

**Item 18:****Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States****DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss and propose amendments to 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States. Chapter 230, Subchapter H, serves as a foundation for the practices and procedures related to issuance of Texas certification to individuals licensed in other states. The proposed amendments would provide clarification and updates to requirements for individuals licensed in other states to obtain a standard Texas educator certificate.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority for 19 TAC Chapter 230, Subchapter H, is the TEC, §§21.040(4); 21.041(a), (b)(1), (4), and (5), and (c); 21.048; and 21.052(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e).

TEC, §21.040(4), allows the SBEC authority to develop and implement policies that define responsibilities of the SBEC.

TEC, §21.041(a), allows the SBEC to adopt rules as necessary for its own procedures.

TEC, §21.041(b)(1), requires the SBEC to propose rules that provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, in a manner consistent with the TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B.

TEC, §21.041(b)(4), requires the SBEC to propose rules that specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate.

TEC, §21.041(b)(5), requires the SBEC to propose rules that provide for the issuance of an educator certificate to a person who holds a similar certificate issued by another state or foreign country, subject to the TEC, §21.052.

TEC, §21.041(c), requires the SBEC to propose a rule adopting a fee for the issuance and maintenance of an educator certificate that, when combined with any fees imposed under subsection (d), is adequate to cover the cost of administration of this subchapter.

TEC, §21.048, states the SBEC shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the board that includes not requiring more than 45 days

elapsing between examination retakes and that starting January 1, 2021, all candidates teaching prekindergarten through grade six must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification examination.

TEC, §21.052(a), states that the SBEC may issue a certificate to an educator who submits an application for certification and holds a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board, or a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a bachelor's degree issued in the United States, or holds an appropriate certificate or other credential issued in another state or country and has met all certification requirements for issuance of the credential.

TEC, §21.052(b), states that for purposes of §21.052(a)(2), a person is considered to hold a certificate or other credential if the credential is not valid solely because it has expired.

TEC, §21.052(c), states that the SBEC may issue a temporary certificate under this section to an educator who holds a degree required by §21.052(a)(1) and a certificate or other credential required by §21.052(a)(2) but who has not satisfied the requirements prescribed by §21.052(a)(3). Subject to subsections (d) and (d-1), the SBEC may specify the term of a temporary certificate issued under this subsection.

TEC, §21.052(d), states that a temporary certificate issued under §21.052(c) to an educator employed by a school district that has constructed or expanded at least one instructional facility as a result of increased student enrollment due to actions taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687) may not expire before the first anniversary of the date on which the SBEC completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under the TEC, §21.048, on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

TEC, §21.052(e), states that an educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a temporary certificate as provided by subsection (c) has one year to successfully complete examination requirements identified in the review of credentials and specified in Section 21.048, to receive a standard certificate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** If approved for filing as proposed in December 2021, and if adopted, subject to State Board of Education (SBOE) review, at the February 11, 2022 SBEC meeting, the proposed effective date of the proposal would be May 12, 2022 (20 days after filing as adopted with the *Texas Register*). The proposed effective date is based on the SBEC and SBOE meeting schedules.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:** The SBEC last amended §230.111 and §230.113 effective December 23, 2018.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** The SBEC rules in 19 TAC Chapter 230, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States, outline the process for individuals already certified to teach in other states who are interested in obtaining Texas certification.

Following is a description of the proposed amendments included in Attachment II.

§230.111. General Provisions.

The proposed amendment to §230.111(d) would remove the outdated reference to a "certificate entitlement card" because that is not a document that has been presented recently by any individuals certified outside the state who submit applications for the review of their out-of-state credentials.

§230.113. Requirements for Texas Certificates Based on Certification from Other States or Territories of the United States.

The proposed amendment to §230.113(b) would add the word "Legacy" to align with the correct title of Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, Subsection E, that has been renamed Legacy Master Teacher Certificate, effective December 27, 2020. The title of Chapter 241 would also be updated in subsection (b) to align with the correct title.

The proposed amendment to §230.113(e) would clarify that the current process requires applicants issued the temporary, one-year certificate to obtain a Texas standard classroom teacher certificate prior to adding a supplemental certificate area to their record of certification. This is not a change in the process, only a clarification of current rule and procedures.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The TEA staff has determined that there is no additional fiscal impact on state and local governments and that there are no additional costs to entities required to comply with the proposal.

**LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT:** The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code (TGC), §2001.022.

**SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT:** The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis, specified in TGC, §2006.002, is required.

**COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS:** The proposal does not impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government and, therefore, is not subject to TGC, §2001.0045.

**TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT:** The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under TGC, §2007.043.

**GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT:** The TEA staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency; would not create a new regulation; would not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS:** The public benefit anticipated as a result of the proposed amendments would be clearly defined rules and requirements for individuals to obtain Texas certification based on already being licensed to teach in other states or territories of the United States. There is no anticipated cost to persons who are required to comply with the proposal rules.

**DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT:** The proposal would have no new data and reporting impact.

**PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS:** The TEA staff has determined the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The public comment period on the proposal begins December 31, 2021, and ends January 31, 2022. The SBEC will take oral and written comments on the proposal at the February 11, 2022 meeting in accordance with the SBEC board operating policies and procedures.

**ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States, to be published as proposed in the *Texas Register*.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Marilyn Cook, Director, Educator Certification

**Attachments:**

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States

**ATTACHMENT I****Statutory Citations Relating to Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter H, Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States****Texas Education Code, §21.040, General Powers and Duties of Board (excerpt):**

The board shall:

- (4) develop and implement policies that clearly define the respective responsibilities of the board and the board's staff;

**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;
  - (4) specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate;
  - (5) provide for the issuance of an educator certificate to a person who holds a similar certificate issued by another state or foreign country, subject to Section 21.052;
- (c) The board shall propose a rule adopting a fee for the issuance and maintenance of an educator certificate that, when combined with any fees imposed under Subsection (d), is adequate to cover the cost of administration of this subchapter.

**Texas Education Code, §21.048, Certification Examinations:**

- (a) The board shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the board. The commissioner shall determine the satisfactory level of performance required for each certification examination. For the issuance of a generalist certificate, the commissioner shall require a satisfactory level of examination performance in each core subject covered by the examination.
- (a-1) The board may not require that more than 45 days elapse before a person may retake an examination. A person may not retake an examination more than four times, unless the board waives the limitation for good cause as prescribed by the board.
- (a-2) The board shall adopt rules that provide that in order to teach any grade level from prekindergarten through grade six a person must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification examination for each class of certificate issued by the board after January 1, 2021.
- (b) The board may not administer a written examination to determine the competence or level of performance of an educator who has a hearing impairment unless the examination has been field tested to determine its appropriateness, reliability, and validity as applied to, and minimum acceptable performance scores for, persons with hearing impairments.
- (c) An educator who has a hearing impairment is exempt from taking a written examination for a period ending on the first anniversary of the date on which the board determines, on the basis of appropriate field tests, that the examination complies with the standards

- specified in Subsection (b). On application to the board, the board shall issue a temporary exemption certificate to a person entitled to an exemption under this subsection.
- (c-1) The results of an examination administered under this section are confidential and are not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, unless the disclosure is regarding notification to a parent of the assignment of an uncertified teacher to a classroom as required by Section 21.057.
- (d) In this section:
- (1) "Hearing impairment" means a hearing impairment so severe that the person cannot process linguistic information with or without amplification.
  - (2) "Reliability" means the extent to which an experiment, test, or measuring procedure yields the same results on repeated trials.
  - (3) "Validity" means being:
    - (A) well-grounded or justifiable;
    - (B) relevant and meaningful;
    - (C) correctly derived from premises or inferences; and
    - (D) supported by objective truth or generally accepted authority.

**Texas Education Code, §21.052, Certification of Educators from Outside the State (excerpts):**

- (a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who applies for a certificate and:
- (1) holds:
    - (A) a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board; or
    - (B) a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described by Paragraph (A);
  - (2) holds an appropriate certificate or other credential issued by another state or country; and
  - (3) performs satisfactorily on:
    - (A) the examination prescribed under Section 21.048; or
    - (B) if the educator holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state or country, an examination similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.
- (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a person is considered to hold a certificate or other credential if the credential is not valid solely because it has expired.
- (c) The board may issue a temporary certificate under this section to an educator who holds a degree required by Subsection (a)(1) and a certificate or other credential required by Subsection (a)(2) but who has not satisfied the requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(3). Subject to Subsections (d) and (d-1), the board may specify the term of a temporary certificate issued under this subsection.

- (d) A temporary certificate issued under Subsection (c) to an educator employed by a school district that has constructed or expanded at least one instructional facility as a result of increased student enrollment due to actions taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687) may not expire before the first anniversary of the date on which the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section 21.048 on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.
- (e) An educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a temporary certificate as provided by Subsection (c) must perform satisfactorily on the examination prescribed under Section 21.048 not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section 21.048 on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

**ATTACHMENT II**  
**Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC****Chapter 230. Professional Educator Preparation and Certification****Subchapter H. Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials  
from Other States or Territories of the United States****§230.111. General Provisions.**

- (a) A Texas educator certificate may be issued to an individual who holds a college degree and an acceptable certificate or credential issued by the authorized licensing agency in another state or territory of the United States and who meets appropriate requirements specified in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements) and elsewhere in this subchapter.
- (b) The degree held by an applicant from another state or territory of the United States must be equivalent to at least a bachelor's degree or higher issued by an accredited institution of higher education.
- (c) The certificate or other credential issued by the authorized licensing agency in another state or territory of the United States may not be a temporary permit, a credential issued by a city or school district, or a certificate for which academic or other program deficiencies are indicated. Specific examination or renewal requirements shall not be considered academic deficiencies.
- (d) A statement [ ] or approval letter [~~or certification entitlement card~~] issued by the authorized licensing agency in another state or territory of the United States specifying eligibility for full certification upon employment or completion of specified examination requirements shall have the same standing as a certificate.
- (e) The certificate and areas of certification issued by the authorized licensing agency in another state or territory of the United States must be equivalent to a certificate or grade level that is within the early childhood-Grade 12 level and approved by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). Based on the certificates submitted with the application for review of credentials, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall identify the certification areas for which the applicant qualifies in Texas. The certificate(s) for which the applicant qualifies may be issued by the TEA staff under the authority of the SBEC.
- (f) If a Texas examination or certification is scheduled to be eliminated, an individual requesting certification and examination comparability must ensure that the application and all review documentation, including examination scores, are received by TEA staff 60 calendar days before the application submission deadline for the examination and/or certification sought.

**§230.113. Requirements for Texas Certificates Based on Certification from Other States or Territories of the United States.**

- (a) An applicant for a standard Texas certificate based on a certificate issued in accordance with §230.111 of this title (relating to General Provisions) must:
  - (1) pass the appropriate examination requirements prescribed in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.048(a), and §230.21 of this title (relating to Educator Assessment);
  - (2) achieve an acceptable level of performance on an examination(s) that has been determined to be similar to and at least as rigorous as that prescribed in the TEC, §21.048(a), and §230.21 of this title that was administered to the applicant under the authority of another state or territory of the United States. The applicant shall verify in a manner determined by the Texas Education Agency staff the level of performance on acceptable examinations administered under the authority of another state or territory of the United States; or
  - (3) qualify for an exemption from required Texas examinations through provisions in §152.1001 of Part 2 of this title (relating to Exceptions to Examination Requirements for Individuals Certified Outside the State).



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- (b) If all certification requirements are met except the appropriate examination requirements, the applicant may request issuance of a one-year certificate in one or more certification areas authorized on the out-of-state certificate. An applicant who holds only a student services, principal, or superintendent certificate issued in accordance with Chapter 239 of this title (relating to Student Services Certificates), with the exception of Subchapter E (relating to Legacy Master Teacher Certificate); Chapter 241 of this title (relating to Certification as Principal [Certificate]); or Chapter 242 of this title (relating to Superintendent Certificate) may be issued the equivalent Texas certificate. The applicant must verify two creditable years of service in an Early Childhood-Grade 12 public or accredited private school in the specific student services or administrative area sought.
- (c) After satisfying all requirements, including all appropriate examination requirements, the applicant is eligible to receive the appropriate standard certificate issued under Subchapter D of this chapter (relating to Types and Classes of Certificates Issued).
- (d) An applicant issued a one-year certificate under this section who does not complete the appropriate examination requirements to establish eligibility for a standard certificate during the validity of the one-year certificate, is not eligible for any type of certificate or permit authorizing employment for the same certificate until he or she has satisfied the appropriate examination requirements. If examination requirements are not met during the validity period of the one-year certificate due to circumstances beyond the control of the educator, the employing school district may request an extension not to exceed one calendar year in length.
- (e) An applicant shall not be required to complete the content specialization portion of the certification examination in a certification area for which he or she does not seek standard certification unless the examination is required to establish a base classroom teaching certificate. A supplemental certificate, as described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates), may not be issued as a standard certificate unless the educator has established a classroom teaching certificate and may not be added to a one-year certificate.
- (f) An applicant issued a one-year certificate under this section who, during or subsequent to the validity of the certificate, establishes eligibility for a standard certificate may apply for:
- (1) a new one-year certificate in another certification area based on an acceptable certificate from another state or territory of the United States; or
  - (2) a second one-year certificate in an area previously authorized on a one-year certificate provided the applicant was not assigned to the area and has not attempted the appropriate examination requirements for that area.