

# Innovative Educator Preparation Commendations Call for Application Materials 2022-2024

## 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 the 2022-2024 Innovative Educator Preparation commendation, the SBEC seeks to recognize EPPs that engage in innovative development of EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers, in alignment with current research and best practices. Examples include, but are not limited to, co-teaching models, coaching practices, high quality instructional materials implementation, and/or response to intervention (RTI).
- Such practices must be well above SBEC-mandate minimums to be considered.

## Application Call Process

The call for applications will be posted in May of 2023. The time frame to apply to the call will be from May 2023 through October 2023. Provision of this timeline provides EPPs adequate time to implement innovations aligned to the call. EPPs must respond, via email, to the call by October 10, 2023 by 11:59 pm,, 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 board members.. 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. .pdf's is strongly recommended. 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 via email by June 15, 2023 and will be gathered, summarized, and responded to via an FAQ document which will be posted on the EPP website and in the EPP newsletter by June 30, 2023 and an additional call for questions will occur in early September of 2023 and responded to via an FAQ document which will be posted by October 1, 2023.

## Application Requirements

A complete application includes the following:

1. **Executive Summary:** a one-page description of the program's innovative practices in development of EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers including identification of aligned focus area(s) and implementation.
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 2022-2024 academic years
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 2022-2024
  - 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:

- For the 2022-2024 Innovative Educator Preparation commendation, the SBEC seeks to recognize EPPs that engage in innovative development of EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers, in alignment with current research and best practices. Examples include, but are not limited to, co-teaching models, coaching practices, high quality instructional materials implementation, and/or response to intervention (RTI).

Application	Descriptors
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section I: Innovation Area and Implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Strong alignment between the innovation and the call:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows clear evidence of implementing a current research-based approach to engage in the development of EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers.</li> <li>• Shows clear evidence that the EPP used existing data and programmatic needs to determine the current research-based approach or area of focus to development of EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers.</li> <li>• Shows clear evidence of alignment between the area of innovation and the identified EPP staff development needs</li> <li>• Innovative practices are well-aligned with EPP programmatic goals</li> <li>• Shows clear evidence of ongoing progress monitoring around innovation implementation</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section II: Success and Scale</b></p>	<p><b>Innovative practices are central to continuous improvement efforts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides or describes a clear rubric and methods that measures the impact of innovative practice implementation</li> <li>• Shows evidence that the innovation results from and drives the cycle of improvement</li> <li>• Shows that results of innovation have led to further refinement of innovative practice design</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 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>

Application	Descriptors
<p style="text-align: center;"><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>• <i>Provides multiple points of quantitative and qualitative evidence</i></li> <li>• <i>Shows positive evidence of impact in the short term</i></li> <li>• <i>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)</i></li> <li>• <i>Evidence relates to educator candidates and educators of candidates, and school district partners.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Strong supporting information speaking specifically to the nature and strength of the innovation’s impact on EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers as well as teacher candidates.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides at least two artifacts that include samples of training or professional development for EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers. The artifacts include specific learning opportunities and should provide context on the implementation of the innovation.</i></li> <li>• <i>Provides at least two letters of support from candidates.</i></li> <li>• <i>Letters of support speak specifically to the goals and implementation of the innovation.</i></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>• <i>Explicit connection to recent research related to innovative development and capacity building of EPP faculty and staff, field supervisors, and/or cooperating and mentor teachers cited in the executive summary</i></li> <li>• <i>Explicit connections to research are also used to support and expand on the program’s approach, goal setting, and ongoing monitoring.</i></li> </ul>

**Instructions to submit documents:**

Obtain and complete the Category 4: Innovative Educator Preparation Program Recognition Application from the Program Provider Resources Page (posted 5/23).

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), no later than October 10, 2023 by 11:59 pm.