



Frequently Asked Questions

This document will provide frequently asked questions to guide our partners in their decision-making process to determine which grants are the best fit, aligned to district goals and needs.

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## General Questions and Resources

Refer to the General Webinar FAQ deck [here](#), for information on Program Guidelines, Webinar Decks, Guidance Docs, and more.

Below are the FAQs related to the PREP Preservice Residency Program.

## Section A: Program Overview

### **Is pathway 2 participation required for participation in PREP Preservice Residency program?**

- Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) District and Campus Leader (Pathway 2) Design Sessions are a required component for school systems participating in PREP Mentorship Program. If a school system is only participating in PREP Preservice Residency Program in School Year 2026-27, they are strongly encouraged to send their cooperating (host) teachers to Mentoring Educator (Pathway 1) training. The District and Campus Leader pathway will not be required for the PREP Preservice Residency Program. Section B: Application and Submission

### **Are mentoring teachers for PREP Preservice Residency now being called cooperating teachers instead of host teachers?**

- The language in TEC § 21.904 (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm#21.904>) uses the term "cooperating teachers". According to TAC §228.95. Host Teacher Qualifications and Responsibilities, "cooperating teachers" who are supporting teacher residents are referred to "host teachers" and must be eligible and perform duties to support residency candidates (<http://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sbec-rules-tac/sbec-tac-currently-in-effect/ch228f.pdf>). For the purposes of clarity they should be referred to as "host teachers". The current Commissioner of Education rulemaking process proposes to clarify and align naming conventions for mentoring educators to the conventions used in TAC Ch. 228 Educator Preparation Program Requirements.

### **Does participation in the PREP Residency program require participation in the PREP mentorship program?**

- No, school systems are not required to participate in the PREP Residency Preservice Program in order to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program although it is highly encouraged.

### **Could a school system require a resident candidate to teach for 1 or 2 years in their district? I know this is allowable with TSS grant 25-27, but I wanted to double-check if it was allowed for LASO?**

- There is no statutory requirement regarding beginning teacher employment in the school system where they completed their residency program. School systems and their partners will be responsible for establishing local implementation parameters. It is best practice to work with EPP partners when making such decisions.

### **Will programs not offering residency be part of the PREP allotment?**

- Yes, these programs will be eligible for the PREP Preservice Traditional program, which will be part of the LASO Cycle 5. LASO 5 is scheduled to open in Fall 2026 for implementation in the 2027-2028 academic year.

**Are school systems who operate on a 4-day school week eligible for the PREP Program Allotment?**

- The PREP Allotment Programs do not have any restriction on instructional days. However, there are restrictions on instructional days regarding resident teacher clinical experience, which would impact eligibility for the PREP Residency Preservice Program. Please see the information below: PREP Preservice Residency - A resident's clinical experience must span a full academic year, including the first and last instructional days, and total at least 750 hours of clinical experience (with a minimum of 21 hours per week). The resident is required to be hired as an at-will employee of the school system. Residency candidates must engage in co-teaching and lead instruction for a minimum of 400 hours.

**Will EPPs that secure approval for residency programming during the 2025-2026 academic year be eligible to participate in 2026-2027 LASO-related programming? Has there been a date of application or window of time when a program can apply to get approved by TEA to implement a Residency if not approved in the past?**

- Educator Preparation Programs must be SBEC approved by December 1, 2025, to participate in the PREP allotment for the 2026-2027 school year; this means that the last date for SBEC approval would have been during the September 2025 SBEC meeting.

**Is there more information on the Preservice Alternative portion of this program? We have several teachers working with an Alt Cert program to obtain their SBEC certificate. Is there funding available for it? (updated 11/17/25)**

- Funding for the PREP preservice alt cert route will be included in LASO Cycle 5. Applications for LASO Cycle 5 will open in Fall 2026, with funding available during SY 27-28.

**Will any of the PREP Program Residency funding support Principal Residents? (updated 12/2/25)**

- No, the PREP Preservice Residency only funds teacher residents.

**Is this program designed for both teacher candidates completing an undergraduate preservice program and those completing an alternative certification program? At what point in their coursework/degree plan would a teacher candidate begin their residency? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Undergrad residency candidates would begin their clinical experience after they have fulfilled the 50 Field Based Experience Hours (FBEs) and any other EPP requirements to start; usually this is at the onset of the undergraduate's senior year. Some EPPs do offer residency for BA completers and it may be worth considering the PREP Preservice ALT CERT route (planned implementation SY 27-28).

## Section B: Application and Submission

**Do PREP Preservice Residency, PREP Grow Your Own, and PREP Mentorship Programs each require their own application?**

- There is only one LASO application. Each PREP Program has a separate section of the application. Each school system may only submit one application.

**Are there interviews for any parts of the PREP Program Allotment?**

- There are no interviews for the PREP Program Allotment LASO 4 application process.

**How do we know if we will receive an allotment?**

- LASO Award Announcements will be shared on February 2, 2025. For any of the PREP Programs, TEA will ask school systems to submit a Verification of Participation Form in the April-May timeframe.

**Does the school board have to approve the application for PREP Grow Your Own, PREP Preservice Residency, and PREP Mentorship Programs?**

- No, only a school system's superintendent is required to approve and sign the LASO application. If the applicant is an SB 1882 operating partner, organization's leader such as the CEO, executive director, or president, must sign the application.

**It is my understanding that our SB 1882 Operating Partners are eligible to apply for LASO separate and apart from their partner school district. Would it be two applications, one from the SB 1882 Operating Partner and one from partner district? Could it be a combined application by the ISD covering both if the needs are the same? What would be the recommended area or areas of focus?**

- An SB 1882 Operating Partner is able to apply to the PREP Program Allotment separate from its partner school districts. Since funding is generated by individuals placed on campuses, if both an SB 1882 Operating Partner and its partner school district apply, both entities would not be able to generate allotments for the same individuals (e.g., residents or mentor teachers). Per the program guidelines, SB 1882 Operating Partners are eligible applicants and subject to the funding caps described in each of the PREP Program's guidelines. However, PREP Program Allotment funding will flow to the partner districts in which the participating 1882 campuses are located. The SB 1882 Operating Partner must have a written agreement with the partner district to document how allotment funds generated through the partnership will be spent.

**Do applicants have to apply to LASO grants to be eligible to apply for the PREP Program Allotment?**

- Applicants may choose to apply to only PREP Programs. There is not a requirement to also apply for a non-PREP grant via LASO.

**Which programs are required to work together? Are any of these three options linked in the sense that a school system would have to apply for one if applying for another?**

- School systems may apply for the PREP Mentorship Program alone. For the PREP Grow Your Own Program school systems must apply for PREP Preservice Residency Program. The PREP Preservice Residency Program may also be a standalone program.

**How do we determine if we are “eligible” for the LASO Cycle 4 PREP Preservice Residency, PREP Grow Your Own, and PREP Mentorship programs?**

- Please see the program guidelines for all eligibility criteria. They are located on this website: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-4-grant-and-allotment-programs>

**Do applicants have to apply for the PREP Preservice Residency and Mentorship programs when applying for GYO?**

- Since participating in the PREP GYO program requires approval of a preservice program and the only preservice program available for LASO Cycle 4 is the PREP Preservice Residency program, the applicant will need to apply to both. Applying for the PREP Mentorship program is not required, but encouraged, when applying for the PREP Preservice Residency program.

**Will there be a place for me to add multiple EPP contacts to my LASO 4 PREP Preservice Residency Application?**

- For the application, please add the point of contact from one partnership for the time being. There will be an additional verification step where you will be able to add multiple EPP contacts when all eligible participants confirm participation in the allotment program between April-May 2026. At this time eligible participants will also submit written agreements between the SBEC approved EPPs and the school system.

**Is it encouraged to ask for 40 residents even though you are starting a residency but forecasting scaling and sustaining the program?**

- Yes. School systems are encouraged to make their best prediction of projected residents they will place in the 2026-2027 school year. Since this is an annual allotment, the school system may fund up to 40 residents annually. In April-May 2026, school systems may refine their projection when they verify participation on the allotment.

**Will school systems after applying for the PREP Preservice Residency be able to adjust the number of residents if the projected numbers have changed? (updated 11/10/25)**

- Yes, there will be a verification of participation process in mid-April-May. During this time, school systems will confirm participation in PREP program(s) and they will be able to verify participating teacher residents. Please consider the application information you are providing as an early estimate of the number of residents you seek to fund through the PREP Preservice Residency Program.

**Checking on why participation in PREP Residency route is aligned with required participation in the Preservice Alt PREP ? It was our understanding the three routes in the law's intent were to be mutually exclusive pathways. (updated 12/2/25)**

- HB 2 outlines three mutually exclusive preservice pathways for teacher candidates to earn Texas teacher certification. Each pathway is a stand-alone route with its own funding, expectations and certification outcomes, and EPPs may determine which pathways they choose to offer. The PREP Preservice Residency pathway is currently available (2026–27) through LASO Cycle 4, while the PREP Preservice Traditional and Alternative pathways launch later (2027–28) via LASO Cycle 5.

**If an 1882 has schools in different districts, are there separate applications for each district they are in, or do they have one application for all schools across multiple districts, and can the 40 residents fall across those multiple districts? (updated 12/2/25)**

- An 1882 partner school may operate across multiple districts, but the maximum number of residents allowed is capped at 40 at the resident funding amount per 1882 entity, not per district. This means that even if the 1882 school collaborates with several districts, the total number of residents placed across all those districts cannot exceed 40 for that single 1882 partnership.

**If a district has more than 40 residents they want to fund, can they apply for this lower funding amount from the PREP Preservice Alt Cert program for the additional residents past 40 in LASO 4? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Yes, under TEC 48.257(g), a school system may qualify to fund up to an additional 40 teacher residents at the traditional candidate funding level, generating \$4,000 per candidate in initial funding.

**If a written agreement needs to be submitted in spring, what exactly is needed for LASO Cycle 4 application for a Residency Partnership with an eligible EPP and district? (updated 12/2/25)**

- In the application, school systems must designate their SBEC approved EPP partner(s) for residents to earn the enhanced standard certificate. In April there will be a verification process to ensure that partnership is solidified in a written agreement.

## **Section C: Funding and Compliance**

**Can left over funds for PREP Preservice Residency be used to provide a stipend for assigned program manager?**

- Yes, success-based funding generated by teacher residents that attain the enhanced standard certificate may be used to implement the PREP Preservice Residency Program. Funds could be used to support programmatic costs such as a program manager, release time, etc.

**What if the resident teacher is seeking certification in multiple areas (example: EC-6 and SpEd EC-12) and they need two mentors/cooperating teachers to accommodate their certification areas- does the \$2,000 for the cooperating teacher get split?**

- If the partnership determines that the resident will benefit from two placements, they partnership must decide how they will compensate the host teachers and meet the minimum stipend of \$2,000.

**Will the candidate receive the allotment money directly?**

- No, initial funds and success-based funding flows directly to the district through the Foundational School Program (FSP). An additional allotment of success-based funding flows directly to the EPP.

**If a resident completes their first-year teaching in a different district than where they completed their residency, is there an impact on success-based funding for the EPP?**

- No. For EPPs to receive the success-based funding, the resident must complete all the requirements of the enhanced certificate and one year teaching at any Texas public school system.

**Are districts able to use the remaining discretionary funds in the residency preservice allotment toward the \$20K minimum pay for residents, or will this need to come directly from the LEA's local funds? To clarify, how much is the school system paying out of pocket for 2 residents? Is it \$20,000?**

- Yes. the school system must match at least \$10K towards the resident's minimum salary of \$20K. The school system may use success-based funding generated from candidate completion of standard certification requirements in the future. School systems should consider how they might locally reallocate and/or reinvest local funds to address the \$10,000 match for each candidate. LASO 4 also offers the Texas Strategic Staffing Grant, a service that supports school systems to address teacher resident pay and local instructional needs through implementation of strategic staffing models. In these models, the school system may reallocate, for example, tutoring funds to pay the resident's salary when the resident's role includes support for high impact tutoring models while they are not completing their clinical teaching hours and coursework.

**By what date does a resident need to earn their enhanced certificate so that the district and EPP can receive the success-based funding?**

- The candidate must complete all of the residency certification requirements in one year. For example, if the candidate begins their residency clinical experience by the first day of school in August 2026, they must complete their residency and certification requirements by the end of the school year.



**Can you provide more information about the success based funding for EPPs in the Preservice Residency Program?**

- For the PREP Residency program, success-based funding for the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) will be generated after the candidate successfully completes enhanced certification requirements and teaches for one full year in a Texas public school. Completion of these requirements will generate \$10,000 per residency candidate, along with an additional \$1,500 for each candidate who completes the reading and math academies requirements. More information will be provided at a later date on the specifics of funding dispersal.

**Can paraprofessionals participate in the Residency funding option? For example, it is highly doable for a paraprofessional to complete the Enhanced Residency requirements, but it seems to receive funding through this pathway, they would need to be hired as a resident.**

- Yes, that is correct, paraprofessionals can fulfill their preparation requirements through a teacher residency program as part of the Preservice Residency Program. Given the route's requirements, including the 21 hours/ week of sheltered practice in a coteaching setting, the school system would have to ensure the para professional could meet those requirements, meaning that their role and responsibilities would likely need adjustment. A para-professional transitioning into a residency program would also be designated as a teacher residency role in PEIMs.

**The \$20,000 salary for the teacher resident. \$20,000 includes benefits. For example, actual salary is \$17,500 and then \$2,500 in fringe benefits for a total of \$20,000. Is that acceptable?**

- Statutory requirements state that the teacher resident must receive a \$20,000 minimum salary (TEC § 21.904). The school system may consider providing candidates with the option to opt into fringe benefits.

**What are the "high needs multiplier" campus qualifications? What is the specific math used to determine the funding amounts associated with the "high needs multiplier"?**

- TEC, 48.157 establishes the funding requirements for the PREP allotment. Within this section, the High Needs and Rural factors for campuses participating in the PREP Grow Your Own and Preservice Programs are determined by the formula described in TEC §48.112 (e) and (f). Within this formula, for each campus in the school system: "(e) [...] a point value for each student at a district campus shall be assigned as follows: (1) 0, for a student for whom the district does not receive a compensatory education allotment under Section 48.104(b) or (e); or (2) 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, or 4.0, respectively, from least to most severe economic disadvantage according to the census block group in which the student resides, for a student for whom the district receives a compensatory education allotment under Section 48.104(b) or (e). (f) If the campus at which a student is enrolled is classified as a rural campus, a student is assigned the point value two tiers higher than the student's point value determined under Subsection (e)(1) or (2)."

**If a resident earns the Enhanced Standard certificate this year (2025-2026) will the EPP be eligible for the funding reimbursement when the resident successfully completes their first year of teaching?**

- No, only residents that begin their residency clinical experience in SY 26-27 are eligible for the first allotment cycle.

**We can use both the Texas Strategic staffing for residency grant and the LASO prep program residency program to make the \$20,000 salary for yearlong residents? Was that correct?**

- Per the program guidelines, funds from the 2026-2028 Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant may only be used towards: salary or time and effort of School System Strategic Staffing Leads, which are selected staff member(s) that supports grant program implementation, In-state travel, supplies and materials, and costs for conferences or trainings directly related to design and implementation of this grant are also allowable (not to exceed \$10,000 per year), and Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Member travel to conferences, trainings, or Design or Implementation Year activities directly related to this grant. School systems who are awarded the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant who go through the two-year design and implementation process of Texas Strategic Staffing will learn, in 2027-2028, how to reallocate and reinvest district funds to help with the cost match requirement for PREP Residency resident stipend in the following years.

**Can a school system fund more than 40 residency candidates? (updated 11/10/25)**

- In 2026-2027, school systems can receive PREP funding for up to 40 resident candidates through the PREP Residency Program and up to 40 candidates may be funded at the rate generated through the PREP Traditional Program. If a school system opts to fund additional candidates at the reduced rate, they must still ensure that the candidate receive the minimum \$20K salary and that the host teacher receives the minimum \$2K stipend as required in statute (TEC, 21.904). Please view the webinar resource deck for the specific funding amounts pertaining to both programs.

**The 2025-2027 Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable Paid Residencies allows districts to use some of those funds for resident stipends (up to \$7,000 from the grant with \$3,000 local funds to fund resident stipends at no less than \$10K). If those same districts apply for and/or receive the PREP Preservice Residency Program, how can those funds be used for their 26-27 Residents? (updated 12/1/25)**

- A district that received the 2025-2027 Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable Paid Residencies may use up to \$40K toward the cost match of the PREP Preservice Residency Program, per the General and Fiscal Guidelines: Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds. Details on the cost match requirements can be found in the Errata posted on the 25-27 Strategic Staffing for Sustainable Paid Residencies Grant page and questions regarding any budget amendments that need to be made can be found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/grants/grants-administration/whentoamendtheapplicationguidance.pdf>

**Can resident stipends (beyond 40) be funded with traditional route funding? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Yes, there is a cap at 40 residents per school system (CDN number) to get fully funded at the PREP Residency rate between \$24,000-\$39,500. Then, up to an additional 40 resident candidates, are funded at the lower rate of \$10,000-\$21,500 per resident.

**Will cooperating (host) teachers get stipends to support residents in the PREP Preservice Residency allotment? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Yes, for each resident there is a \$2,000 stipend for host teachers. Each host teacher must be paid the minimum \$2,000 stipend.

**Are non-PREP residency routes required to pay residents the \$20,000 stipend? (updated 12/2/25)**

- No, for school systems not participating nor receiving the PREP Preservice Residency allotment, there is no requirement to pay the minimum stipend amount to residents on their campuses.

**Is there a particular funding source we need to use outside of HB 2 entitlements to pay for programming costs within an enhanced residency partnership? (e.g., could we use title 2 funds to pay for certification costs that exceed HB2 allotments? Or does all money used to pay for certification need to use state funding sources like Foundation School Program?) (updated 12/2/25)**

- School systems may use other local, state, or federal funds to cover costs that exceed the HB 2 allotment. Title II, Part A funds can be used to support professional development, certification-related expenses, and mentorship activities, as long as they align with federal guidelines.

**For EPPs to receive the \$10000 for resident completion, must they be hired as an at-will employee? In other words, if students choose to complete the Enhanced Residency pathway without pay/employment as described in TAC 228, will the EPP receive HB2 funds for this resident? (updated 12/2/25)**

- The resident must be paid as an at will employee to be part of the PREP Residency allotment. For an EPP to receive success-based funding, they must earn their Enhanced Standard Certificate with an LEA participating in the PREP allotment. The success-based funding flows directly to EPP when candidate earns Enhanced Standard Certificate AND completes first year teaching in a Texas school.

**If we sign up for 3 residents a year but the EPP can only assign us 2, will we be required to return funds received through the FSP? (updated 12/2/25)**

- There will be a verification process in April to settle up any discrepancies. If a candidate drops then, yes, the funding must be returned.

**The slide said the other \$10,000 must be “local” funds. Does that mean local 199 funding? Or is it just district funds, which could include a state/federal grant (if resident pay is an allowable use)?** (updated 12/2/25)

- The slide referencing the need (match) for an additional \$10,000 in “local” funds means that school systems must contribute matching funds to support resident stipends—but “local” does not strictly mean Fund 199, but can also include: grants, philanthropic funds and other budget sources i.e.. Strategic Staffing.

**Is the funding for the SpEd or Bilingual - \$2K for each certification area or either/or?** (updated 12/2/25)

- If a candidate earns both certifications, they may be eligible for \$4,000 total—\$2,000 per certification area—as long as they meet the program’s criteria and the school system applies accordingly.

**Are LEAs able to use the Success Based Funding with residency preservice to meet the \$20K required stipend for a resident, or is it required that the additional \$10K must come from LEA funds?** (updated 12/2/25)

- School systems may allocate success-based funding generated by teacher residents to support funding for teacher resident stipends. Use of success-based funding must meet the statutory spending rules under TEC §§21.904 and 48.157.

**Will the host teacher stipend be TRS eligible?** (updated 12/2/25)

- The host teacher stipends provided through the PREP Program allotments are not automatically TRS-eligible compensation. School systems should inquire with their TRS specialist/reporting entity for more details.

**The \$20,000 salary for the teacher resident, does this include benefits? For example, actual salary is \$17,500 and then \$2,500 in fringe benefits for a total of \$20,000. Is that acceptable. Is the payment a stipend or salary? If we use salary, they will have a large deduction for benefits, but if we can pay via stipend, they would not have benefits deducted which would leave more funds for the resident.** (updated 12/2/25)

- How residents are paid either through salary or stipend or salary and benefits is at the discretion of the school system. The \$20,000 to the resident must be before any benefits the district may offer.

**Does the funding cover the costs associated with sending the Host Teacher (Cooperating Teacher) to the Texas Mentorship Training?** (updated 12/2/25)

- PREP Mentorship Program funding can be used to cover both the costs related to sending HOST teachers to Texas Mentorship Training. Success-based funding generated by residents may also be used to fund the costs for the Texas Mentorship training.

**Who is responsible for ensuring the HOST Teacher attends the Texas Mentorship Training and covers all of the fees? The school district or the EPP? (updated 12/2/25)**

- The school system covers the cost of the training. Both the EPP and the school system share responsibility for the host teacher's participation.

## **Section D: Implementation and Monitoring**

**What are the Reading and Math Academies, and how do they relate to HB 2 requirements for EPPs?**

- The Reading Academies and Mathematics Achievement Academies are state-developed professional learning programs designed to ensure educators are equipped with evidence-based instructional practices aligned to Texas standards. These academies focus on foundational literacy and math instruction, particularly for early grades (K–3), and are part of the state's broader strategy to improve student outcomes in reading and math. Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) will be statutorily required to deliver these academies directly to teacher candidates as a core requirement of the PREP Preservice Programs. More information will be made available shortly regarding EPP training and certification to implement the training content. Training is anticipated to begin during early fall 2026.

**What is the cost of the Mentor Training for Host Teachers in Residency?**

- Texas Mentorship Training is not required for PREP Preservice Residency host teachers in School Year 2026-27. However, TEA highly encourages host teachers to attend the Mentoring Educator pathway of the TMT in School Year 2026-27. If the school system would like to send their host teachers to TMT and is partnering with an ESC Texas Mentorship Training Provider, the cost of training would be \$500 per participant. Please note that if the school system wishes to partner with a non-ESC Approved Provider, TMT cost will vary. To learn more about TMT costs, please reach out to your TMT Provider at <https://tmt.tea.texas.gov/contacts>

**Will cooperating teachers be required to complete the Mentorship Training or will EPPs still be able to develop that own trainings in accordance with TAC 228?**

- For school systems participating in the PREP Preservice Residency Program in School Year 2026-27, the Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Mentoring Educator training pathway is optional but strongly encouraged for host teachers.

**Can a school system (open charter) place a resident teacher with a host teacher who is not certified?**

- Residents must be placed with a qualified host teacher which does require certification as described in §228.95(a) <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sbec-rules-tac/sbec-tac-currently-in-effect/ch228f.pdf>

**Where can a school system find a list of SBEC approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route providers?**

- All EPPs who are SBEC- approved to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route are found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/teacher-residencies-in-texas>

**Who is responsible for implementing state-developed content?**

- Under HB 2, EPPs must integrate state-developed content into coursework.

**Will LEAs be able to apply for allotment with all EPP partnerships? (More than one EPP)**

- Only EPPs who have been SBEC approved to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route resulting in the enhanced standard certificate may partner with school systems for the PREP Residency Allotment. School systems may have more than one SBEC approved partner.

**What types of state-developed content are required under HB 2 for PREP Allotment Programs? (updated 11/10/25)**

- Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) participating in the PREP Allotment Program will be required to be trained and certified to deliver a suite of state-developed preparation content by the 2027–28 school year. For the 2027-2028 school year, the statutorily required Reading and Math Achievement Academies will be prioritized. This content is currently in development and is designed to ensure that EPPs prepare teacher candidates to deliver instruction aligned with Texas educator standards. The agency will provide further communication to Educator Preparation Programs regarding the training content.

**Is it required for Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) to use Bluebonnet Learning HQIM in the preparation content being developed by the state? (updated 11/10/25)**

- Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) participating in the PREP Preservice Programs under HB 2 will be required to prepare teacher candidates using state-developed training content, including the statutorily required Reading Academies and Math Academies. More information will be coming shortly regarding the specific training content that will be available in 2027-2028, as well as related training and approval processes for participating EPPs. As an additional note, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) are already statutorily required to prepare teacher candidates to effectively use Texas Open Education Resources (OER) in subjects where these materials are available. Bluebonnet Learning is the state's OER product. This requirement is specified in TAC Chapter 228.

**Is the PREP Mentorship Program mandatory for all beginning teachers that are hired by a school district in their first and second year of teaching? What if the district chooses not to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program, but has their own mentorship program? (updated 12/1/25)**

- No, it is not mandatory for a school system to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program. If a school system chooses not to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program, they will not be able to access the PREP Mentorship Program funds and will not be required to fulfill the PREP

Mentorship Program requirements, such as the Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) for the mentor teachers.

**Does a district have to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program if the district participates in the PREP Preservice Residency Partnership? Is it mandatory to participate in both, or can the district only participate in the PREP Preservice Residency Partnership Program? (updated 12/1/2025)**

- No, a school system participating in the PREP Preservice Residency Program does not have to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program. However, TEC, §21.902 states that school systems participating in a PREP Preservice program shall ensure that a teacher candidate (i.e., resident teacher) is mentored by a mentor teacher who has completed mentorship training (Texas Mentorship Training) under TEC §21.907 for the candidate's first two years as a teacher of record after completing a partnership preservice program.

**Does the mentorship training satisfy the TAC requirement for residency that host teachers receive training at least twice per year, or is the EPP expected to provide additional/separate training outside of the mentorship training twice per year? (updated 12/1/25)**

- Yes, the Texas Mentorship Training is aligned to meet state policy training requirements for all mentoring educator roles, including those of the host teacher.

**Are there requirements to fulfill before a resident can start paid clinical experience? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Residency candidates need to meet any EPP specific requirements which include a minimum of 50 field-based hours before they start clinical experience as per §228.43 <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sbec-rules-tac/sbec-tac-currently-in-effect/ch228d.pdf>

**Are host teachers required to attend TMT? Is funding available to offset the costs associated with participating in TMT? (updated 12/2/25)**

- For the 2026-2027 SY, it is highly recommended that cooperating teachers participating in the PREP Preservice Residency allotment attend TMT; it will be required starting in the 2027-2028 SY. Funding is available to cover both the training costs and substitute teacher expense.

**What is the definition in the PREP Residency Program for an effective teacher? (updated 12/2/25)**

- For the PREP Preservice Residency, as per TAC §228.95(a)(1)(2), a cooperating (host) teacher of a resident must be an accomplished educator with at least three years of proficient or above proficient ratings on teacher evaluations; demonstrated evidence of positive impact on student learning as determined by a set of student growth and/or achievement data agreed upon by the partnership; and other dispositional criteria prioritized by the residency partnership.



**What requirements must host teachers meet to serve in these roles? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Cooperating teachers must hold a valid Texas Teacher Certificate in the same certification area as the candidate.

**What if the teacher is hired late? (updated 12/2/25)**

- PREP Preservice Residency programs require a full academic year of co-teaching with a host teacher that starts at the beginning and ending of the school year with students.

**Will all of the EPPs on the TEA website be an option for the PREP Allotment, or will there be a different list? (updated 12/2/25)**

- For the PREP Residency and PREP GYO allotment the EPP must be SBEC approved to offer the enhanced certificate. For the list please visit: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/teacher-residencies-in-texas>

**Does partnership commitment have to be a MOU, or would a commitment letter suffice? For example, If a multi-region charter school engages in a written contract with an ESC for 10 enhanced residency trained teachers, will this prohibit the charter district from submitting a written contract with other providers in different regions (e.g., ESC 1 in the RGV for 5 teachers)? (updated 12/2/25)**

- TEC §21.902 requires a “written agreement” between school systems and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) but does not mandate that this agreement take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A school system or open enrollment charter may have multiple SBEC approved TTRPR EPPs in partnership solidified with written agreement for each.

**How will EPPs know they are approved to implement a paid residency? (updated 12/2/25)**

- For the PREP RESIDENCY allotment, EPPs must go through the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route (TTRPR) scoring process and then recommended to the SBEC for their approval.

**Is there a list of approved EPP's? What if there is no approved EPP close to the district? (updated 12/2/25)**

- A list of current TTRPR providers is located on this website <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/teacher-residencies-in-texas>. If there are no approved EPPs, the district will not be eligible for the PREP Residency allotment.

**Can residents serve as the teacher of record? (updated 12/2/25)**

- No, residents may not serve as teachers of record as per TEC §21.902(e)(1) <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm#21.904>



**Just to clarify, is the district required to be using Bluebonnet as their HQIM in order to qualify for this program? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Not for SY 2026-27. The content requirement for PREP Residency is not consequential until SY 2027-28.

**Will the EPP provide reading/math academies for these candidates, or would they be enrolled in the LEA's local cohorts? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) will be required to deliver the state-developed Reading and Math Academies directly to teacher candidates as part of the PREP Allotment Program under HB 2. While LEAs may continue to offer local cohorts for in-service educators, the responsibility for preparing teacher candidates with this content will rest with the EPP.

**For eligibility in the PREP Preservice Resident Allotment, is a candidate required to be in their final semester of college to begin the residency, or can they enroll in an EPP and while concurrently completing their bachelor's degree if they have at least 60 semester credits? Then when can they be placed in a residency placement? (updated 12/2/25)**

- According to 19 TAC §227.10(a)(3)(B), candidates may be admitted to an EPP after completing a minimum of 60 semester credit hours at an accredited institution. Then once they have completed their field-based hours (a minimum of 50), they can begin their residency placement, §228.43(b).

**What if the host teacher changes mid-year? (updated 12/2/25)**

- If a resident's host teacher departs or is reassigned during the residency year, the school system may designate a new host teacher—provided the replacement is qualified and willing to fulfill the responsibilities of a host teacher. This ensures continuity in the resident's clinical experience and maintains alignment with program quality standards.

**Given that our students graduate at the beginning of May and then have to wait to apply for the standard certificate until diplomas are issued (this can take 2-3 weeks), some students, even those who have taken and passed all exams, may not be fully certified by the last day of their ISD's school year. Could you please advise? (updated 12/2/25)**

- As long as all the requirements had been met for the enhanced certificate, the resident has applied for their certificate and is awaiting paperwork/certification to be processed, this should NOT prevent a school district to receive the success-based funding. In addition, after one year of teaching in a Texas school, the former resident should have met the success-based funding for the EPP to receive their funds.

**Where can we find in writing the statement mentioned in the webinar: " Host teacher training in Texas mentorship training is strongly encouraged SY26-27 but required in SY27-28." (updated 12/2/25)**

- From the PREP Preservice Residency webinar slide number 5, it states that it is highly recommended that Mentorship training starts SY 2026-2027, yet it is not required until SY 2027-2028. <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/prep-residency-program-laso-4-program-webinar-deck.pdf>

**Can school systems employ "spring starting" residents for the PREP Preservice Residency Program? For example, can a resident start their placement in January and end in May of the following year? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Yes, EPPs and school systems may begin the residency placements in the spring, which typically starts in January (winter term) and would conclude in December of the following school year (fall term). This would allow the candidate to complete the full year residency and experience the first and last days of school as required in TAC Chapter 228. Candidates who begin their residency in January could be counted for allotment funding for the subsequent school year. TEA will provide more guidance for funding related to spring start candidates in the forthcoming PREP Allotment Guidebook.

**Can you confirm that a PREP residency partnership can exist without the residents taking on an additional role in the district? (updated 12/2/25)**

- Other than a resident NOT serving as teacher of record, there is nothing in code regarding other roles provided the TAC §228 enhanced certification requirements are being met.

**We have had some concerns from teachers about TIA implications for teachers hosting residents. We would like some guidance on how to navigate these concerns regarding teachers who are hesitant to give control of their class given the implications on their TIA earnings. (updated 12/2/25)**

- This is a valid concern especially when it comes to TIA with salary based on designation. It is key to work with host teachers and administration on how to define coteaching practices and resident's role in gradual release model that allows the host teacher to mentor effectively.

**For PREP Preservice Residency, does small group instruction count towards the 750 required hours of co-teaching/leading classroom instructions. (updated 12/2/25)**

- Yes, small group instruction can be part of a resident's clinical experience.

**Are districts (school systems) responsible for implementing Bluebonnet Learning to be eligible for PREP Preservice Residency? (updated 12/2/25)**

- No, districts are not responsible for implementing Bluebonnet Learning to be eligible for the PREP Preservice Residency.

In the Program Guidelines, it says that Host Teachers are required to train in the Texas Mentorship Training (page 11), but in the FAQ's it says that the Texas Mentorship Training is optional but strongly encouraged (page 7). I am trying to clarify if the TMT is required for Host Teachers so that we may include in our budget? (updated 12/2/25)

- To clarify, it is recommended—but not required—for the host teacher to complete Texas Mentorship training in 2026–27; however, it will be mandatory in 2027–28.

So if the school system is reporting placements in ECOS, does that mean that those will be somehow linked for the EPP to see? Is it one clinical experience record between the two entities? Or do they each create their own? (updated 12/2/25)

- ECOS is currently being updated to accommodate the data requirements of the PREP Program Allotment. More guidance will be provided as it becomes available.

Can a school system have more than one SBEC approved Texas Teacher Residency partnership? Is there a recommended number of partnerships? (updated 12/2/25)

- Yes, a school system may have more than one SBEC approved Teacher Residency partnership.

## Section E: Support and Resources

There are no additional resources available at this time.

## Section F: Contact Information

Who should I contact for questions?

- For questions about the PREP Preservice Residency Program, please email [teateacherresidency@tea.texas.gov](mailto:teateacherresidency@tea.texas.gov).