

# Innovative Educator Preparation Commendations

## Call for Application Materials 2020-2021

### 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.

### Innovative Preparation: Area of Emphasis

For 2020-2021, the SBEC seeks to recognize EPPs that engage in comprehensive partnerships with LEAs to support district-specific needs in one or more of the following areas:

- supporting districts and mentor teachers through the pandemic,
- accelerating learning in response to COVID-related learning loss,
- addressing staffing challenges, and
- implementing best practices that emerged from EPP and/or district responses to the COVID pandemic.

Such practices must be well above SBEC-mandate minimums to be considered.

### Application Call Process

The call for applications will be posted on October 22, 2021. EPPs must respond to the call by December 1, 2021 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 committee which recommends EPPs for the commendation, which is then 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](mailto: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](mailto:innovative_epp@tea.texas.gov). Individual questions related to the call must be submitted by October 28, 2021, and will be gathered, summarized, and responded to via an FAQ document which will be posted by November 2, 2021.

### Application Requirements

A complete application includes the following:

1. **Executive Summary:** a one-page description of the program's innovative practices in comprehensive partnerships with LEAs to support district-specific needs, including identification of aligned focus area(s)
2. **Section I: Innovative Area and Implementation**
  - a. Description of the specific area of innovation and an explanation of related programmatic values and goals
  - b. Description of the implementation of current innovative practices during the 2020-2021 academic year
3. **Section II: Success and Scale of Innovation**

- a. Description of the progress monitoring and continuous improvement practices used to implement the area of innovation
  - b. Description of the success of the innovative practice implementation in 2020-2021
  - c. Description of plans to adjust and sustainably scale positive impact long term
- 4. Section III: Evidence of Impact and Research Foundation (Attachments)**
- a. Data-based Outcomes:
    - Outcomes must be specific and measurable. Outcomes must include data.
    - Outcomes should indicate fulfillment of purpose and program.
    - Outcomes should note long-term impact.
  - b. Letters of support from candidates, LEAs, and other EPP partners
  - c. Research Summary:
    - A one-page narrative of current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed research identifying the innovative practices as best practices in the field

Complete application and supporting documents should not exceed a total of 20 pages.

**Application Criteria**

Strong applications will include evidence of the following:

Application	Descriptors
<b>Section I: Innovation Area and Implementation</b>	<b>Strong alignment between the innovation and the call:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Shows clear evidence of an established partnership with an LEA partner</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows clear evidence that the EPP and LEA engaged in a collaborative process to identify the LEA-specific needs</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows clear evidence of alignment between the area of innovation and the identified district specific needs</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows clear evidence of co-creation/development of the innovative strategy or plan</i></li> <li>• </li> </ul>
	<b>Strong implementation of new practices to address LEA needs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides a clear description of the implementation process</i></li> <li>• <i>Includes lessons learned and describes iterations as needed to improve the process</i></li> </ul>
<b>Section II: Success and Scale</b>	<b>Innovative practices are central to continuous improvement efforts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides a clear rubric or describes methods used to measure the impact of innovative practice implementation</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows clear evidence of ongoing collaboration and progress monitoring around innovation implementation</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows evidence that the innovation not only results from but also drives the cycle of improvement</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows that results of innovation have led to further refinement of innovative practice design</i></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Innovative practices yield meaningfully successful outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows positive evidence of impact in the short term</li> <li>• Shows clear evidence of sustainability of positive impact long term (e.g. systems for promoting efficiency and effectiveness, systems for long-term funding of practices)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Innovative practices are central to the work of the EPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows clear evidence that the innovative practices are well-aligned with EPP programmatic goals</li> <li>• Shows clear evidence of integration of innovative practices in broader programmatic structures</li> <li>• Shows clear plans to scale and sustain innovative practices within the EPP long term</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section III: Evidence of Impact and Research Foundation</b></p>	<p><b>Strong demonstrations of success including quantitative and qualitative information showing short- and long-term impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows positive evidence of impact in the short term</li> <li>• Provides multiple points of quantitative and qualitative evidence</li> <li>• Shows clear evidence of sustainability of positive impact long term (e.g. systems for promoting efficiency and effectiveness, systems for long-term funding of practices)</li> <li>• Relates evidence to candidates <u>as well as</u> educators, schools, districts, and students.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Strong supporting information speaking specifically to the nature and strength of the innovative partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides at least two letters of support from a LEA partner that provides context about the implementation of the innovation. Support from multiple perspectives or roles is preferable.</li> <li>• Provides at least two letters of support from candidates.</li> <li>• Letters of support speak specifically to the goals and implementation of the innovate partnership.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Strong link to current research that informed design and implementation of innovative practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explicit connection to recent research related to innovative LEA partnerships cited in summary</li> <li>• Explicit connections to research are also used to support and expand on the program’s approach, goal setting, and ongoing monitoring.</li> </ul>

**Instructions to submit documents:**

Obtain and complete the Category 4: Innovative Educator Preparation Program Recognition Application from the Program Provider Resources Page.

Prepare all materials into a single packet file.

Email the application and completed packet to [innovative\\_epp@tea.texas.gov](mailto:innovative_epp@tea.texas.gov).