Emergency Permits Guidebook



A Guide to Emergency Permits for Districts and Charter Schools





Purpose

This guide provides districts with a quick reference to emergency permit information, including rules and best practices for district personnel. This guide also outlines the steps to submit an emergency permit application using the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) via the appropriate access in ECOS for Entities.



Resources

Texas Education Agency Division of Educator Preparation and Certification

- 512-936-8400 Option 2
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Submit a <u>TEA Help Desk</u> ticket to Educator Certification with "Emergency Permits" in the subject line
- Chapter 230, Subchapter F. Permits





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Emergency Permit Basics

- Emergency permits, which include Nonrenewable Permits (NRP), and Temporary Classroom Assignment Permits (TCAP), are governed by <u>19 TAC</u>, <u>Chapter 230</u>, <u>Subchapter F - Permits</u>.
- The emergency permit is valid for one year only, except for JROTC and Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments assignments.
- The emergency permit is for individuals who are either already certified, serving in an assignment for which they are not certified and registered for the next available exam, or an individual enrolled in an Educator Preparation Program (EPP), with a certification/deficiency plan from the EPP.
- These permits are requested in ECOS by employing school districts for a vacant position that cannot currently be filled with an appropriately certified and qualified individual.
- Permits belong to each specific school district and cannot be transferred from one district to another. The hiring district must contact the previous district to request that they end the permit if it was used for fewer than 90 calendar days.
- The individual must meet minimum requirements depending on the grade level and type of assignment.
- It is imperative that you encourage your educator preparation program candidates to be proactive in their work to qualify for an SBEC-issued credential as soon as possible. The collective goal should be to transition the candidate off the emergency permit as soon as he or she is eligible for issuance of an SBEC-issued certificate (e.g., intern certificate or probationary certificate) to then allow the time serving in the assignment to count towards completion of educator preparation program requirements.
- If the individual resigned or obtained either an intern, probationary or standard certificate, district staff will submit a <u>TEA Help Desk</u> ticket to Educator Certification with "End Emergency Permit" in the subject line. Include in the body of the ticket the full name and TEA ID number or last four digits of the educator's social security number and the end date for the emergency permit.
- If you have any questions regarding this process, you may submit a <u>TEA Help Desk</u> ticket to Educator Certification with "Emergency Permits" in the subject line. Be sure to provide detailed information in the body of the ticket and include the full name(s) of the educator(s) and the TEA ID number(s) or last four digits of the educator's social security number.



Types of Emergency Permits

Temporary Classroom Assignment Permit (TCAP)

Used for individuals certified at the secondary level for assignments in grades 7-12

- Can only be used to teach four or fewer class periods
- Can be issued in multiple certification areas if the educator is not already certified in those areas and if the educator is teaching in each area for four or fewer class periods
- The individual must have completed twelve semester credit hours in the specific subject area(s) to be taught.
 - o In the case of an assignment in mathematics or science, an individual must have completed fifteen semester hours in the specific subject area(s) to be taught
- Processed locally with no fee associated; nothing provided to TEA
- Supporting documentation must be retained by the district

Valid for one school year

Not renewable

Nonrenewable Permit (NRP)

Used for individuals completing a Texas approved university program

- The district must obtain a letter from the university program verifying program completion
- The individual only lacks completing the appropriate certification examination requirements through the university program and must be registered for the next available exam
- Application submitted in ECOS

Expire 12 months from the date of activation

Not renewable

Emergency Permit

Used for degreed individuals who hold a standard Texas certificate

Must be registered for the next available exam

Used for degreed, non-certified individuals

- Must be enrolled in a Texas Educator Preparation Program
- Must obtain a certification/deficiency plan from the program

Expire on August 31st, unless ended by the district

Not renewable

Exceptions:

- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) instructor must be reissued every year
- Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments may be renewed a maximum of two years (three years total)
- Emergency permits used fewer than 90 calendar days may be renewed for one additional year of service, if needed.



Specific Assignment Requirements

Elementary (Grades EC-6, general education) Chapter 230.77(b)	 Individuals must have completed: 12 semester credit hours in a combination of subjects directly related to the elementary curriculum, 12 semester credit hours in elementary education, or any combination of these areas of study.
Secondary (Grades 7-12, general education) Chapter 230.77(c)	 Individuals must have completed: 24 semester credit hours in the subject to be taught, or 24 semester credit hours toward a composite teaching field appropriate for the assignment, including at least twelve semester credit hours in the subject to be taught.
All grade level (Grades EC-12, general education) Chapter 230.77(d)	Individuals must have completed: • 24 semester credit hours in the subject to be taught *Applies to all general education subject areas that are available as Early Childhood-Grade 12 certificates
Auditory Impairments Chapter 230.77(f)(2)(A)	 Individuals must: hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education, have completed six semester credit hours directly related to teaching students with auditory impairments, have demonstrated competence in the specific communication method used in the classroom setting with students with auditory impairments, and have verified that the employing school district, cooperative, or education service center (ESC) has one or more fully certified teachers for students with auditory impairments available as a mentor and to provide support.

Bilingual Education 230.77(f)(1)(A)

An individual who holds a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education and is certified at the appropriate level must:

- have completed six semester credit hours in the language of the approved bilingual education program, or
- demonstrate proficiency in comprehension and expression in the language of the target population by having a passing score on an appropriate State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved examination.

An individual who holds a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education but is not certified must:

- meet the requirements for the grade level of assignment,
- be currently enrolled in an approved Texas EPP for bilingual education, and
- have either completed 12 semester credit hours in the language of the target population, bilingual education, or a combination of the two subject areas, or demonstrated proficiency in comprehension and expression in the language of the target population by having a passing score on an appropriate SBEC-approved examination. Refer to the required tests chart in <u>Figure: 19 TAC §230.21(e)</u>

*The Bilingual Education permit requires a classroom content area certificate appropriate for the grade level and subject areas taught and will not issue as a standalone certificate.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) 230.77(e)

- If experience in the CTE area of certification is required for the certificate, the work experience must be met before the permit is activated.
- If a license is required for the certificate, the license must be current.
 Complete the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form found on the <u>TEA website</u>, verifying two years of full-time employment while holding the license.
- If experience and license are not required, must have 24 semester credit hours in the subject taught.

Educational Individuals must: • hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of Diagnostician 230.77(g)(2) higher education, • have completed 30 semester credit hours of graduate-level credit in the field of education or a related field, including six semester credit hours in tests and measurements, at least three semester credit hours of which emphasized individualized testing, have completed six semester credit hours directly related to teaching individuals with special learning needs, and have two creditable years of classroom teaching experience. English as a Individuals must: • hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of Second Language (ESL) higher education, 230.77(f)(1)(B) be currently certified for the grade level to be taught, and have either completed six semester credit hours in an approved ESL program or have one creditable year of classroom teaching experience. *The ESL permit requires a classroom content area certificate appropriate for the grade level and subject areas taught and will not issue as a standalone certificate. Junior Reserve • Individuals must verify that they have satisfied the requirements and Officer Training been approved to serve by the appropriate military branch. Corps (IROTC) • The one-year limitation on permits does not apply to individuals serving in the position of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Instructor 230.77(g)(4) instructor. JROTC instructor permits are reissued every year unless the individual has obtained the IROTC standard certificate.

School Counselor 230.77(g)(1)	 Individuals must: hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education, and have completed 24 semester credit hours of graduate-level credit, including 12 semester credit hours in guidance and counseling. *Effective September 1, 2023, Senate Bill 798 removed the 2 years of classroom teaching experience required for the School Counselor emergency permit
School Librarian 230.77(g)(3)	 Individuals must: hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education, have completed 12 semester credit hours directly related to the basic competencies required of school librarians, and have two creditable years of classroom teaching experience.
Special Education 230.77(f)(2)(D)	 An individual who holds a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education and is certified at the appropriate grade level must: have completed six semester credit hours directly related to teaching children with special learning needs, or have one creditable year of classroom teaching experience. An individual who holds a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education, but is not certified must: for elementary assignments (Early Childhood-Grade 6), meet requirements for the level of assignment and have completed 18 semester credit hours directly related to teaching children with special learning needs. for secondary assignments (Grades 7-12), must have completed 24 semester credit hours directly related to teaching children with special learning needs.

Visual Impairments 230.77(f)(2)(B)

Individuals must:

- hold a valid Texas classroom teaching certificate based on a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education,
- completed six semester credit hours directly related to teaching students with visual impairments,
- have one creditable year of classroom teaching experience,
- have demonstrated competency in literary Braille and basic Nemeth Code by passing the approved Braille examination, holding certification as a literary Braille transcriber by the Library of Congress, or completing one university course in Braille, and
- have verified that the employing school district, cooperative, or ESC has one or more fully certified teachers of students with visual impairments available as a mentor and to provide support.

*The one-year limitation on permits does not apply to teachers of students with visual impairments. **Emergency permits for visual impairments may be renewed a maximum of two years.** (3 years total)



Preparing to Submit an Application

Submission of emergency permit applications begin July 1st for the upcoming school year. There is a \$57 fee paid online by the ISD at the time of submission.

Individuals in assignments for more than 30 instructional days must be on an emergency permit, activated within 45 instructional days. Permits not submitted in a timely manner cannot be backdated to cover an individual's start date in the assignment.

1. Determine the Assignment

- Refer to the "Specific Assignment Requirements" above for details on qualifications an individual needs to be placed on the permit. The individual must meet minimum requirements depending on the grade level and type of assignment.
- Permits cannot be used for principal and superintendent assignments or individuals who are in the process of an out of state or out of country credentials review.

2. Have a conversation with the educator and the Educator Preparation Program, if applicable.

When hiring an individual on an emergency permit, the district should meet with the individual to discuss the purpose for placement on a permit, including requirements for the individual to become certified for the assignment.

A certified teacher must consent to the activation of an emergency permit and be advised of the conditions of the emergency permit.

For EPP candidates, which includes university and alternative certification programs, you must have a conversation with both the educator and the EPP certification program advisor to discuss the desire to place the candidate on an emergency permit, as doing so may affect program completion.

- The emergency permit is not recommended for EPP candidates because it does not count towards program requirements, is not issued by the EPP, and the candidate is not supervised by the EPP while on the emergency permit. It may also prolong the certification process. However, there are times when school districts have a need to place an EPP candidate on an emergency permit. You must ensure that placing the individual on a permit will not negatively affect program completion.
- You must obtain a deficiency/certification plan from the educator preparation program.
 The plan should indicate what the candidate is lacking for an intern, probationary or

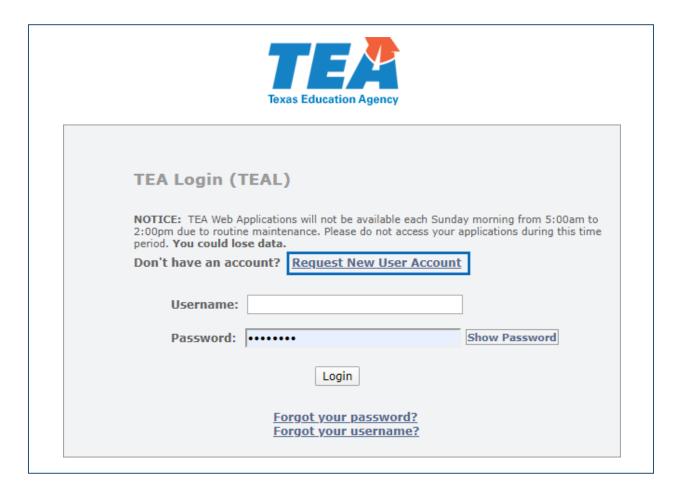
standard certificate.

- The assignment area requested for the emergency permit must be the same as the program area of enrollment listed on the candidate's deficiency/certification plan unless the area is not offered by the EPP.
- If the area is offered by the EPP, the district is encouraged to check with the EPP to see if the candidate can receive test approval to take and pass the exam to obtain the intern certificate in lieu of an emergency permit. EPPs are not required to give test approval to a candidate for a district to submit an emergency permit.
- An individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods without obtaining a standard certificate. <u>Chapter 230, Subchapter D</u>
- An emergency permit cannot run concurrently with an intern or probationary certification unless the emergency permit is in a certification area not offered by the candidate's preparation program.
- For most EPP candidates, you will need to submit the emergency permit to be considered on a **hardship** basis, since the individual may not meet the qualifications. (See instructions for submitting a hardship application beginning at the bottom of page 19.) In the justification section of the hardship request, you will need to include:
 - 1. confirmation that a conversation has occurred with the candidate and their Educator Preparation Program,
 - 2. and that the candidate is not currently eligible for an SBEC-issued credential.
 - 3. You must also include the name of the advisor at the EPP with whom you spoke.



School District Personnel Access in ECOS

You must have a **Texas Education Agency Login (TEAL)** account to apply for emergency permits. From the TEA website at tea.texas.gov, click on "TEAL Login" and follow the instructions to establish a TEAL account, if you do not already have one.



Click the "Request New User Account" link located on the TEAL login page and enter the appropriate information to request one.

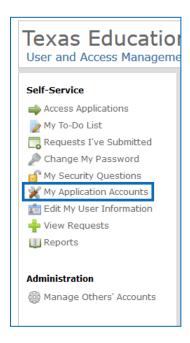
Once you have a TEAL account, use the following steps to request access to Permits:

Log into <u>TEAL</u> with your username and password. The TEAL Home page appears. If you have not been granted access to any applications yet, there will not be any application links listed on the Applications tab.

Click **Apply for Access**, as shown in the following screenshot:

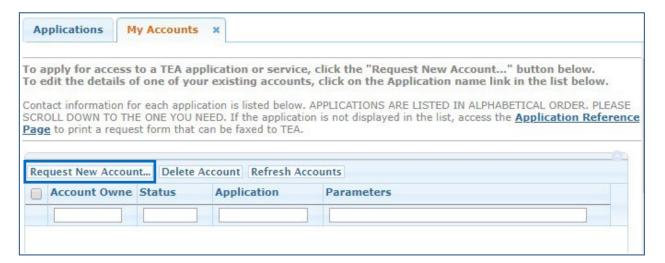


Alternatively, if you already have access to some TEAL applications, click on the "My Application Accounts" link, instead.



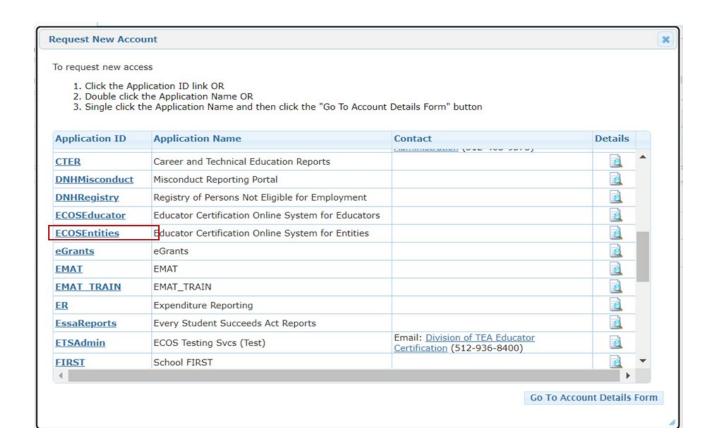
The My Accounts tab opens.

Click **Request New Account**, as shown in the following screenshot:

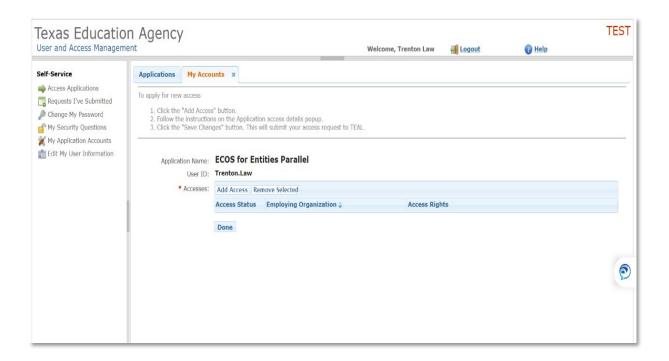


The Request New Account dialog box appears.

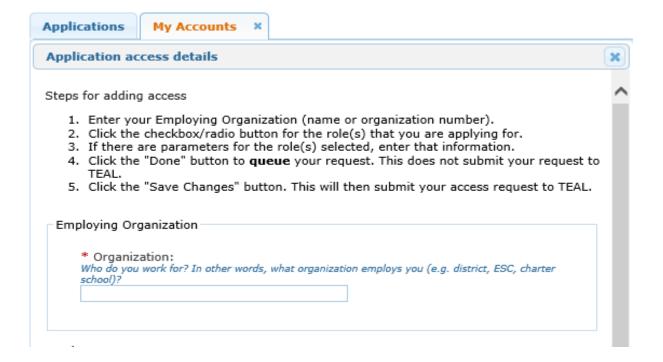
Scroll down and click the link for the **ECOS Entities** application.



When a page like the following appears, click Add Access.



Type the name (or CDN) of your organization (district/charter school). Once you begin typing, a list of authorized organizations appears. Select the name of your organization from the list.



Next, select the appropriate role:

- 1. "District Permits Data Entry"
- 2. "District Submit Permits"
- 3. or both, accordingly
- 4. and "General Access."

District Permits Data Entry

Allows read and write access to the Permits menu which includes:

- "Permit List"
- "Apply for Emergency Permit"
- Apply for Nonrenewable Permit"
- "Permit Information"

Allows Educator:

search and view capability.

If you will only be entering the data for emergency permits, you only need the "District Permits Data Entry" access.

District Submits Permits

Allows read and write access to the Permits menu which includes:

- "Permit List",
- "Apply for Emergency Permit"
- "Apply for Nonrenewable Permit
- "Permit Information"

Allows Educator:

- search and view capability
- and the ability to submit and pay for the emergency permit.

If you enter data, submit, and pay for the emergency permits, you will need to select "District Submits Permits".

Consult with your district's primary approver to determine which access you will need.

The primary approver is typically the superintendent or their designee.

The designee may be the Human Resources director.

Enter your organization (district/charter school) again, your title and role in the comments section, and then **click "Done"**, **then "Submit"**.

You will need to allow time for TEA to approve access.



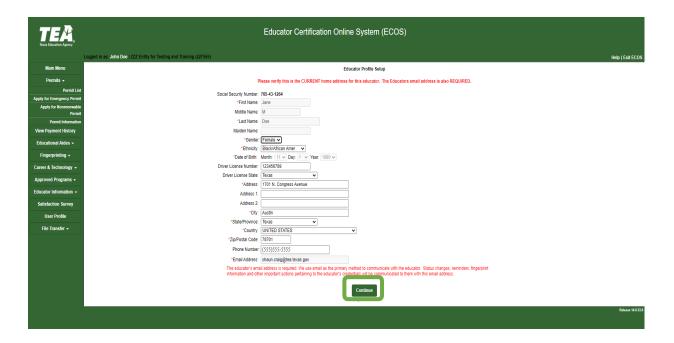
Applying for the Emergency Permit in ECOS

In ECOS Entities, select "Apply for Emergency Permit".

Enter the Social Security Number (SSN) and select "Search".



Enter or correct the Educator Profile information, if necessary and **click on "Continue"**. The best practice is to complete this process with the educator to ensure accuracy and to provide information regarding the issuance of the emergency permit.

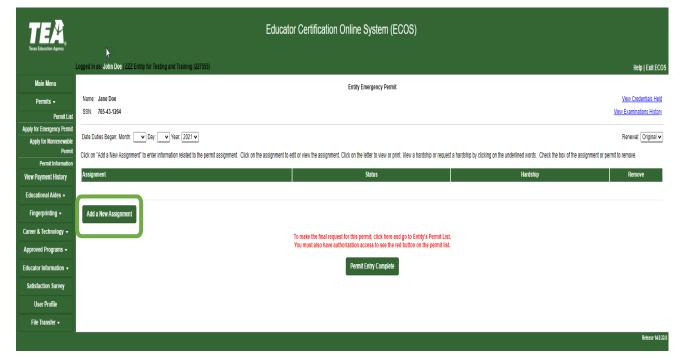


Enter the educator's responses to the affidavit items. If there is a "yes" response to either item, a pop-up box will allow you to enter the educator's explanation to the questions. The responses will be reviewed by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) as part of the criminal background check. The background check must be cleared before the permit will issue.



Enter the date of the assignment (Date Duties Began). Complete the "Renewal" section, choosing Original, First, or Second (this will typically be "Original).

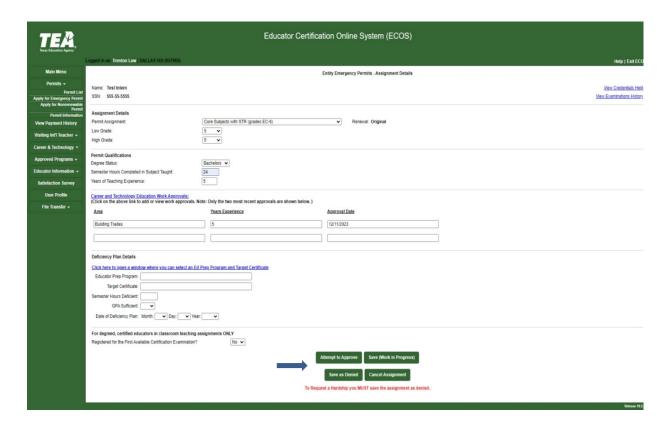
Click on "Add a New Assignment".



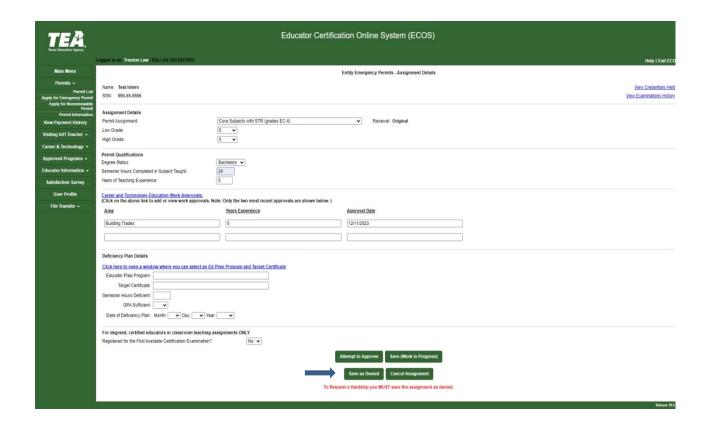
Select the assignment from the drop-down menu. If the educator has a deficiency/certification plan, click on the link under "Deficiency Plan Details". A popup box will require you to select the educator preparation program. After a few seconds, the approved certificates will be displayed. Select the target certificate from the list and click on "Save". This information will be added to the details screen. Enter the semester credit hours deficient, Grade Point Average (GPA) sufficient, and date of the plan.

Educators already certified and being placed in an assignment for which they are not currently certified will not need a deficiency plan but will need to be registered for the first available exam.

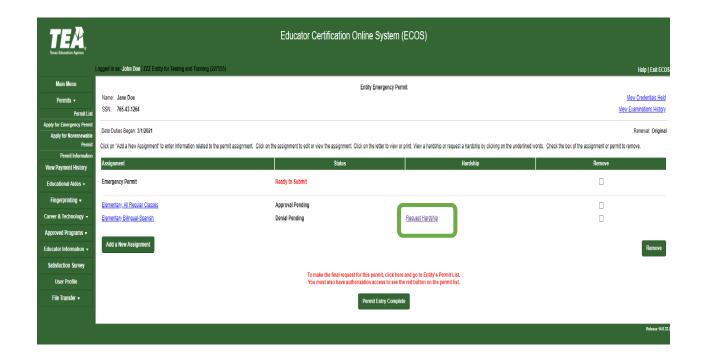
Select "Attempt to Approve".



If the individual does not meet permit requirements, or holds a Provisional certificate, **you may see errors** after you attempt to approve the permit. To continue processing and request a **hardship** approval for the permit, click on "Save as Denied".



On the permit screen, click on "Request Hardship".



A screen will appear to allow comments for the hardship request.

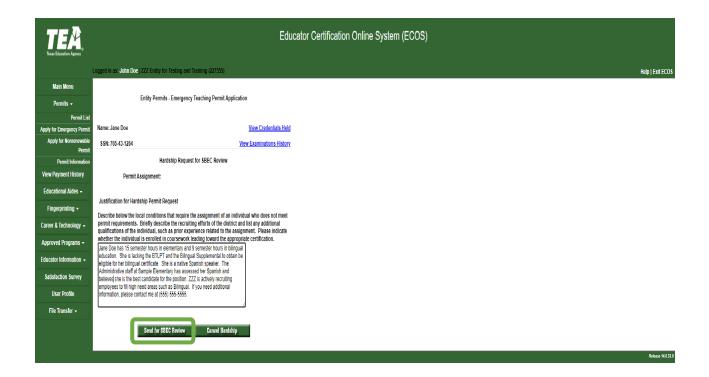
For all candidates, you must include:

- The local conditions requiring the assignment of an individual who does not meet permit requirements.
- A brief description of the recruiting efforts taken by the district and list any additional qualifications of the individual, such as prior experience related to the assignment.

For EPP candidates, you must also:

- Confirm that a conversation has occurred with the candidate and their Educator Preparation Program (EPP) regarding your intention to place the individual on an emergency permit.
- Indicate that the candidate is not currently eligible for an SBEC-issued credential.
- Include the name of the advisor at the EPP with whom you spoke.

If the information is lengthy, you can type it on a Word document first, then copy and paste it to the comment field. There is no character limit in this section.



After completing the comments field, **select "Send for SBEC Review"**, **then "Permit Entry Complete"**. You are now ready to submit the application. While the request is being reviewed by TEA, you will not be able to continue. **During the review process, the permit will have a "denial pending" status.**



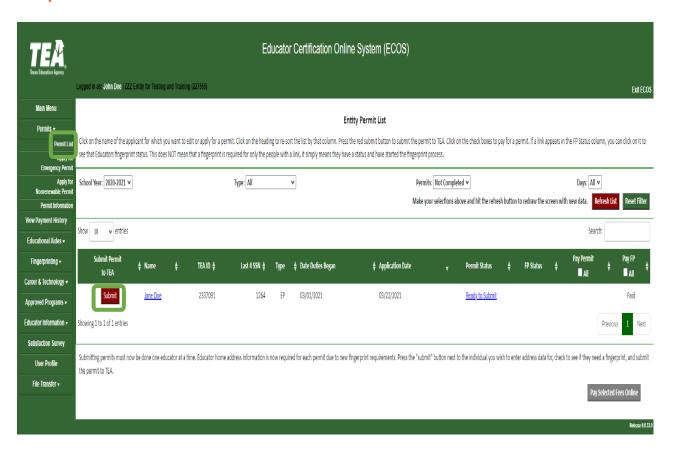
TEA/SBEC will respond online to the hardship request.

- If the request is approved, you will be able to continue processing the permit.
- If the request is not approved, you may be contacted by TEA to send more information for further consideration.

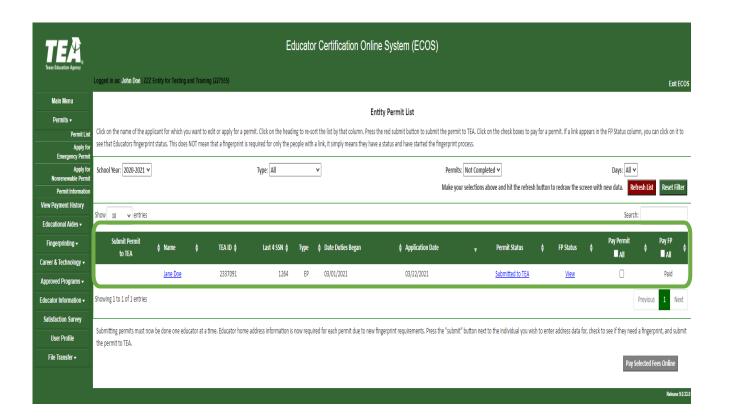
Once the permit entry is complete and approval is pending, you will need to **submit the permit request to TEA**.

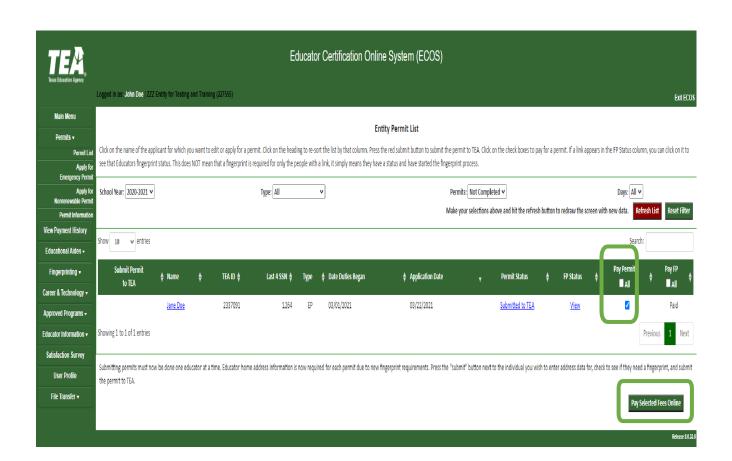
- Go to your permit list and locate the individual(s) you wish to submit. Permits that
 are ready for submission have a Red Submit Button at the left. If you do not see the
 Red Button, you may not have access to submit permits. To request access, please
 refer to the section, "School District Personnel Access" beginning on page 12 of this
 guide.
- If it is not a hardship request, proceed to make payment for the emergency permit.

The following series of screenshots should help you successfully navigate the online permit process.











If you see "work in progress" in ECOS for Entities, this statement signifies that the permit application has not yet been submitted to TEA by the district. Once work on the application is complete and successful online payment is made by the district, the permit should issue.

Updated June 2025

Prequently Asked Questions

1. Who do I contact if I have questions about or problems with issuing emergency permits?

You may submit a <u>TEA Help Desk</u> ticket to Educator Certification with "Emergency Permits" in the subject line. Be sure to provide detailed information in the body of the ticket and include the full name(s) of the educator(s) and the TEA ID number(s) or last four digits of the social security number.

2. Why do I need to submit a Help Desk ticket?

Submitting a help desk ticket allows us to research the issue and provide a specific and accurate response as well as have a record of specific concerns with which to update our FAQs. Often, if a phone number is provided in the ticket, we will call if the response requires more information or is an issue that cannot be understood through communication in the ticket. The turnaround time for response is typically within two business days of ticket submission.

3. Who can be placed on an emergency permit?

The emergency permit is for individuals who are either already certified, serving in an assignment for which they are not certified and registered for the next available exam, or an individual enrolled in an Educator Preparation Program, with a certification/deficiency plan from the EPP.

4. Is there a deadline for submitting emergency permits?

Submission of emergency permits for the upcoming school year begins July 1st. There is not a deadline for submission, however, the application must be submitted to TEA within 45 instructional days of the date of assignment. Permits not submitted in a timely manner cannot be backdated to cover an individual's start date in the assignment.

5. Can paper emergency permit applications be submitted to TEA?

No. Emergency permits are submitted online only through ECOS for Entities. Paper applications are not accepted.

6. What is the first step that I should take when hiring an individual on an emergency permit?

The first step should be to meet with the individual to discuss the purpose for placement on a permit, including requirements for the individual to become certified for the assignment. A certified teacher must consent to the activation of an emergency permit and be advised of the conditions of the emergency permit. For EPP candidates, you must meet with both the educator and the EPP certification program advisor to discuss the desire to place the candidate on an emergency permit, as doing so may affect program completion.

7. Who is responsible for paying for the emergency permit?

The school district submits and pays for the emergency permit, since the permit belongs to the employing district.

8. Can I issue a permit for an individual certified in another state or country and who is having credentials reviewed?

No. Only individuals already Texas certified or currently enrolled in an educator preparation program may be considered for an emergency permit.

9. What is meant by "work in progress" in ECOS for Entities?

This statement signifies that the permit application has not yet been submitted to TEA by the district. Once work on the application is complete and successful online payment is made by the district, the permit should issue.

10. What do I need to do if I just issued a permit and no longer need it to place the educator in the assignment?

You will need to submit a <u>Help Desk ticket</u> to Educator Certification with "Emergency Permit Cancellation" in the subject line and in the body of the ticket include the full name and TEA ID number or last four digits of the educator's social security number and the request to cancel the permit. For permit cancellations, the educator must not have served time in the assignment.

11. What is the process to end an emergency permit after an individual has resigned or obtained either an intern, probationary or standard certificate?

District staff will submit a <u>Help Desk ticket</u> to Educator Certification with "Emergency Permit Ended" in the subject line. Include in the body of the ticket the full name and TEA ID number or last four digits of the educator's social security number and the end date for the emergency permit.

12. What do I do if the educator has completed the fingerprinting process, but it is not reflected in their ECOS account?

If an educator has previous fingerprint results on file with TEA, the fingerprint results will transfer automatically to the Educator's ECOS account after the emergency permit is submitted. The fingerprint results will take up to 24 hours to appear in the educator's account from the time of permit application submission. If the fingerprint results have not transferred to the account within 24 hours of application submission, please contact the TEA Fingerprinting Division via their Help Desk or call 512-936-8400, option 3 for assistance.

13. If a permit is no longer needed or issued in error, will the district be refunded the fee?

Since there is a fee associated with correcting permits, a refund is not issued. See §230.104. Correcting a Certificate or Permit Issued in Error.