal convictions on becoming certified;
- ❖ rules regarding specific criminal offenses [19 TAC §249.16]; and,
- ❖ right to request a preliminary criminal history evaluation [19 TAC § 227.103]

Failure to notify applicants and candidates could result in the following, if an individual is denied certification on the basis of a criminal offense:

- ❖ Refund of EPP application or tuition fees, and/or
- ❖ Refund of fees for examinations approved by the EPP.

Best Practice: EPPs should document written notification by maintaining a signed statement for each applicant and candidate.

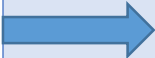
[19 TAC §227.1(d-e), §227, Subchapter B]



Questions about Admission?



Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters

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227	Subchapter A – Admission to Educator Preparation Programs	Subchapter B – Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility
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What's new (and not new) about EPP delivery rules?

19 TAC - Chapter 228

Required Curriculum Topics

Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Youth Suicide training by an approved provider of a best-practice, research-based curriculum. *TEA continues to work with EPPs to identify acceptable providers that are readily available at a low cost.*

Appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students – *provided by the EPP.*

Digital learning and literacy evaluation aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards – *provided by the EPP.*

[19 TAC §228.30(c)]

Options for Clinical Teaching

- Clinical teaching for 14 weeks of full-day (100%) of the school day (70 days)
- Clinical teaching for 28 weeks of half-day (50%) of the school day (140 days)

Full-day placement must **not be less than an average of 4 hours per day** in the subject area and grade level of the certificate sought. The average includes intermissions and recesses, but not conference or duty-free lunch periods. Clinical teaching may be up to 5 full days or 10 half days fewer for documented maternity, military, illness or bereavement leave.

Clinical teaching must take place in an **actual school setting**, not a distance learning lab or virtual school.

Clinical Teaching is successful when the candidate demonstrates proficiency in each standard and the field supervisor and cooperating teacher agree that he or she should be recommended for a standard certificate. If either party does not agree, he or she must place the reasons in writing. (12-20-2018)

[19 TAC §228.35(e)(2)(A)]

A teaching internship must be for a minimum of one full school year for an assignment that matches the certification category sought, typically 180 days. The internship may be up to 30 days fewer for documented maternity, military, illness or bereavement leave or if the intern is a late hire.

- An internship assignment must not be less than an **average of 4 hours per day** in the subject area and grade level of the certificate sought.
- An internship must take place in an **actual school setting**, not a distance learning lab or virtual school.
- Candidate **must hold an intern or probationary certificate** while participating in an internship.

An internship is successful when the candidate demonstrates proficiency in each standard, and the field supervisor and campus supervisor agree that he or she should be recommended for a standard certificate. If any party does not agree, he or she must place the reasons in writing. (NEW)

[19 TAC §228.35(e)(2)(A)]

Deactivation of Intern / Probationary Certificates

EPP must request deactivation of an intern or probationary certificate when:

- Candidate resigns, is non-renewed, or is terminated by the school
- Candidate is discharged or released from the EPP
- Candidate withdraws from the EPP
- Assignment does not meet the requirements of the internship. **(NEW)**

Requests must be emailed promptly to kerri.elzie@tea.texas.gov. See rule for specific timelines for each circumstance.

Outcome: The certificate is moved to Inactive status 30 days after the effective date of the qualifying condition.

[19 TAC §228.35(e)(2)(B)(vi)]

Early Childhood: PK – Grade 3 Certificate

Coursework and training for the Early Childhood: PK-Grade 3 Certificate:

- Planning and teaching practices for early childhood
- Assessment of instruction and learning
- Working with families, students, and community
- Diversity and equity

A program for an **uncertified candidate** would include at least 300 hours of coursework / training.

Certified teachers with a certificate that includes PK-3 grade range in all subjects may complete a modified program of study of at least 150 hours, which does not include clinical teaching or an internship.

Certified teachers without a certificate that includes PK-3 grade range may complete a modified program of study with a required clinical teaching or an internship.

Must complete an approved EPP, even for certified teachers. **Not available by exam only.**

[19 TAC §228.35(i)]

TVI is a Supplemental Certificate, valid for grades EC-12. A supplemental certificate must be issued in conjunction with or subsequent to a base classroom certificate, such as EC-6, 4-8, 7-12 or other classroom certificate. It is not a “standalone” certificate.

By statute, an approved program of study is required.

- EPP must include 300 clock-hours of coursework and/or training
- EPP must include 350 clock-hours of a clinical experience assignment in an approved school
- EPP must provide support with a cooperating teacher or consultant
- EPP will collaborate with the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Statewide Mentor Program.
- Formal observations of at least 135 minutes during the experience, one in each third.

[19 TAC §228.35(j)]

Prerequisites:

- High school diploma or equivalent, postsecondary credential, certificate or degree.
- Seven years of full-time, wage-earning experience in the preceding 10 years in an approved occupation.
- Current license, certificate, or registration, as applicable, by a nationally recognized accrediting agency based on a recognized test or measurement.
- Not the subject of a licensing complaint, other than a complaint that was unfounded.

Training:

- Minimum of 200 clock-hours of coursework and/or training at an EPP.
- Internship of one year in an appropriate assignment with not less than an average of 4 hours per day.

[19 TAC §228.35(b) and 19 TAC §233.14(e)]

Long-Term Substitute Experience for FBE

Up to 15 clock-hours of field-based experience (FBE) may be satisfied by serving as a long-term substitute.

- 30 consecutive days in an assignment as a classroom teacher
- May occur during the 2 years prior to or after EPP admission
- Must be documented by the EPP
- Must be completed in an accredited public or private school

Effective 12-20-2018

[19 TAC 228.35(e)(1)(C)]

1) Educational Aide Exemption

Under the TEC, §21.050(c), a candidate who receives a bachelor's degree required for a teaching certificate on the basis of higher education coursework completed while receiving an exemption from tuition and fees under the TEC, §54.363, is exempt from the requirements of this chapter relating to field-based experience, internship, or clinical teaching.

2) Clinical teaching for 28 weeks of half-day (50%) of the school day (140 days) – must be approved by the employer.

3) Candidates employed as certified educational aides may satisfy their clinical teaching assignment through their instructional duties. [NEW - Effective 12-20-2018](#)

- Minimum of 490 hours (14-week equivalent) in the assignment;
- May be excused from up to 35 hours due to maternity leave, military leave, or illness;
- Clinical teaching is successful when the candidate demonstrates proficiency in the standards for the assignment, and when the field supervisor and cooperating teacher agree that the candidate should be recommended for the standard certificate.

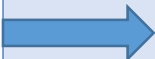
[19 TAC §228.35(k-l)]



Questions about EPP Delivery?



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Certification Requirements – Chapter 230



Readiness to Test and Finisher Status

A candidate seeking a standard certificate as an educator based on completion of an approved EPP may take the appropriate certification examination(s) only at such time as the EPP determines the candidate's readiness to take the examinations, or upon successful completion of the EPP, whichever comes first.

- EPP must establish criteria for test readiness.
- The EPP can and should offer assistance with test preparation to their candidates.
- If a candidate has finished all requirements for a given certificate at an EPP, he or she must be given test approval.

[19 TAC §230.21(b)]

Test Attempt Limits and Waivers

A candidate seeking certification as an educator must pass the required examinations and shall not retake an examination more than four times, unless the limitation is waived for good cause. The burden of proof shall be upon the candidate to demonstrate good cause.

- Effective 09-01-2018, all attempts of an examination count toward the limit.
- Waiver application, process, fee and FAQs on the TEA [Educator Testing](#) webpage.
- Must **wait 45 days** after the unsuccessful 4th retake; or
- Must **wait 90 days** after the most recent denied waiver attempt; or
- Must **wait 180 days** after the most recent unsuccessful attempt resulting from a waiver.
- Rule does not limit the number of waivers granted to an educator.

Best Practice: EPPs should assist their candidates with the waiver process.

[19 TAC §230.21(a) and TEC § 21.048]

Intern and Probationary Certificates

Effective 09-01-2017

An intern certificate is issued to a candidate who has passed all required content examinations and is completing requirements through an approved EPP. Valid for 12 months and is nonrenewable. Must be observed by the EPP field supervisor at least 5 times.

A probationary certificate is issued to a candidate who has passed all required examinations and is completing requirements through an approved EPP. Valid for **12 months** and **may be renewed** for one additional year if the internship was not successful or coursework is remaining. Must be observed by the EPP field supervisor at least 3 times.

Candidates serving on either certificate:

- Must be **enrolled** in a Texas EPP.
- Must hold a **bachelor's degree**, unless it is not required for the standard certificate.
- Must be **employed** as a teacher in a Texas school in an assignment that matches the certificate sought.
- Must have completed **30 hours FBE and 150 hours of coursework and/or training**, unless a late hire, in which case the hours may be completed in the first 90 days of the assignment.
- Without obtaining standard certification, an individual **may not serve for more than three 12-month periods** while holding any combination of temporary certificates or permits.

[19 TAC §230.36, §230.37, §228.35]

Certification Procedures

- Candidates **apply online** and are recommended online by the EPP through ECOS.
- Effective 09-01-2017, all certificates cost \$75, paid online with a credit card or electronic check. The e-pay supplemental fee is \$3 for a total of **\$78**.
- The **issuance date** of a certificate shall not precede the date all requirements are completed, including any required examinations and the conclusion of the internship.
- The certificate shall not become effective more than **60 calendar days** before TEA receives the application and recommendation.
- **Correcting an incorrect** certificate requires a written request from the EPP and a fee equal to the fee for the original certificate - \$78. If the error was made by TEA, no fee will be required.
- The representation of an individual's certificate status as maintained on the TEA website is considered to be the **official record** of education certification.

[19 TAC §230.91(d), §230.93, §230.97(a), §230.101, §230.103, §230.104]



Any more questions?



Thank you and goodbye!

