

Item 10:

2021–2022 Continuing Approval Reviews of Educator Preparation Programs

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve educator preparation programs (EPPs) for continuing approval for five years based on the results of the 2021-2022 reviews.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for 19 TAC §§229.6(a), 228.10(b) and 229.9 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.0443, 21.041, 21.0452, 21.0454, and 21.061.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval.

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff anticipates recommending action for additional EPPs who have completed the 5-year review process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: TEC §21.0443 authorizes the SBEC to adopt rules providing for educator preparation program approval and renewal of approval. TEC §21.061 states that the SBEC is to carry out a process for reviewing and, as necessary, updating standards and requirements for EPPs. TEC §21.041 allows the Board to set fees for the approval or renewal of approval of an EPP. TEC §21.0452 authorizes the Board to make information available regarding EPPs to the public. TEC §21.0454 authorizes the Board to propose rules that develop a set of risk factors for each preparation program to be used by the agency to guide the five-year review process.

The continuing approval process provides the SBEC with the opportunity to approve existing educator preparation programs for continued operation. Twenty-seven EPPs were reviewed for continuing approval for the 2021-2022 academic year. At the December 9, 2022 SBEC meeting, the Board approved twenty of those EPPs for continuing approval. This item presents the remaining seven programs for SBEC's approval for continuing approval. These programs have corrected deficiencies identified in the review and have demonstrated compliance with SBEC requirements for EPPs.

Educator Preparation Program Continuing Review Purpose and Process:

The purpose of a regular periodic review of an approved EPP, as required by statute in TEC §21.0443 and supported by SBEC rule in 19 TAC §228.10(b), is to provide evidence to ensure an EPP is adequately preparing candidates for educator certification and meeting the standards and requirements set by the SBEC. In the review process, TEA gathers evidence to determine EPP compliance with the TEC and TAC in the program approval components of:

- governance;
- admission practices;
- curriculum;

- coursework, training, program delivery, and ongoing support of candidates;
- assessment and evaluation of candidates and the program;
- professional conduct;
- complaints procedures;
- certification procedures;
- integrity of data submission; and
- coursework and training regarding proactive instructional planning techniques and inclusive practices for teaching all students, including students with disabilities.

The review process provides clarification of current rules and requirements to EPPs and encourages the sharing of best practices to promote a continuous improvement mindset. TEA staff develops and implements targeted training to individuals and groups of EPPs based on common issues that surface across multiple EPP review reports. The review process also provides TEA with an opportunity to identify and showcase exceptional programs or practices that can be shared with other EPPs.

At the time of the review, the EPP must submit a status report regarding its compliance with existing standards for EPPs and the entity's original proposal to the SBEC. TEA uses the status report to focus on specific EPP processes and documents and to identify areas where EPP staff may not have a clear understanding of rules and requirements. TEA staff used a desk review format to review the EPPs that were determined to be of low or medium risk for the 2021-2022 reporting year. An on-site review conducted virtually was utilized for the EPPs that were in the high-risk level that required TEA staff to conduct an intensive look at the EPP internal processes as well as outcomes, including interviewing EPP program staff and instructors, to gain the clearest picture of how the EPP operates and what to address in a continuous improvement focus to assist the program.

After reviewing the status report and candidate records provided by the program, TEA staff may ask for additional information as part of the desk or virtual on-site review based on the results of the risk assessment, current accreditation status, and submitted materials. This additional information might include:

- Curriculum to review areas where candidates may not be receiving sufficient instruction resulting in EPP pass rate or candidate performance issues
- Targeted areas arising from complaints
- Reporting processes if lowered accreditation status was based on, for example, observations reported not making the 95% target because the program did not upload the observations properly
- Educator preparation program advisory committee activities to evaluate the types of support the program was receiving

At the close of each continuing approval review, TEA staff provides the results of the review as well as the next steps the program must complete to correct deficiencies identified in the review process. TEA staff establishes a timeline for the program to come into compliance. In most cases, programs have four months to provide TEA with evidence that identified deficiencies have been corrected, or to provide a plan to address deficiencies that take longer to address.

Recommended Approvals of Remaining Programs:

The attachment provides the list of the seven remaining programs that met all requirements in their review and completed their required improvement (if needed). TEA staff notified each of the EPPs in advance of the recommendation presented to the SBEC.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: The development and application of EPP review criteria will help ensure educator preparation programs are preparing educators to positively influence the performance of the diverse student population of the state.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the programs as presented for a five-year renewal of approval.

Staff Member Responsible:

Lorrie Ayers, Director, EPP Management

Attachment:

Programs Recommended for Continuing Approval

ATTACHMENT**Programs Recommended for Continuing Approval**

County/District Number	EPP Name
101512	University of Houston-Downtown
101509	University of Houston-Clear Lake
057702	Criswell College
152501	Texas Tech University
236501	Sam Houston State University
101950	Region 4 Education Service Center
071701	Teachers for the 21 st Century