

Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC**Chapter 230. Professional Educator Preparation and Certification****Subchapter C. Assessment of Educators****§230.21. Educator Assessment.**

- (a) A candidate seeking certification as an educator must pass the examination(s) required by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.048, and the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) in §233.1(e) of this title (relating to General Authority) and shall not retake an examination more than four times, unless the limitation is waived for good cause. The burden of proof shall be upon the candidate to demonstrate good cause.
- (1) For the purposes of the retake limitation described by the TEC, §21.048, an examination retake is defined as a second or subsequent attempt to pass any examination required for the issuance of a certificate, including an individual core subject examination that is part of the overall examination required for the issuance of a Core Subjects certificate as described in §233.2 of this title (relating to Early Childhood; Core Subjects).
- (A) A canceled examination score is not considered an examination retake.
- (B) An examination taken by an educator during a pilot period is not considered part of an educator's five-time test attempt limit.
- (C) Pursuant to TEC, §21.0491(d), the limit on number of test attempts does not apply to the trade and industrial workforce training certificate examination prescribed by the SBEC.
- (D) A candidate who fails a computer- or paper-based examination cannot retake the examination before 30 ~~[45]~~ days have elapsed following the candidate's last attempt to pass the examination.
- (2) Good cause is:
- (A) the candidate's highest score on an examination is within one conditional standard error of measurement (CSEM) of passing, and the candidate has completed 50 clock-hours of educational activities. CSEMs will be published annually on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website;
- (B) the candidate's highest score on an examination is within two CSEMs of passing, and the candidate has completed 100 clock-hours of educational activities;
- (C) the candidate's highest score on an examination is within three CSEMs of passing, and the candidate has completed 150 clock-hours of educational activities;
- (D) the candidate's highest score on an examination is not within three CSEMs of passing, and the candidate has completed 200 clock-hours of educational activities;
- (E) if the candidate needs a waiver for more than one of the individual core subject examinations that are part of the overall examination required for the issuance of a Core Subjects certificate, the candidate has completed the number of clock-hours of educational activities required for each individual core subject examination as described in subparagraphs (A)-(D) of this paragraph up to a maximum of 300 clock-hours. The number of clock-hours for each examination may be divided equally based on the number of examinations in the waiver request, but the number of clock-hours for an examination shall not be less than 50; or
- (F) if a CSEM is not appropriate for an examination, the TEA staff will identify individuals who are familiar and knowledgeable with the examination content to review the candidate's performance on the five most recent examinations, identify the deficit competency or competencies, and determine the number of clock-hours of educational activities required.

- (3) Educational activities are defined as:
- (A) institutes, workshops, seminars, conferences, interactive distance learning, video conferencing, online activities, undergraduate courses, graduate courses, training programs, in-service, or staff development given by an approved continuing professional education provider or sponsor, pursuant to §232.17 of this title (relating to Pre-Approved Professional Education Provider or Sponsor) and §232.19 of this title (relating to Approval of Private Companies, Private Entities, and Individuals), or an approved educator preparation program (EPP), pursuant to §228.10 of this title (relating to Approval Process); and
 - (B) being directly related to the knowledge and skills included in the certification examination competency or competencies in which the candidate answered less than 70 percent of competency questions correctly. The formula for identifying a deficit competency is the combined total of correct answers for each competency on the five most recent examinations divided by the combined total of questions for each competency on the five most recent examinations.
- (4) Documentation of educational activities that a candidate must submit includes:
- (A) the provider, sponsor, or program's name, address, telephone number, and email address. The TEA staff may contact the provider, sponsor, or program to verify an educational activity;
 - (B) the name of the educational activity (e.g., course title, course number);
 - (C) the competency or competencies addressed by the educational activity as determined by the formula described in paragraph (3)(B) of this subsection;
 - (D) the provider, sponsor, or program's description of the educational activity (e.g., syllabus, course outline, program of study); and
 - (E) the provider, sponsor, or program's written verification of the candidate's completion of the educational activity (e.g., transcript, certificate of completion). The written verification must include:
 - (i) the provider, sponsor, or program's name;
 - (ii) the candidate's name;
 - (iii) the name of the educational activity;
 - (iv) the date(s) of the educational activity; and
 - (v) the number of clock-hours completed for the educational activity. Clock-hours completed before the most recent examination attempt or after a request for a waiver is submitted shall not be included. One semester credit hour earned at an accredited institution of higher education is equivalent to 15 clock-hours.
- (5) To request a waiver of the limitation, a candidate must meet the following conditions:
- (A) the candidate is otherwise eligible to take an examination. A candidate seeking a certificate based on completion of an EPP must have the approval of an EPP to request a waiver;
 - (B) beginning September 1, 2016, the candidate pays the non-refundable waiver request fee of \$160;
 - (C) the candidate requests the waiver of the limitation in writing on forms developed by the TEA staff; and
 - (D) the request for the waiver is postmarked not earlier than:
 - (i) 45 calendar days after an unsuccessful attempt at the fourth retake of an examination as defined in the TEC, §21.048; or

- (ii) 90 calendar days after the date of the most recent denied waiver of the limitation request; or
 - (iii) 180 calendar days after the date of the most recent unsuccessful examination attempt that was the result of the most recently approved request for waiver of the limitation.
- (6) The TEA staff shall administratively approve each application that meets the criteria specified in paragraphs (2)-(5) of this subsection.
- (7) An applicant who does not meet the criteria in paragraphs (2)-(5) of this subsection may appeal to the SBEC for a final determination of good cause. A determination by the SBEC is final and may not be appealed.
- (b) A candidate seeking a standard certificate as an educator based on completion of an approved EPP may take the appropriate certification examination(s) required by subsection (a) of this section only at such time as the EPP determines the candidate's readiness to take the examinations, or upon successful completion of the EPP, whichever comes first.
- (c) The holder of a lifetime Texas certificate effective before February 1, 1986, must pass examinations prescribed by the SBEC to be eligible for continued certification, unless the individual has passed the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers (TECAT).
- (d) The commissioner of education approves the satisfactory level of performance required for certification examinations, and the SBEC approves a schedule of examination fees and a plan for administering the examinations.
- (e) The appropriate examination(s) required for certification are specified in the figure provided in this subsection.
Figure: 19 TAC §230.21 (c) ~~Figure: 19 TAC §230.21(c)~~ ~~Figure: 19 TAC §230.21(c)~~
- (f) Scores from examinations required under this title must be made available to the examinee, the TEA staff, and, if appropriate, the EPP from which the examinee will seek a recommendation for certification.
- (g) The following provisions concern ethical obligations relating to examinations.
 - (1) An educator or candidate who participates in the development, design, construction, review, field testing, scoring, or validation of an examination shall not reveal or cause to be revealed the contents of the examination to any other person.
 - (2) An educator or candidate who administers an examination shall not:
 - (A) allow or cause an unauthorized person to view any part of the examination;
 - (B) copy, reproduce, or cause to be copied or reproduced any part of the examination;
 - (C) reveal or cause to be revealed the contents of the examination;
 - (D) correct, alter, or cause to be corrected or altered any response to a test item contained in the examination;
 - (E) provide assistance with any response to a test item contained in the examination or cause assistance to be provided; or
 - (F) deviate from the rules governing administration of the examination.
 - (3) An educator or candidate who is an examinee shall not:
 - (A) copy, reproduce, or cause to be copied or reproduced any test item contained in the examination;
 - (B) provide assistance with any response to a test item contained in the examination, or cause assistance to be provided;
 - (C) solicit or accept assistance with any response to a test item contained in the examination;

- (D) deviate from the rules governing administration of the examination; or
 - (E) otherwise engage in conduct that amounts to cheating, deception, or fraud.
- (4) An educator, candidate, or other test taker shall not:
- (A) solicit information about the contents of test items on an examination that the educator, candidate, or other test taker has not already taken from an individual who has had access to those items, or offer information about the contents of specific test items on an examination to individuals who have not yet taken the examination;
 - (B) fail to pay all test costs and fees as required by this chapter or the testing vendor; or
 - (C) otherwise engage in conduct that amounts to violations of test security or confidentiality integrity, including cheating, deception, or fraud.
- (5) A person who violates this subsection is subject to:
- (A) sanction, including, but not limited to, disallowance and exclusion from future examinations either in perpetuity or for a period of time that serves the best interests of the education profession, in accordance with the provisions of the TEC, §21.041(b)(7), and Chapter 249 of this title (relating to Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases); and/or
 - (B) denial of certification in accordance with the provisions of the TEC, §21.041(b)(7), and Chapter 249 of this title; and/or
 - (C) voiding of a score from an examination in which a violation specified in this subsection occurred as well as a loss of a test attempt for purposes of the retake limit in subsection (a) of this section.

Subchapter D. Types and Classes of Certificates Issued

§230.33. Classes of Certificates.

- (a) "Class of certificates" means a certificate with the following characteristics:
- (1) specific job duties or functions associated with the certificate;
 - (2) standards established by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for the issuance of the certificate; and
 - (3) comprehensive examination(s) prescribed by the SBEC, as specified in §230.21 of this title (relating to Educator Assessment).
- (b) Classes of certificates include the following:
- (1) superintendent;
 - (2) principal;
 - (3) classroom teacher (categories of classroom teaching certificates are described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates));
 - (4) reading specialist;
 - (5) legacy master teacher [~~master teacher~~];
 - (6) school librarian;
 - (7) school counselor; and
 - (8) educational diagnostician.

§230.36. Intern Certificates.

- (a) General provisions.

- (1) Certificate classes. An intern certificate may be issued for any class of certificate except educational aide.
 - (2) Requirement to hold an intern certificate. A candidate seeking certification as an educator must hold an intern certificate while participating in an internship through an approved educator preparation program (EPP).
- (b) Requirements for issuance. An intern certificate may be issued to a candidate seeking certification as an educator who meets the conditions and requirements prescribed in this subsection.
- (1) Bachelor's degree. Except as otherwise provided in rules of the State Board for Educator Certification related to certain career and technical education certificates based on skill and experience, the candidate must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education. An individual who has earned a degree outside the United States must provide an original, detailed report or course-by-course evaluation for all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The evaluation must verify that the individual holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.
 - (2) General certification requirements. The candidate must meet the general certification requirements prescribed in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).
 - (3) Fee. The candidate must pay the fee prescribed in §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).
 - (4) Fingerprints. The candidate must submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code (TEC), §22.0831.
- (c) Conditions. The validity and effectiveness of an intern certificate is subject to the following conditions.
- (1) Internship. The holder of an intern certificate must be a participant in good standing of an approved Texas EPP, serving in an acceptable, paid internship supervised by the EPP.
 - (2) Inactive status. An intern certificate will become inactive 30 calendar days after the holder's separation from the school assignment or the EPP. The unexpired term of an intern certificate may be reactivated if the holder satisfies the requirements specified in this section.
 - (3) Term of an intern certificate. An intern certificate shall be valid for one 12-month period from the date of issuance.
 - (4) Limit on preliminary certifications and permits. Without obtaining standard certification, an individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods while holding any combination of the following:
 - (A) intern certificates, limited to one 12-month period maximum, as described in this subsection;
 - (B) probationary certificates, limited to two 12-month periods maximum, as specified in §230.37 of this title (relating to Probationary Certificates)
 - (C) emergency permits as specified in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Permits); or
 - (D) one-year certificates as specified in Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).
 - (5) Reduction in force exception. If an educator is employed under an intern certificate and is terminated or resigns in lieu of termination before the end of the school year due to a reduction in force, that intern term shall not count as one of the three years referenced in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

- (d) Testing requirements for issuance of an intern certificate. Beginning September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet the subject matter knowledge requirements for issuance of an intern certificate to serve an internship in a classroom teacher assignment for each subject area to be taught.
- (1) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued an intern certificate for an internship in a classroom teacher assignment on or after September 1, 2017, a candidate must pass all of the appropriate content pedagogy examinations, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.
 - (2) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued an intern certificate for an internship in a career and technical education classroom teacher assignment that is based on skill and experience on or after September 1, 2017, a candidate must satisfy the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)) and pass the appropriate content pedagogy examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Assessment of Educators).
- (e) Intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher. An intern certificate may be issued for assignment as a superintendent, principal, reading specialist, master teacher, school librarian, school counselor, and educational diagnostician to an individual who meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and who also meets the requirements prescribed in this subsection.
- (1) An applicant for an intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher must meet all requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements for the class of certification sought and the duties to be performed by the holder of an intern certificate in that class.
 - (2) The individual must have also been:
 - (A) accepted and enrolled to participate in a Texas EPP that has been approved to prepare candidates for the certificate sought; and
 - (B) assigned in the certificate area being sought in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or, pursuant to §228.35 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training), other school approved by the TEA.
 - (3) The holder of an intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher is subject to all terms and conditions of an intern certificate prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.
 - (4) The following provisions apply to the intern certificate for Principal as Instructional Leader.
 - (A) During the transition period of December 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019, the SBEC may issue an intern certificate to a candidate who meets the requirements specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection.
 - (B) Effective September 1, 2019, the SBEC may issue an intern certificate to a candidate who meets requirements specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection and has passed the Principal as Instructional Leader examination specified in Subchapter C of this chapter [relating to Assessment of Educators].
- (f) Intern certificate for intensive pre-service. An intern certificate may be issued to an applicant who is admitted to an EPP intensive pre-service as prescribed in §228.33 of this title (relating to Intensive Pre-Service) on or after January 1, 2020, who:
- (1) obtained a passing score on the aligned pedagogical rubric specified in §228.33 of this title;
 - (2) obtained a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title (relating to Passing Standards), on the required content certification (subject-matter only) examination and the following additional requirements for special education and bilingual assignments;
 - (A) Special education assignments also require a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title, on the TExES Special Education Supplemental examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title (relating to Educator Assessment); and

- (B) Bilingual education assignments also require a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title, on the TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency examination or the related language proficiency examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title; and
 - (C) English as Second Language (ESL) assignments also require a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title, on the TExES ESL Supplemental examination or the related language proficiency examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title; and
- (3) met the requirements as prescribed in subsections (a)-(c) of this section.

Subchapter E. Educational Aide Certificate

§230.55. Certification Requirements for Educational Aide I.

An applicant for an educational aide I certificate shall meet the requirements in either paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section or paragraphs (3) and (4) of this section as follows:

- (1) hold a high school diploma, the equivalent of a high school diploma, or higher; and
- (2) have experience working with students or parents as approved by the employing superintendent. Experience may be work in church-related schools, day camps, youth groups, private schools, licensed daycare centers, or similar experience ; or []
- (3) be a high school student 18 years of age or older; and
- (4) have a final grade of 70 or better in two or more education and training courses specified in Chapter 130, Subchapter E, of this title (relating to Education and Training) for three or more credits verified in writing by the superintendent of the district where the credits were earned. The education and training courses must include either:
 - (A) Instructional Practices, as described in §130.164 of this title (relating to Instructional Practices (Two Credits), Adopted 2015); or
 - (B) Practicum in Education and Training, as described in §130.165 of this title (relating to Practicum in Education and Training (Two Credits), Adopted 2015).

Subchapter G. Certificate Issuance Procedures

§230.104. Correcting a Certificate or Permit Issued in Error.

- (a) If a certificate or permit is issued with an incorrect grade level, subject area, or effective date, the recommending entity may request a correction of the certificate or permit by submitting a written request to Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff and a fee equivalent to the fee for the original certificate or permit. The entity must provide sufficient justification for the correction.
- (b) The request to amend or correct an intern or probationary certificate and the appropriate fee must be submitted to the TEA no later than six weeks from the date of issuance of the certificate or, in the case of a change of assignment, no later than six weeks from the date of the change. Within seven days, the educator must notify the recommending educator preparation program of any change in assignment that may affect the certification category required by the assignment according to the provisions of Chapter 231 of this title (relating to Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments).

§230.105. Issuance of Additional Certificates Based on Examination.

A teacher who holds a valid provisional, professional, or standard classroom teaching certificate or a valid temporary classroom teaching certificate issued under the provisions of Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States), or Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries), and a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education may qualify for an additional teaching field or certification to teach at another level by passing the appropriate

certification examination(s) for that subject. The teacher must submit the application to add certification based on an examination during the time the certificate is allowed to be issued by the State Board for Educator Certification. The application for the additional certification must be submitted during the validity period of the appropriate Texas classroom teaching certificate. If a teacher holds multiple teaching certificates, all teaching certificates must be active before adding certification by examination. The rule shall not be used to qualify a classroom teacher for:

- (1) initial certification;
- (2) the Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments Supplemental: Early Childhood-Grade 12 certificate;
- (3) the Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 certificate;
- (4) ~~(3)~~ another class of certificate, as listed in Subchapter D of this chapter (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued); or
- (5) ~~(4)~~ certification for which no certification examination has been developed.