

Item 14:

Request to Approve New Educator Preparation Program at International Leadership Texas (ILTexas)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve a request by International Leadership Texas (ILTexas), located in Richardson, Texas to be approved as an educator preparation program (EPP) through the alternative certification route. Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff reviewed the proposal and found that it complied with provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 229, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs, and Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority related to the approval of educator preparation programs are the Texas Education Code, §21.0443 and §21.044.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval with enrollments to begin January 3, 2022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC approves all EPPs. The EPP prepares and completes an extensive application addressing the SBEC-required nine components as follows:

Component	Component Description
1. Governance (19 TAC §228.20)	Pertaining to the EPP's advisory committee functions, responsibilities, and program amendments.
2. Admission (19 TAC §227.10)	Pertaining to admission criteria required of all applicants seeking initial certification in any class of certificate.
3. Educator Preparation Curriculum (19 TAC §228.30)	Pertaining to standards-based curriculum required of all candidates seeking certification.
4. Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training (19 TAC §228.35)	Pertaining to how the educator preparation program prepares candidates for educator certification and to ensure they are effective in the classroom.
5. Assessment and Evaluation of Candidates for Certification and Program Improvement (19 TAC §228.40)	<p>Pertaining to how the EPP has established benchmarks and structured assessments of a candidate's progress throughout the EPP.</p> <p>Pertaining to how the EPP continuously evaluates the design and delivery of the EPP components based on performance data, scientifically based research practices, and the results of internal and external feedback and assessments.</p>

<p>6. Professional Conduct (19 TAC §228.50)</p>	<p>Pertaining to how the educator preparation program ensures that the individuals preparing candidates and the candidates themselves understand and adhere to Chapter 247 relating to the Educators' Code of Ethics.</p>
<p>7. Complaints and Investigations Procedures (19 TAC §228.70)</p>	<p>Pertaining to the EPP's responsibilities for maintaining a process through which a candidate or former candidate in an EPP, an applicant for candidacy in an EPP, an employee or former employee of an EPP, a cooperating teacher, a mentor, a site supervisor, or an administrator in a public or private school that serves as a site for clinical teaching, internship, or practicum experiences may submit a complaint about an EPP for investigation and resolution.</p>
<p>8. Certification Procedures (19 TAC §§230.36, 230.37, and 230.31)</p>	<p>Pertaining to the requirements for the issuance of Intern, Probationary, and Standard certificates.</p>
<p>9. Required Submission of Information, Surveys, and Other Data (19 TAC §229.3)</p>	<p>Pertaining to all data and information an educator preparation program must submit to TEA.</p>

The proposal is reviewed by several TEA staff members who hold extensive discussions with the applying entity to ensure compliance with the SBEC rules. The ILTexas application meets the minimum requirements for approval by the SBEC. Attachment II includes an Executive Summary that describes how the program will meet each of the SBEC-required components for program approval.

TEA staff members Vanessa Alba and Emily Carrizalez conducted a pre-approval virtual on-site visit on November 5, 2021 and found that ILTexas complied with the provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, and Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, that govern approval of educator preparation programs.

Representatives from ILTexas will attend the December 2021 SBEC meeting and will address the Board's questions related to their application as needed.

Certifications Requested:

- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: EC-6;
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: 4-8;
- Bilingual Educational Supplemental; and
- English as a Second Language Supplemental.

Anticipated Enrollment Start Date: January 3, 2022

Anticipated Number of Educators for the First Year: 500

Cost of the Program per Participant: \$4,000

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The addition of this new educator preparation program will increase the number of qualified certified educators in Texas.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve International Leadership of Texas as a new educator preparation program as presented.

Staff Members Responsible:

Jessica McLoughlin, Director of Educator Standards, Testing, and Preparation

Vanessa Alba, Education Specialist, Educator Preparation, Certification, and Enforcement

Attachments:

- I. Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Educator Preparation Programs
- II. Executive Summary for International Leadership Texas, Alternative Certification Route

ATTACHMENT I

Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Educator Preparation Programs

Texas Education Code, §21.0443, Educator Preparation (excerpts):

- (a) The board shall propose rules to establish standards to govern the approval or renewal of approval of:
 - (1) educator preparation programs; and
 - (2) certification fields authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
- (b) To be eligible for approval or renewal of approval, an educator preparation program must adequately prepare candidates for educator certification and meet the standards and requirements of the board.

Texas Education Code, §21.044, Educator Preparation (excerpt):

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

ATTACHMENT II

Introduction: The number of Emergent Bilinguals/English Learners (EB/ELs) continue to increase in Texas at a rapid rate, while the percentage of highly qualified bilingual teachers remain an issue of concern. Nearly 20% of Texas students are EB/ELs, but only 6.5% of Texas teachers are bilingual and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) certified [Texas Education Agency, 2019-2020 Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR)]. This dichotomy is even more prevalent in schools that serve students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The mission of the International Leadership of Texas (ILTexas) is to prepare students for exceptional leadership roles in the international community by emphasizing servant leadership, mastering the English, Spanish, and Chinese languages, and strengthening the mind, body, and character of future educators. By having a strong emphasis on language acquisition through a trilingual curriculum, including a nationally renowned dual language model, ILTexas is an accredited Charter School that intends to train teachers in the following certification areas: Bilingual Education Supplemental, Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading (STR): 4-8, Core Subjects with STR: EC-6, and English as a Second Language Supplemental.

ILTexas is prepared to meet this need by creating and maintaining a high performing educator preparation program which requires all Core Subjects with STR: EC-6 and Core Subjects with STR: 4-8 certification candidates to obtain their ESL supplemental certificate, and all dual language Core Subjects with STR: EC-6 and Core Subjects with STR: 4-8 certification candidates to obtain their Bilingual Education supplemental certificate. ILTexas plans to accept 500 candidates each year with an anticipated total cost of \$4,000 per candidate.

Component 1: Governance of Educator Preparation Programs: ILTexas has recruited its five-member Advisory Committee that represents senior level district leadership and individuals from various industries. The committee plans to have four meetings each school year in order to review and provide recommendations in the areas of program design, delivery, evaluation and policies. Orientation training and a handbook will be provided at the first meeting. Meetings will be held annually in September, December, April, and June.

Component 2: Admission Criteria: ILTexas applicants must currently be employed with ILTexas Charter School, hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale), complete the ILTexas EPP application, provide two professional references, complete an interview with an ILTexas EPP staff member, commit to the one-year program, and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Foreign citizens may apply if they are authorized to work in the U.S. and can produce transcripts evaluated to be equivalent to a U.S. degree and prove English language proficiency.

Component 3: Educator Preparation Curriculum: The ILTexas curriculum is based on scientific research and is aligned to the Texas Educator Standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Components of the curriculum will include professional development training from subject matter experts and regional service centers specifically in the areas of two-way dual language immersion, dyslexia, mental health, and the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics. Coursework will include a variety of projects, interactive activities, competency benchmarks and performance-based assignments in order to assess mastery of educator standards.

Component 4: Delivery & Ongoing Support: Teacher candidates will complete a minimum of 300 clock-hours of coursework, 30 clock-hours of field-based experiences (FBEs), and full-time internship teaching during the one-year program. Candidates will receive a minimum of three

classroom observations by an ILTexas EPP field supervisor during the fall semester and two classroom observations during the Spring semester. Each observation includes a pre- and post-observation conference with actionable feedback. The teacher candidate's evaluation and program progress will be shared with the principal at the conclusion of each benchmark meeting between the field supervisor and intern.

Component 5: Candidate and Program Evaluation: For candidates to become eligible for an internship, they must be officially accepted into the ILTexas EPP, complete 150 clock-hours of pre-service coursework/training, 30 clock-hours of FBEs, and pass all content-pedagogy and supplemental certification exams. Candidates will be eligible to take the TExES PPR (160) test after starting their internship and scoring at minimum an 80% on the practice exam. Program components (recruitment, selection process, curriculum and coursework, coaching, participant evaluation model) will be evaluated annually, alongside a summative program year-end evaluation. Data will be collected via surveys, course evaluations, participant evaluations, program completion rates, and exam passing percentage rates. These data points will allow for analysis by the ILTexas Superintendent of Schools, ILTexas EPP Executive Director, Deputy Superintendent of Academics & Student Services, and Advisory Committee in order to provide the program with recommendations for continued support and improvement.

Component 6: Professional Conduct: All ILTexas staff and teacher candidates will receive Texas Educators' Code of Ethics (ECO) training and will sign an agreement acknowledging that they understand and will abide by the ECOE.

Component 7: Complaint Process: ILTexas will issue handbooks to all candidates which will include the complaint process. Public access to the complaint process will be available via the ILTexas website and posted at the physical site along with hardcopies for all who request the complaint process. At all levels, ILTexas commits to handling all complaints in a timely manner towards resolution according to the bylaws of the program. If an individual believes that a satisfactory resolution has not been reached, they may file a formal complaint with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Component 8: Issuance of Certificates: Candidates will qualify for an intern certificate based on the following criteria: 1) hired as teacher of record, 2) accepted into the ILTexas EPP, 3) hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education, 4) completed all pre-service coursework and FBEs, 5) paid all necessary fees pertaining to certification, 6) submitted fingerprints, 7) cleared the background check and 8) passed all content-specific certification exams. Candidates will qualify for probationary certification after successfully completing the criteria in addition to the TExES PPR (160) exam. Candidates will be eligible to receive their standard certificate after successfully completing the internship, passing all required certification exams, completing all required coursework, and upon the recommendation for standard certification by the ILTexas EPP Executive Director. ILTexas will follow all rules pertaining to the issuance of intern, probationary, and standard certificates as outlined in 19 TAC Chapter 230.

Component 9: Accuracy of Data Reporting: ILTexas will follow all rules pertaining to state and federal data reporting.