



# Educator Certification Updates

COVID-19 Disaster Declaration and Candidate, EPP, and LEA Implications

June 8, 2020

Thank you for taking time to join today's informational call.

- For clarity, attendees will be muted during the call
- We will monitor questions that are raised in the chat and follow up as we can with further communication
- Today's meeting will be recorded

As we've heard from individuals, programs, and organizations over the past week, we have been affirmed that **we continue to share the same goals:**

- Ensuring the safety of our students, both PK-12 and teacher candidates
- Ensuring we have a well-prepared teacher workforce to meet the demands of the districts we serve across the state

Governor Abbott has suspended certain provisions of law and rule allowing for new and continued certification for the following groups:

- **Teacher candidates who will begin an internship in Fall 2020**
- **Teacher candidates who will complete clinical teaching in 2020-2021**
- **Non-teacher candidates who will complete a practicum in 2020-2021**
- **Teacher candidates who will complete field-based experiences in 2020-2021**

The flexibility provided by Governor Abbott's suspension creates the possibility for candidates who are admitted to an EPP but who have not completed testing requirements to receive the one-year **intern certificate**.

- Teacher candidates will be certified and able to complete internships
- Districts will be able to hire interns
- EPPs will be able to prepare and support candidates

The flexibility provided by Governor Abbott's waiver creates the possibility for candidates who are completing an internship, clinical teaching, or a practicum in 2020-2021 to complete these experiences in virtual settings.

- Educator candidates will be able to complete clinical teaching, internships, and practicums in adapted settings
- Districts using virtual settings will be able to employ and support educator candidates
- EPPs will be able to prepare and support candidates

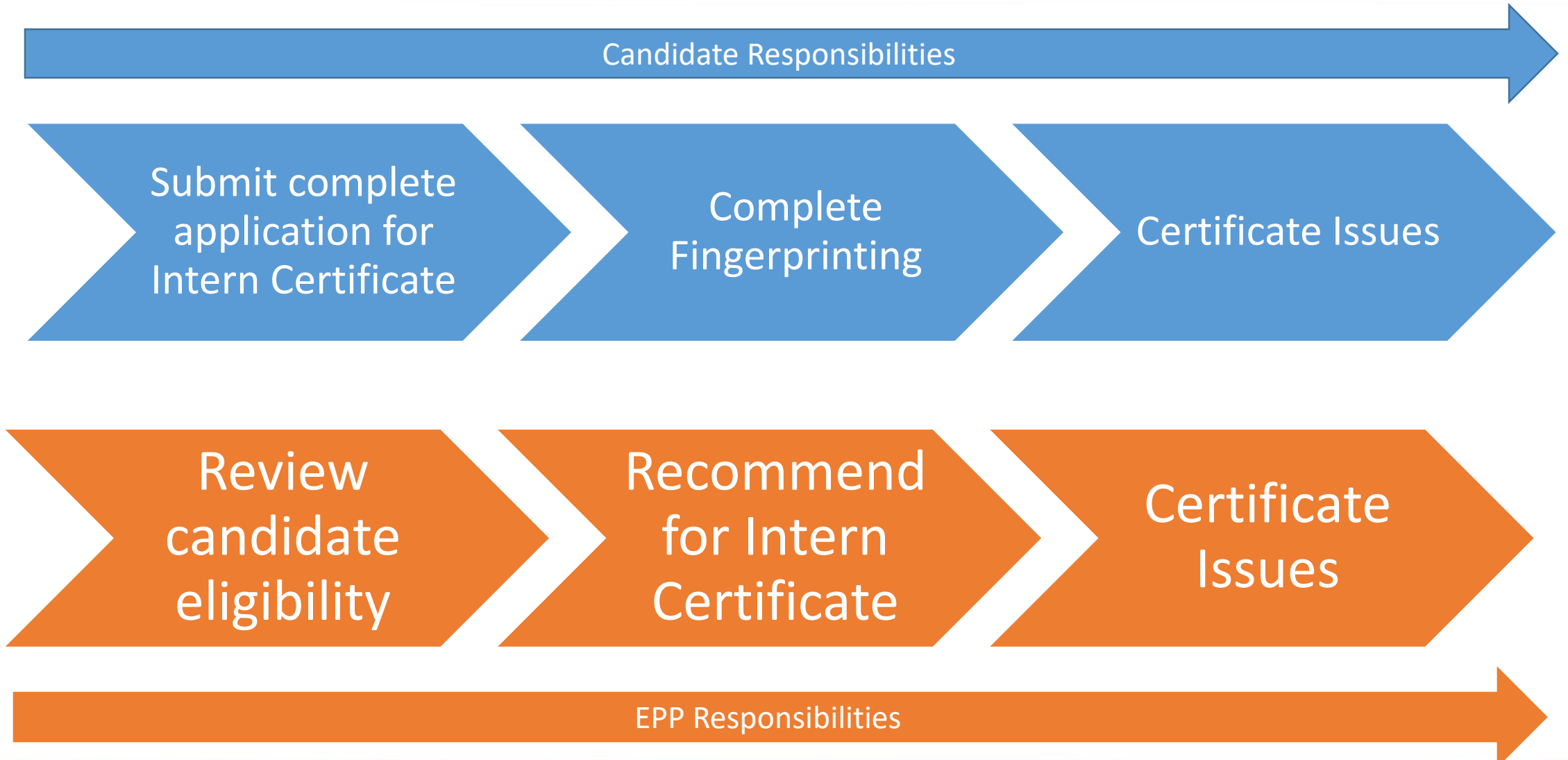
# Eligibility

- **Teacher candidates**
  - Without a certificate
  - Admitted to an EPP – Post Bac or Alternative Certification Route
  - Have not passed required certification exams
  - Completing an internship in 2020-2021
  - Have an offer of employment for 2020-2021

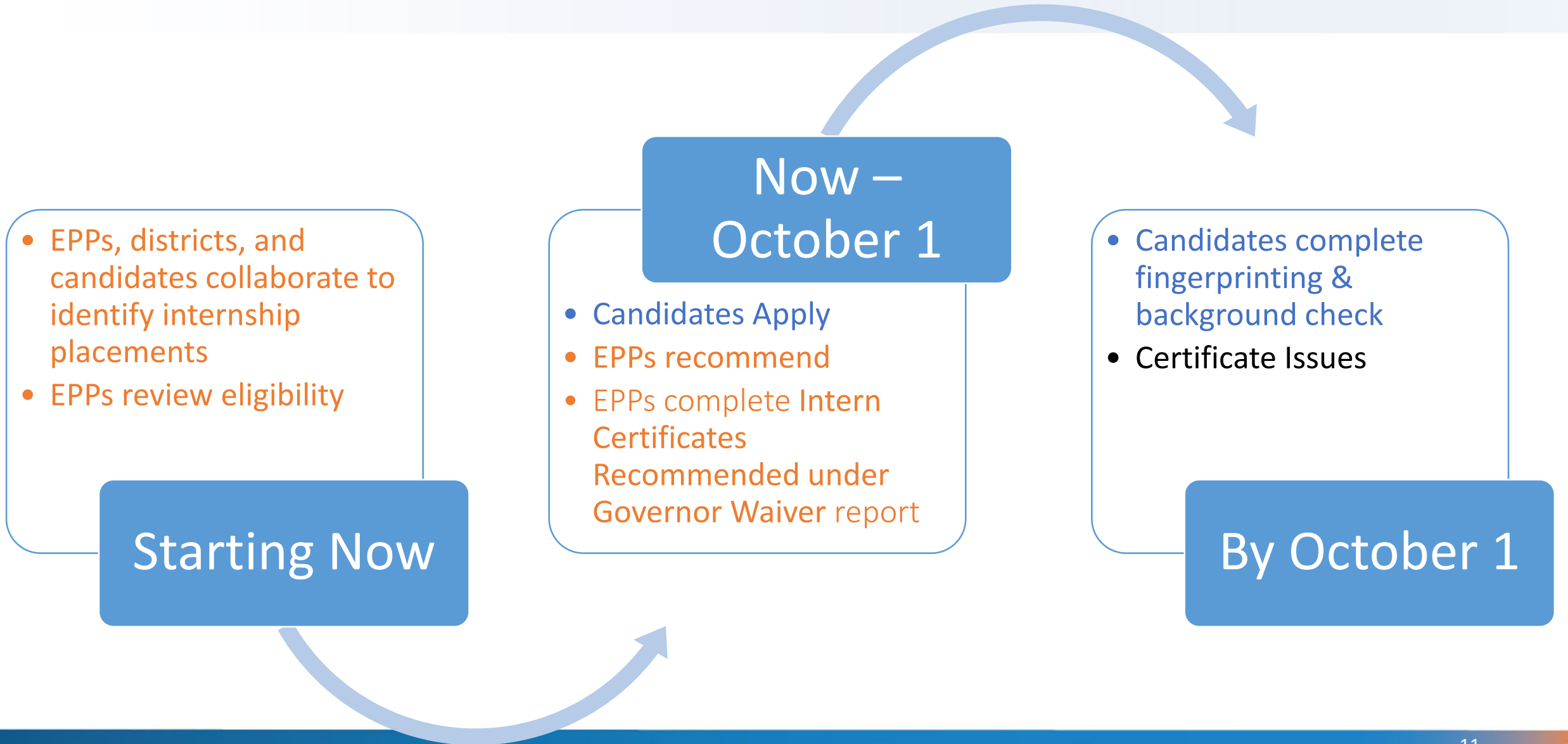


# Intern Certificate Process

# Process for Certification



# Timeline for Certification



- **Information, clarification, and FAQ to be posted on the TEA COVID-19 Webpage**
- **Step by step technical guidance for EPPs**
- **Guidance for EPPs to share with candidates**
- **Reporting documentation template**

# Candidate FAQs

## **What constitutes a complete candidate application?**

A complete candidate application is the correct online application (in this case, Intern Certificate Texas Program) submitted by the candidate with the required \$78 fee; verification of fingerprint complete status; and an EPP online recommendation for issuance of the certificate.

## **What steps do I take to apply for this intern certificate?**

Follow the step-by-step instructions in the forthcoming guidance to submit your online application and payment to TEA.

## **What is an intern certificate good for?**

An intern certificate issued in the appropriate teacher or non-teacher certification area allows a candidate to complete an internship as part of an educator preparation program and to be appropriately certified to serve in that role during the one-year validity period of the credential.

## **How long is an intern certificate valid for?**

An intern certificate is valid for one year. In order to hold an intern certificate, the candidate must be completing an internship as part of an educator preparation program.

**What happens once I take and pass my certification exams after being issued the intern certificate?**

Candidates who complete their certification exams still need to complete the full one-year internship and any other requirements of their program prior to being eligible for a standard certificate.

**Will there can be any leeway for fingerprinting of teacher candidates who will not be able to go in for digital fingerprinting at this time?**

In the interest of student safety, TEA is not planning to modify fingerprinting requirements for certificate applicants, non-certified employees, or any other individuals required to fingerprint for TEA or the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC).



# EPP FAQs

## **How do programs recommend candidates for this certificate?**

EPPs will use the same process to recommend these candidates as for any intern certificate, with the addition of selecting an override at recommendation. Step by step guidance will be available on the TEA website. EPPs will need to provide information about the candidate, verify the certificate, and select the district of the internship placement.

## **Is there any documentation is necessary for recommending these certificates?**

Yes. EPPs will need to complete the Intern Certificates Recommended under Governor Waiver spreadsheet provided by TEA. This form will need to include information for all candidates recommended for an intern certificate under these conditions. This form will allow TEA to make necessary adjustments in our databases.

**Do programs have to provide formal observations for these candidates on an intern certificate?**

Yes. All internship requirements remain in effect, including observation requirements.

Additional technical guidance for EPP recommendation is forthcoming.

EPPs will need to recommend these certificates and the certificate must be issued prior to October 1, 2020.



# Thank you

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