

Item 13:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve 2016-2017 Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs (ASEP) Accreditation Status for TeacherBuilder.com

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) the opportunity to approve a 2016-2017 Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs (ASEP) Accreditation Status for TeacherBuilder.com (TBC).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: ASEP accreditation statuses and sanctions for Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) are authorized by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.045 and §21.0451.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: The SBEC assigned TBC a 2013-2014 ASEP status of “Accredited-Warned” at the August 2015, June 2016, and March 2017 meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: The SBEC is responsible for establishing standards to govern the continuing accountability of all EPPs that prepare individuals for certification. The TEC, §21.045 describes the accountability system for EPPs and the TEC, §21.0451 describes sanctions under this accountability system.

To meet the statutory requirements, the SBEC adopted 19 TAC Chapter 229, which states that accreditation statuses of an EPP will be determined annually based on performance standards and compliance with SBEC rules and/or the TEC, Chapter 21. An EPP is assigned the status of “Accredited” if the EPP has met all the accountability performance standards and is in compliance with SBEC rules and/or the TEC, Chapter 21.

An EPP is assigned the status of “Accredited-Warned” if (1) the program fails to meet the performance standards for the overall performance of its candidates on any one of the four performance indicators, (2) fails to meet the standards in any two gender or ethnicity demographic groups, (3) fails to meet the standards for a gender or ethnicity demographic group for two consecutively measured years, regardless of whether the deficiency is in the same demographic group or standard, or (4) if the SBEC determines that the EPP has violated SBEC rules and/or the TEC, Chapter 21.

RECOMMENDED ASEP STATUS: Pursuant to 19 TAC §229.6, TEA staff provided notice to TeacherBuilder.com of the proposed recommendation for lowered accreditation status prior to making final recommendations to the Board. TeacherBuilder.com was informed of their right to an informal review of the proposed recommendation pursuant to 19 TAC §229.6 and/or §229.7.

On June 15, 2018, TeacherBuilder.com requested an informal review. During the informal review, TEA staff met with TeacherBuilder.com’s staff and realized that TeacherBuilder.com was not provided an opportunity to respond to their final submission of internship observation data. Based on that finding, TEA staff requested the SBEC to maintain the status of “pending” to extend the informal review period at the August 2018 meeting to allow TeacherBuilder.com an opportunity to respond to their final submission of data and to make any additional corrections prior to a final recommendation. Based on the extended informal review request, TEA staff is changing the recommendation to assign Teacherbuilder.com an ASEP status of “Accredited-Probation” to “Accredited-Warned” for the 2016-2017 academic year.

This proposed recommendation of Accredited-Warned would continue the SBEC orders for continuing approval, including the continuation of the monitor, Dr. Marcia McMahon, as TeacherBuilder.com continues to work towards compliance regarding a TEA-approved curriculum matrix for each certification field that the program offers. One June 1, 2018, TEA notified TeacherBuilder.com of a December 1, 2018 deadline for all certification fields offered by the program to have a TEA-approved curriculum matrix and for the program not to admit candidates into certification fields for what the program does not have a TEA-approved curriculum matrix.

In an August 24, 2018 monitor report, Dr. McMahon noted improvement by the program and recommended that the SBEC continue the monitor assignment as she works with the program to achieve full compliance by the December 1, 2018 deadline. In coordination with TeacherBuilder.com and Dr. McMahon, TEA staff will be conducting a discretionary continuing approval review visit in early November 2018.

Attachment II provides a summary of the proposed recommendation and the sanctions applicable for the status of Accredited-Warned as outlined below.

Program	Proposed Status	Reason	Proposed Sanction
TeacherBuilder.com	Accredited-Warned	SBEC orders requiring TEA-approved curriculum matrix for each certification field the program offers	Continue monitor assignment to address issues and require all deficiencies to be addressed by December 1, 2018

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The public and student benefit anticipated as a result of the proposed revised accountability status will be to ensure qualified educator preparation programs, teachers, and professionals in Texas.

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

Approve the 2016-2017 Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs accreditation status for TeacherBuilder.com as presented.

Staff Member Responsible:
Christie Pogue, Director, EPP Accreditation and Policy Development

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. Summary of Proposed Accreditation Status of Accredited-Warned forTeacherBuilder.com

ATTACHMENT I**Statutory Citations Relating to Accreditation Statuses and Sanctions for Educator Preparation Programs****Texas Education Code, §21.045, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs:**

- (a) The board shall propose rules necessary to establish standards to govern the continuing accountability of all educator preparation programs based on the following information that is disaggregated with respect to race, sex, and ethnicity:
 - (1) results of the certification examinations prescribed under Section 21.048(a);
 - (2) performance based on the appraisal system for beginning teachers adopted by the board;
 - (3) achievement, including improvement in achievement, of students taught by beginning teachers for the first three years following certification, to the extent practicable;
 - (4) compliance with board requirements regarding the frequency, duration, and quality of structural guidance and ongoing support provided by field supervisors to candidates completing student teaching, clinical teaching, or an internship; and
 - (5) results from a teacher satisfaction survey, developed by the board with stakeholder input, of new teachers performed at the end of the teacher's first year of teaching.

- (b) Each educator preparation program shall submit data elements as required by the board for an annual performance report to ensure access and equity. At a minimum, the annual report must contain:
 - (1) the performance data from Subsection (a), other than the data required for purposes of Subsection (a)(3);
 - (2) data related to the program's compliance with requirements for field supervision of candidates during their clinical teaching and internship experiences;
 - (3) the following information, disaggregated by race, sex, and ethnicity:
 - (A) the number of candidates who apply;
 - (B) the number of candidates admitted;
 - (C) the number of candidates retained;
 - (D) the number of candidates completing the program;
 - (E) the number of candidates employed as beginning teachers under standard teaching certificates by not later than the first anniversary of completing the program;
 - (F) the amount of time required by candidates employed as beginning teachers under probationary teaching certificates to be issued standard teaching certificates;
 - (G) the number of candidates retained in the profession; and
 - (H) any other information required by federal law;

- (4) the ratio of field supervisors to candidates completing student teaching, clinical teaching, or an internship; and
 - (5) any other information necessary to enable the board to assess the effectiveness of the program on the basis of teacher retention and success criteria adopted by the board.
- (c) The board shall propose rules necessary to establish performance standards for the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for accrediting educator preparation programs. At a minimum, performance standards must be based on Subsection (a).

Texas Education Code, §21.0451, Sanctions under Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs:

- (a) The board shall propose rules necessary for the sanction of educator preparation programs that do not meet accountability standards or comply with state law or rules and shall at least annually review the accreditation status of each educator preparation program. The rules:
- (1) shall provide for the assignment of the following accreditation statuses:
 - (A) not rated;
 - (B) accredited;
 - (C) accredited-warned;
 - (D) accredited-probation; and
 - (E) not accredited-revoked;
 - (2) may provide for the agency to take any necessary action, including one or more of the following actions:
 - (A) requiring the program to obtain technical assistance approved by the agency or board;
 - (B) requiring the program to obtain professional services under contract with another person;
 - (C) appointing a monitor to participate in and report to the board on the activities of the program; and
 - (D) if a program has been rated as accredited-probation under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for a period of at least one year, revoking the approval of the program and ordering the program to be closed, provided that the board or agency has provided the opportunity for a contested case hearing;
 - (3) shall provide for the agency to revoke the approval of the program and order the program to be closed if the program has been rated as accredited-probation under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for three consecutive years, provided that the board or agency has provided the opportunity for a contested case hearing; and
 - (4) shall provide the board procedure for changing the accreditation status of a program that:

- (A) does not meet the accreditation standards established under Section 21.045(a); or
 - (B) violates a board or agency regulation.
- (b) Any action authorized or required to be taken against an educator preparation program under Subsection (a) may also be taken with regard to a particular field of certification authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
 - (c) A revocation must be effective for a period of at least two years. After two years, the program may seek renewed approval to prepare educators for state certification.
 - (d) The costs of technical assistance required under Subsection (a)(2)(A) or the costs associated with the appointment of a monitor under Subsection (a)(2)(C) shall be paid by the educator preparation program.

ATTACHMENT II**Summary of Proposed Accreditation Status of Accredited-Warned
forTeacherBuilder.com**

Educator Preparation Program (EPP): TeacherBuilder.com

Current Status: Accredited-Warned

Proposed Status: Accredited-Warned

Proposed Sanction: Modify sanctions already in place:

1. TeacherBuilder.com is assigned an Accredited-Warned status due to violations of State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) rules. 19 TAC §§229.4(d)(2) and 229.5(a).
2. Based on the assignment of the Accredited-Warned status, require TeacherBuilder.com to correct all deficiencies by December 1, 2018.
3. Based on the assignment of the Accredited-Warned status and as a condition of continuing approval, TEA staff will continue the monitor to participate in the activities of TeacherBuilder.com and report the activities to the TEA. All costs associated with the appointment of the monitor shall be paid by TeacherBuilder.com. 19 TAC §229.5(b)(3) and §229.5(g).
4. Based on the assignment of the Accredited-Warned status, TeacherBuilder.com is prohibited from the addition of new certificate classes or new certification fields. 19 TAC §228.10(d)(3).
5. TeacherBuilder.com is required to have each candidate's transcript, content examination results, and/or Statement of Eligibility reviewed and approved by the appointed monitor prior to recommending a probationary certificate. 19 TAC §229.5(b)(3).
6. TeacherBuilder.com is required to have each out-of-country applicant's transcript review by an evaluating service and TOEFL results reviewed and approved by the appointed monitor prior to admission to the program. 19 TAC §227.10.
7. As a condition of continuing program approval, TeacherBuilder.com is prohibited from the admission of candidates into certification fields for which TeacherBuilder.com does not have a TEA-approved curriculum matrix. TeacherBuilder.com is required to grant TEA staff access to the TeacherBuilder.com online curriculum. Certification fields must have a TEA-approved curriculum matrix by December 1, 2018. 19 TAC §229.6(b).
8. TeacherBuilder.com is required to participate in a discretionary continuing approval review by TEA staff prior to the December 1, 2018 deadline for curriculum matrix for each certification field offered by TeacherBuilder.com. At the time of the review, TeacherBuilder.com is required to show compliance with all SBEC rules as a condition of continuing program approval. TeacherBuilder.com is required to pay the applicable fee for the review. 19 TAC §228.10(b) and §229.9(3).

Data:

1. Failure to provide curriculum that relies on scientifically based research to ensure teacher effectiveness and aligns to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. 19 TAC §228.30(b).
2. Failure to provide coursework and training that is sustained, rigorous, interactive, student-focused, and performance-based. 19 TAC §228.30(b).
3. Failure to provide structured assessments of candidates' progress throughout the educator preparation program to ensure that candidates for educator certification are prepared to receive a standard certificate. 19 TAC §228.40(a).

Small Group Exception Rule Applied: None.

Status Rules Applied:

229.4(d)(2). An EPP may be assigned Accredited-Warned status if the SBEC determines that the EPP has violated SBEC rules and/or Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 21.

229.5(b)(3). If an EPP has been assigned Accredited-Warned or Accredited-Probation status, or if the SBEC determines that additional action is a necessary condition for the continuing approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for educator certification, the SBEC may take any one or more of the following actions, which shall be reviewed by the SBEC at least annually: appoint a monitor to participate in the activities of the EPP and report the activities to the TEA or SBEC.

Sanction Rules Applied:

229.5(b)(3). If an EPP has been assigned Accredited-Warned or Accredited-Probation status, or if the SBEC determines that additional action is a necessary condition for the continuing approval of an EPP to recommend candidates for educator certification, the SBEC appoint a monitor to participate in the activities of the EPP and report the activities to the Texas Education Agency or SBEC.

229.6(b). After a continuing approval review or a complaint investigation, if the TEA staff finds that an EPP has failed to comply with SBEC rules, the TEA staff may issue a proposed recommendation for SBEC action relating to the EPP's approval to recommend candidates for educator certification. The proposed recommendation for SBEC action may include, but is not limited to, public reprimand, revocation of program approval, or the imposition of conditions upon continuing program approval.