

Innovative Educator Preparation Commendations Call for Application Materials

Background

In October of 2019, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) approved a framework and procedures for determining educator preparation program (EPP) Commendations. The following commendation categories went into rule to recognize high-performing EPPs: 1. Rigorous and Robust Preparation, 2. Preparing the Educators Texas Needs, 3. Preparing Educators for Long Term Success, and 4. Innovative Educator Preparation. The Innovative Educator Preparation category gives the SBEC the opportunity to designate EPPs that have implemented innovative approaches in a defined area of emphasis to educator preparation.

Innovative Preparation: Area of Emphasis

The SBEC seeks to recognize EPPs with innovative practices related to authentic, practice-based educator preparation. Strong partnerships between EPPs, local education agencies (LEAs), and campuses can foster teacher preparation that benefit teachers, schools, and students in ways that traditional internships or clinical teaching appointments may not. Practice-based preparation may include, for example, residency models or multi-semester clinical teaching appointments. Innovative practice-based preparation models may contain components of additional innovative practices, including a focus on the development and formative measurement of key teacher competencies, the consideration of LEA partner needs in the development of program content and structure, shared governance structures with LEA partners, and the use of student data as a component of candidate evaluation. Programmatic requirements must be well above the SBEC-mandated minimums to be considered.

Application Call Process

Each year calls for innovation are updated using input from the SBEC, the TEA, and advisory committees. EPPs must respond to the call by November 1 with a complete set of materials to be eligible for recognition. The TEA reviews applications for topic alignment and completeness. Complete and appropriate applications are reviewed by an SBEC subcommittee and approved by the full SBEC. Recognition is awarded at the discretion of the committee and the SBEC.

All application materials must be submitted together via email to innovative_epp@tea.texas.gov. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Materials submitted following the initial submission will not be considered. This process does not provide for iterative reviews. All documentation should be submitted in .pdf or .docx form. Links to documentation will not be accepted. Only final versions will be submitted.

Any questions should be submitted to innovative_epp@tea.texas.gov. Individual questions related to the call must be submitted by September 25, 2020, and will be gathered, summarized, and responded to via an FAQ document which will be posted by October 3, 2020.

Application Requirements

A complete set of materials includes the following:

1. Completed Category 4: Innovative Educator Preparation Program Recognition Checklist
2. Executive Summary: a description of the program's innovative practices in authentic, practice-based educator preparation
3. Explanation of related programmatic values and goals

4. Description of the implementation of current practices as part of a continuous improvement effort
5. Documentation demonstrating success including measurable outcomes and outputs
 - a. Outcomes must be specific and measurable. Include data.
 - b. Outcomes should indicate fulfillment of purpose and program.
 - c. Outcomes should note long-term impact.
6. Supporting information from candidates, LEAs, and other EPP partners
7. Peer-reviewed research identifying the EPP practices as best practices in the field

Complete applications should not exceed a total of 40 pages.

Instructions to submit documents:

Obtain and complete the Category 4: Innovative Educator Preparation Program Recognition Checklist from the Consumer Information Page.

Prepare all materials into a single packet file.

Email the checklist and completed packet to innovative_epp@tea.texas.gov.