

## Item 16:

# Discussion of Certificate Options for Legacy Master Teachers

### DISCUSSION

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss certificate options for current Legacy Master Teacher certificate holders.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** House Bill 3 (HB 3), 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, required that effective September 1, 2019, the SBEC can no longer issue or renew master teacher certificates. HB 3 also specified that master teacher certificates will be designated as "legacy" certificates and recognized for assignment purposes until they expire.

At the October 4, 2019 SBEC meeting, the Board adopted changes to repeal 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, Subchapter E, Master Teacher Certificate, to remove the provisions related to the master teacher certificates to comply with HB 3. The affected certificates were the Master Reading Teacher, Master Mathematics Teacher, Master Technology Teacher, and Master Science Teacher certificates. There are 4,997 legacy master teacher certificate holders. These certificates were only issued after an individual had obtained an initial certification in a particular teaching category.

As a result, the SBEC and TEA staff has received written and oral public comment from educators, school districts, professional organizations, and teacher organizations requesting options to address the current master teacher population and the employing school districts. The feedback received reflects concerns from various stakeholders:

- Current educators who hold Master Teacher certificates successfully obtained these certificates after preparing and paying for the additional certificate will no longer reflect this accomplishment;
- Current educators who are assigned to courses with their Master Teacher certificates may be displaced from those positions;
- Employing school districts who currently staff their courses with Master Teacher certificate holders may have personnel issues to consider; and
- Professional and teacher organizations requesting remedies to secure current utilization of certificates issued and placement in course offerings.

At the February 21, 2020 SBEC meeting, Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff presented agenda item 18 on 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, to provide a discussion of renaming all Master Teacher certificates to Legacy Master Teacher certificates as prescribed by HB 3.

Also at the February 21, 2020 SBEC meeting, the Board received a letter from Chairman Dan Huberty, Texas House of Representatives, explaining that the intent of the legislation was not to prevent the current educators who hold a master teacher certificate from continuing educating students with those certificates and requested that the SBEC use its rulemaking authority to

provide an avenue for those educators to continue serving students and school districts in those roles.

In preparation of this discussion item, TEA staff conducted a stakeholder meeting to solicit feedback to present to the SBEC. TEA staff will provide an update to the Board during the May meeting that includes information regarding the stakeholders, the meeting process, and the feedback received from stakeholders regarding options to present to the SBEC related to Legacy Master Teacher certificates.

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** The public and student benefit will be clear guidance for districts, educators, students, parents, and the rest of the educational community regarding the status of Legacy Master Teacher Certificates.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Marilyn Cook, Director, Educator Certification