

Item 14:
**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on 2017–2018 and
2018–2019 Continuing Approval Reviews of Educator
Preparation Programs**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve programs for continuing approval (5 years) based on the results of the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 reviews.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for 19 TAC §§229.6(a), 228.10(b) and 229.9 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.0443, 21.041, 21.0452, 21.0454, and 21.061.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval.

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff anticipates recommending action for additional programs from the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 reviews at the December 2019 meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: TEC §21.0443 authorizes the SBEC to adopt rules providing for educator preparation program (EPP) approval and renewal of approval. TEC §21.061 states that the SBEC is to carry out a process for reviewing and, as necessary, updating standards and requirements for EPPs. TEC §21.041 allows the Board to set fees for the approval or renewal of approval of an EPP. TEC §21.0452 authorizes the Board to make information available regarding EPPs to the public. TEC §21.0454 authorizes the Board to propose rules that develop a set of risk factors for each preparation program to be used by the agency to guide the five-year review process.

Forty-six EPPs were reviewed for continuing approval for the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 academic years. Four programs have voluntarily closed. The purpose of this item is to provide the Board an opportunity to approve 31 of those programs that were in compliance or made the required improvements following the review.

At the December 2019 SBEC meeting, the Board will have an opportunity to approve the remaining programs that made the required improvements following the review, with an October 30, 2019 deadline for compliance, as well as take action regarding those that are not in compliance. Staff will provide recommended sanctions for those programs not in compliance with SBEC rules.

The purpose of a regular periodic review of an approved EPP, as required by statute in TEC §21.0443 and supported by SBEC rule in 19 TAC §228.10(b), is to provide evidence to ensure an EPP is adequately preparing candidates for educator certification and meeting the standards and requirements set by the SBEC. In the review process, TEA gathers evidence to determine EPP compliance with the TEC and TAC in the program approval components of:

- governance;
- admission practices;
- curriculum;
- coursework, training, program delivery, and ongoing support of candidates;
- assessment and evaluation of candidates and the program;
- professional conduct;
- complaints procedures;
- certification procedures; and
- integrity of data submission.

The review process provides clarification of current rules and requirements to EPPs and encourages the sharing of best practices to promote a continuous improvement mindset. TEA staff develops and implements targeted training to individuals and groups of EPPs based on common issues that surface across multiple EPP review reports. The review process also provides TEA with an opportunity to identify and showcase exceptional programs or practices that can be shared with other EPPs.

At the beginning of the review cycle, TEA staff develops a set of risk factors to use in assessing the overall risk level for each EPP to determine the type of review for that EPP in accordance with TEC §21.0454. The factors used in the risk assessment for 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 continuing approval reviews were:

- 1) Accreditation data including two areas:
 - The principal appraisal of first-year teachers that were either “sufficiently prepared” or “well prepared”
 - The quality of field supervision by the EPP
- 2) Annual performance data including two areas:
 - Retention of teachers—the percentage of teachers that are still employed as a teacher five years after earning a standard certificate
 - The percentage of tests passed by students in an EPP
- 3) Formal complaints against the EPP that occurred within the five years since the last review and that revealed one or more violations of TAC prescribed in TEC §21.0454(a)(1)
- 4) Accreditation status of the EPP with increased risk for those with Accredited—Warned or Accredited—Probation status prescribed in TEC §21.0454(a)(2)
- 5) Accreditation by other organizations, which reduced the risk for those EPPs accredited by a national organization for educator preparation, such as CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation)

At the time of the review, the EPP must submit a status report regarding its compliance with existing standards for EPPs and the entity’s original proposal to TEA. TEA uses the status report to focus on specific EPP processes and documents and to identify areas where EPP staff may not have a clear understanding of rules and requirements. TEA staff used a desk review format to review EPPs for the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 reporting years. A desk review requires the EPP to submit documents to TEA in lieu of an on-site visit.

After reviewing the status report and candidate records provided by the program, TEA staff asks for additional information based on the results of the risk assessment, current accreditation status, and submitted materials. This additional information might include:

- Curriculum to review areas where candidates may not be receiving sufficient instruction resulting in EPP pass rate or candidate performance issues
- Targeted areas arising from complaints
- Reporting processes if lowered accreditation status was based on, for example, observations reported not making the 95% target because the program did not upload the observations properly
- Educator preparation program advisory committee activities to evaluate the types of support the program was receiving

TEA staff conducted desk reviews for the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 reporting years because staff did not conduct program reviews during 2016–2017 and for the first half of the 2017–2018 year. Because of the delay in review, TEA staff had to review 46 programs beyond their five-year period. Staffing transitions and the need to redesign the review process contributed to the delay.

At the close of each continuing approval review, TEA staff members provide the results of the review as well as the next steps programs must complete to correct deficiencies identified in the review process. With the continuing approval reviews for the two cycles completed, TEA staff began verifying evidence that EPPs submitted to correct deficiencies. The first group of programs had corrected compliance items due by August 31, 2019. A second group of programs had a deadline of October 30, 2019.

Attachment II provides a list of programs that met all requirements in their review as well as those that completed their required improvement (required if there was a finding of noncompliance) which were approved by staff by the August 31, 2019 deadline. TEA staff notified each of the EPPs in advance of the recommendation presented to the SBEC. Staff anticipates following the same process at the December meeting for programs being recommended for another five years; however, staff also anticipates bringing the Board recommendations for programs that did not submit the required improvement by the deadline or where the improvement did not adequately address the identified deficiencies. For such programs, TEA staff will recommend conditions attached to an EPP's continuing approval or revocation of a program's continuing approval. The EPP will be able to request an informal review prior to SBEC action.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The development and application of EPP review criteria will help ensure educator preparation programs are preparing educators to positively influence the performance of the diverse student population of the state.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the programs as presented for a 5-year renewal of approval.

Staff Members Responsible:

Tam Jones, Director, Educator Preparation

Lorrie Ayers, Program Specialist, Educator Preparation

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations Relating to Continuing Approval Reviews
- II. Programs Recommended for Continual Approval

ATTACHMENT I**Statutory Citations Relating to Continuing Approval Reviews****Texas Education Code, §21.041, Rules: Fees**

- (d) The board may propose a rule adopting a fee for the approval or renewal of approval of renewal of an educator preparation program, or for the addition of a certificate or field of certificate to the scope of a program's approval. A fee imposed under this sub-section may not exceed the amount necessary, as determined by the board, to provide for the administrative cost of approving, renewing the approval of, and appropriately ensuring the accountability of educator preparation programs under this subchapter.

Texas Education Code, §21.0443, Educator Preparation Program Approval and Renewal

- (a) The board shall propose rules to establish standards to govern the approval or renewal of approval of:
 - (1) educator preparation programs; and
 - (2) certification fields authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
- (b) To be eligible for approval or renewal of approval, an educator preparation program must adequately prepare candidates for educator certification and meet the standards and requirements of the board.
- (c) The board shall require that each educator preparation program be reviewed for renewal of approval at least every five years. The board shall adopt an evaluation process to be used in reviewing an educator preparation program for renewal of approval.

Texas Education Code, §21.0452, Consumer Information Regarding Educator Preparation Programs (excerpt):

- (b) The board shall make available at least the following information regarding each educator preparation program:
 - (1) the information specified in Sections 21.045(a) and (b);
- (e) The board may develop procedures under which each educator preparation program receives a designation or ranking based on the information required to be made available under Subsection (b). If the board develops procedures under this subsection, the designation or ranking received by each program must be included in the information made available under the section.

Texas Education Code, §21.0454, Risk Factors for Educator Preparation Programs; Risk-Assessment Model (excerpt):

- (a) The board shall propose rules necessary to develop a set of risk factors to use in assessing the overall risk level of each educator preparation program.
- (b) The set of risk factors developed by the board may include whether an educator preparation program is accredited by other organizations.
- (c) The board shall use the set of risk factors to guide the agency in conducting monitoring, inspections, and compliance audits of educator preparation programs, including evaluations associated with renewals under Section 21.0443.

Texas Education Code, §21.061, Review and Updating of Educator Preparation Programs:

The board shall, after consulting with appropriate higher education faculty and public school teachers and administrators and soliciting advice from other interested persons with relevant knowledge and experience, develop and carry out a process for reviewing and, as necessary, updating standards and requirements for educator preparation programs.

ATTACHMENT II
Programs Recommended for Continuing Approval

Name of Program	Accreditation Status (2017–2018)
A Career in Teaching—Corpus Christi	Accredited—Probation Yr. 2
Amberton University	Accredited
Educators of Excellence ACP	Accredited
Excellence in Teaching	Accredited
Houston ISD—ACP	Accredited
LeTourneau University	Accredited— Warned
Lone Star Colleges	Accredited
Midwestern State University	Accredited
Education Service Center 7	Accredited— Warned
Education Service Center 13	Accredited
Education Service Center 20	Accredited— Warned
Rice University	Accredited
Schreiner University	Accredited
St. Mary's University	Accredited— Warned
Texas Woman's University	Accredited
Trinity University	Accredited
University of Texas—Dallas	Accredited— Warned
University of Texas—San Antonio	Accredited
University of Texas—Tyler	Accredited
Weatherford College	Accredited
Yes Prep Public Schools	Accredited
Austin College	Accredited— Warned

Name of Program	Accreditation Status (2017–2018)
Baylor University	Accredited
Concordia University	Accredited
Education Career Alternatives Program (ECAP)	Accredited
iTeach Texas	Accredited
Education Service Center 2	Accredited
Stephen F. Austin State University	Accredited—Probation Yr. 1
Teachworthy (formerly ACT San Antonio)	Accredited—Probation Yr. 1
The Texas Institute for Teacher Education	Accredited— Warned
Web-Centric ACP	Accredited— Warned