

Item 17:

Update on Voluntary Closure of Training via E-Learning Alternative Certification (TEACH) Preparation Program

INFORMATION ONLY

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an update on the voluntary closure of Training via E-Learning Alternative Certification (TEACH) Preparation Program. This item outlines recent steps resulting from periodic monitoring of educator preparation programs (EPPs) and their compliance with current Board orders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: At the December 6, 2019 SBEC meeting, the Board approved agreed orders to allow Training via E-Learning Alternative Certification (TEACH) Preparation Program to continue operating under certain conditions due to non-compliance with SBEC rules as a result of the five-year program review.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff conducted monitoring in January 2020 on all programs that had approved SBEC Board orders with conditions to ensure compliance with agreed orders that allowed a program to continue to operate while addressing the conditions. As a result of the monitoring efforts, TEACH was found to be in violation of one of the conditions that the Owner/CEO signed on November 4, 2019, and that the SBEC approved and the Chair signed on December 6, 2019. The violation is listed below:

Conditions Called for in SBEC Board Order	Status of Conditions
<p><u>On the effective date of the Order (12/6/2019):</u> TEACH will not admit a new candidate into the program until a curriculum matrix has been approved by TEA staff for the candidate's certification category in any of the 25 certification categories listed.</p>	<p>Violation of order found at status check on 1/28/2020. Program admitted two students <u>after 12/6/2019</u> in two categories: one new candidate in SPED EC-12 and Social Studies 7-12. Program had not had a curriculum matrix approved by TEA staff for either category prior to admission.</p>

The program was notified of the violation and opted to voluntarily close in lieu of revocation with an effective date of June 15, 2020, to allow some candidates the opportunity to complete program requirements. TEA staff met in person with the program on February 28, 2020, to discuss closing procedures and review candidates to contact. At that time, TEA provided template letters as a resource to be sent to candidates. TEA also directly contacted candidates currently enrolled in the program with this information.

The program was sent a letter of acknowledgment that confirms the intent to voluntarily close with an effective date of June 15, 2020. A copy of the signed letter is included in the attachment.

Staff Members Responsible:

Tam Jones, Director of Educator Preparation
Laura Moriaty, Director, SBEC Enforcement

Attachment:

Letter of Acknowledgment of Voluntary Closure

ATTACHMENT

Letter of Acknowledgment of Voluntary Closure



Commissioner Mike Morath

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To: Dr. Delia Quintanilla, Owner/CEO of Training via E-Learning (TEACH)
From: Dr. Tam Jones, Director of Educator Preparation
Date: March 13, 2020
Subject: Acknowledgment of Voluntary Closure of TEACH ACP

Dr. Quintanilla,

It is our understanding that you intend to voluntarily close the TEACH Alternative Certification Program with an effective date of June 15, 2020. This action is in lieu of program revocation by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), which is currently scheduled as an action item at the May 1, 2020 meeting of the SBEC.

Please confirm that you will cease operation of TEACH with an effective date of June 15, 2020 by signing and dating in the space provided. Please note that if you confirm that you are closing with an effective date of June 15, 2020, access to the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) and the ability for your program to recommend candidates for certification will cease on that date. If we do not receive this signed acknowledgment form from you by the close of business on Friday, March 20th, we will move forward with recommending your program for revocation at the May 1, 2020 meeting of SBEC.

"I will be voluntarily closing the TEACH program with an effective date of June 15, 2020."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Delia Quintanilla", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Delia Quintanilla, Owner/CEO
Training via E-Learning (TEACH)

A handwritten date "3/15/2020" written in blue ink over a horizontal line.

Date