

Item 19:

Discussion of A+ Texas Teachers Educator Preparation Program's Agreed Order

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an update on A+ Texas Teachers' (ATT) Agreed Order.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The continuing approval of EPPs is authorized by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.0443, 21.041, 21.0452, and 21.061, closure of EPPs is authorized by TEC §21.0451, and the informal disposition of contested cases is authorized by the Texas Government Code (TGC) §2001.056.

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: A final report on the outcome of ATT's compliance with the Agreed Order is expected to be presented at the December 9, 2022 SBEC meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: At the SBEC meeting on April 29, 2022, TEA staff presented a draft Agreed Order that reflected a proposed settlement between TEA and ATT. SBEC rejected the Agreed Order and directed staff to seek different settlement terms or proceed with the sanction process. Board members provided recommendations on potential settlement terms, including requiring a more appropriate sample size of files to review given the size of the program, raising the compliance threshold to at least 90%, requiring documentation of the program's progress towards compliance, and public posting of the program's status.

On May 9, 2022, TEA staff presented ATT with a new proposed Agreed Order that reflected the settlement terms that SBEC had requested.

At the SBEC meeting on July 22, 2022, the SBEC approved ATT's Agreed Order. Additionally, the SBEC requested an update at their September 30, 2022 SBEC meeting regarding ATT's efforts to meet the minimum requirements set forth by the SBEC, as identified in the Agreed Order.

Update on ATT's Agreed Order

TEA staff and the assigned monitor, Calvin Stocker, have been in consistent communication and collaboration with ATT to carry out requirements identified in the Agreed Order and bring improvements to their program. The attachment reflects the support for the monitor and ATT; however, it should be noted that additional, ongoing communication (e.g., email) has and will continue to occur to support ATT.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the Agreed Order will be to ensure this educator preparation program is meeting minimum requirements set forth by the SBEC and is therefore adequately preparing educators for Texas classrooms.

Staff Members Responsible:

Jessica McLoughlin, Director of Talent Pathways
Lorrie Ayers, Manager, Educator Preparation

Attachment:

Timeline of ATT Support

ATTACHMENT**Timeline of ATT Support**

Timeline	Support
July 29, 2022 Initial Meeting: TEA & Monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Monitor Role • Clarification of elements of the Agreed Order
August 10, 2022 Monitor Training: TEA & Monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and review Timelines, Evidence, Data Sets and Sampling
August 10, 2022 Meet/Greet: TEA, Monitor, EPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Plan Check-in schedules
August 17, 2022 Weekly Check-in: TEA, Monitor, EPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss elements of the Agreed Order
August 18, 2022 Check-in: Monitor & EPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss logistics and EPP processes
August 23, 2022 Check-in: TEA & Monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss logistics of evidence review • Share updates (e.g., EPP conducting internal review of processes)
August 31, 2022 Check-in: TEA & Monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss admissions evidence • Discuss merits of preliminary screen conducted by monitor
August 31-October 19, 2022 Weekly Check-in: TEA, Monitor, EPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled weekly check-ins as needed each week