

**Item 17:****Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request  
to Approve New Class of Certificate at Wayland  
Baptist University****DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve a request by Wayland Baptist University, an approved and accredited educator preparation program (EPP) located in Plainview, Texas, to offer the Superintendent class of certificate. Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff reviewed the proposal request and found that it complied with provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements, and Chapter 242, Superintendent Certificate.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority related to the approval of new classes of certification are the Texas Education Code, §21.044 and §21.041.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon Board approval.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:** None.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:** The SBEC approves all new classes of certificates that are offered through an EPP. An EPP must be rated "Accredited" under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs (ASEP) to be eligible to add new classes to program offerings. The EPP prepares an extensive and complete application addressing the components of the advisory committee, admissions, curriculum, program delivery and on-going support, evaluation, and professional conduct. The proposal is reviewed by several TEA staff members who hold extensive discussions with the applying entity to ensure compliance to the TAC for the certification class being requested.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** Approving a new class of certificate offering will increase the number of certified superintendents in the state.

**PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:** None.

**LOCALLY MAINTAINED PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**ALTERNATIVES:** None.

**OTHER COMMENTS AND RELATED ISSUES:** None.

**ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend that the State Board for Educator Certification:

Approve the Superintendent class of certificate at Wayland Baptist University.

**Staff Members Responsible:** Tim Miller, Director  
Educator Preparation, Testing, and Program Accountability

Sandra Nix, Manager  
Educator Preparation

**Attachments:**

- I. Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Classes of Certification
- II. Executive Summary for Wayland Baptist University, Superintendent Certification

**Attachment I****Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Classes of Certification****Texas Education Code, §21.044, Educator Preparation (excerpt):**

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

**Texas Education Code, §21.041, Rules, Fees (excerpts):**

- (a) The board may adopt rules as necessary for its own procedures.
- (b) The board shall propose rules that:
  - (1) provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of this subchapter in a manner consistent with this subchapter;

## Attachment II

### Executive Summary for Wayland Baptist University, Superintendent Certification

#### Introduction:

Wayland Baptist University is a liberal arts university with its main campus located in Plainview, Texas. Wayland Baptist University is proposing to offer an online superintendent certification program. Our target area for candidates in this program is the state of Texas and outside the state who meet the program entrance qualifications. Candidates from out-of-state who want to be certified in Texas must meet all university and Texas certification requirements. We anticipate that the program will certify between 15-20 candidates each year. The anticipated start date for the program is February of 2016. The cost for candidates will be approximately \$6,100.00 in tuition and approximately \$600.00 in books and materials.

The university is located in an area of the state where candidates have to address the challenge of travel to a campus setting to take advantage of courses and is in a logical setting for online delivery. Our online graduate degree programs have been in place long enough for our previous candidates to begin inquiring about additional training in the area of the superintendent certification. In an online survey conducted to determine the level of interest in a superintendent certification program, 50% of the candidates currently in or who have completed the Masters of Education degree indicated an interest. The responsiveness of the professors to work in an individualized online format has been a source of positive feedback for the current courses offered through our Blackboard™ delivery system.

#### Component 1: Governance of Educator Preparation Programs

The Superintendent Advisory Committee has been a working committee since November of 2014, reviewing, revising and collaborating with the university, to provide a program of excellence in the area of the superintendent certification. Committee members include university faculty, public and private education employees, Region 17 ESC staff, and the local business community. Committee members served specific roles and responsibilities in reviewing all aspects of the proposed program and the university has made the necessary adjustments as a result of the committee recommendations.

The Superintendent Advisory Committee met a second time as a full committee in May of 2015 to review the modifications and make adjustments in the program and proposal.

The intent of the Superintendent Advisory Committee is to meet a minimum of twice a year to review, recommend, and make the necessary modifications to all aspects of the superintendent program. This includes, but is not be limited to, the program design, delivery, evaluation, and major policy decisions of the superintendent program.

#### Component 2: Admission Criteria

To gain admission into the Superintendent Certification Program, applicants must hold a teaching certificate, a principal certificate, and a master's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher learning with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. In addition, the applicant must complete the application and provide three letters of recommendation, a résumé, and a statement of professional goals. The applicant must also provide evidence of at least two years of teaching experience as well as evidence of some experience in administrative, managerial, or other leadership position in a public or private school setting.

Each applicant will be screened through an interview and writing sample by an admissions committee of three education faculty members. One of the members will include the Dean of the School of Education.

### **Component 3: Educator Preparation Curriculum**

The superintendent standards are the foundation of all the courses provided in the superintendent certification program. The course syllabi have been designed and developed around those standards and the course projects, assignments, papers, and presentations have all been developed with the idea of reinforcing those standards. Course professors and the School of Education staff are committed to continuous course evaluation to ensure close alignment of material to the superintendent standards.

The course projects, presentations, papers, and assignments will serve as benchmarks to help demonstrate candidates' progress toward mastery of the superintendent standards. Those benchmarks will be evaluated based on candidate performance. Adjustments and modifications in the delivery of the instructional material will be made as necessary.

Activities for courses will include papers, case studies, project presentations, papers, articles, and presentations that contemplate decision-making using the superintendent standards. Assessments will include skills-based projects evaluated using rubrics.

### **Component 4: Preparation Program Coursework, Delivery & Ongoing Support**

Wayland Baptist University's Superintendent Certification Program is a fully online degree program that is established to prepare candidates with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete the TExES Superintendent Examination (195) and to prepare the candidates for successful entry and service into the role of superintendent in the state of Texas.

The average time for a candidate to complete the program is one calendar year. This includes the superintendent practicum, but will allow for extended time to complete the practicum clock hours as necessary. The candidate will complete a minimum of 200 clock hours of coursework and an additional 200 clock hours to demonstrate use of superintendent standards in the practicum.

Verification of the superintendent practicum will be monitored by a Field Supervisor who will conduct at least three observations totaling a minimum of 135 minutes. Each formal observation will be followed by an interactive conference and opportunity for mentoring. The candidate will also keep a practicum journal and the candidate will log the time spent directly involved with practicum assignments. That practicum log will be verified by the district superintendent working directly with the candidate.

The online course will be delivered via the Blackboard™ delivery system which is a safe and secure system utilizing the iNACOL standards throughout the coursework. The online materials have been developed by the course professors. The professors have been extensively trained in the use and resource availability of the online software. Candidates will communicate with one another and with the professor using online discussion boards, blogs, video chat rooms, collaboration rooms, and internal email accounts. The clock-hours for the coursework will be maintained through the monitoring and tracking of each course, online lectures, case studies, and discussion boards provided during the course of study. All projects and assignments will be submitted through SafeAssign™ system software embedded in Blackboard™ to protect the

integrity of the project. All candidates will receive extensive tutoring in the use of the online software programs through Blackboard™ training videos.

#### **Component 5: Assessment & Evaluation of Candidates & Program**

The program evaluation will be ongoing using an online course matrix that targets the content, delivery, and instructional techniques used in the presentation of course materials. The Superintendent Advisory Committee shall make additional recommendations based on the input from candidate surveys.

#### **Component 6: Professional Conduct**

All candidates and professors will be required to sign an affirmation that they have read, understand, and will abide by the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics.