

## Chapter 227. Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates

### Subchapter A. Admission to Educator Preparation Programs

*Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter A issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.031; 21.041(b)(1), (4), and (6); 21.044(a) and (g)(2) and (3); 21.0441; 21.0489(c); 21.049(a); 21.050(a); 22.083; and 22.0835; and Texas Occupations Code, §§53.151-53.153.*

#### §227.1. General Provisions.

- (a) It is the responsibility of the education profession as a whole to attract applicants and to retain educators who demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.
- (b) Educator preparation programs (EPPs) shall inform all applicants that:
  - (1) pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §22.083, candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to employment as an educator; and
  - (2) pursuant to the TEC, §22.0835, candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching.
- (c) EPPs shall inform applicants of the admission requirements as specified in this chapter:
  - (1) the requirements for program completion as specified in Chapter 228 of this title (relating to Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs); and
  - (2) in accordance with TEC, §21.044(g):
    - (A) the effect of supply and demand forces on the educator workforce in this state; and
    - (B) the performance over time of the EPP for the past five years.
- (d) EPPs shall notify, in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification, each applicant to and enrollee in the EPP of the following regardless of whether the applicant or enrollee has been convicted of an offense:
  - (1) the potential ineligibility of an individual who has been convicted of an offense for issuance of a certificate on completion of the EPP;
  - (2) the current State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) rules prescribed in §249.16 of this title (relating to Eligibility of Persons with Criminal History for a Certificate under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53, and Texas Education Code, Chapter 21); and
  - (3) the right to request a criminal history evaluation letter as provided in Chapter 227, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility).
- (e) If the SBEC determines that an EPP has failed to provide the notice required by subsection (d) of this section to an individual entitled to receive the notice and that the individual's application for a certificate for which the EPP prepares the individual was denied because the individual has been convicted of an offense prior to the EPP providing notice, the SBEC shall order the EPP to:
  - (1) refund the amount of any tuition paid by the individual to the EPP; and
  - (2) pay to the individual an amount equal to the total of the following, as applicable:
    - (A) the amount of any application fees paid by the individual to the SBEC; and
    - (B) the amount of any examination fees paid by the individual to the SBEC and/or to a provider of examinations required for certification. An EPP is not liable for examination fees if the examination was not required to be passed to meet the admission requirements of the EPP and/or the EPP did not provide test approval for the examination.

(f)



program formal admission or post-baccalaureate program formal admission).

- (B) In accordance with the Texas Education Code, (TEC), §21.0441(b), an exception to the minimum GPA requirement may be granted by the program director only in extraordinary circumstances and may not be used by a program to admit more than 10% of any incoming class of candidates. An applicant is eligible for this exception if:
    - (i) documentation and certification from the program director that an applicant's work, business, or career experience demonstrates achievement equivalent to the academic achievement represented by the GPA requirement; and
    - (ii) in accordance with the TEC, §21.0441(a)(2)(B), an applicant must pass an appropriate content certification examination as specified in paragraph (4)(C) of this subsection for each subject in which the applicant seeks certification prior to admission. In accordance with the TEC, §21.0441(b), applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement and have previously been admitted into an EPP may request permission to register for an appropriate content certification examination if the applicant is not seeking admission to the same EPP that previously granted test approval for a certification examination in the same certification class.
  - (C) An applicant who is seeking a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that does not require a degree from an accredited IHE is exempt from the minimum GPA requirement.
  - (D) An applicant who does not meet the minimum GPA requirement and is seeking certification in a class other than classroom teacher must perform at or above a score equivalent to a 2.5 GPA on the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytic Writing sections of the GRE® (Graduate Record Examinations) revised General Test. The State Board for Educator Certification will use equivalency scores established by the Educational Testing Service, and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will publish those equivalency scores annually on the TEA website.
- (4) For an applicant who will be seeking an initial certificate in the classroom teacher class of certificate, the applicant shall have successfully completed, prior to admission, at least:
- (A) a minimum of 12 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for the certification sought, unless certification sought is for mathematics or science at or above Grade 7; or
  - (B) 15 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for the certification sought if the certification sought is for mathematics or science at or above Grade 7; or
  - (C) a passing score on the appropriate content certification examination as specified in the figure provided in this subparagraph.
- [Figure: 19 TAC §227.10\(a\)\(4\)\(C\)](#)
- (5) For an applicant who will be seeking an initial certificate in a class other than classroom teacher, the applicant shall meet the minimum requirements for admission described in Chapter 239 of this title (relating to Student Services Certificates); Chapter 241 of this title (relating to Certification as Principal); and Chapter 242 of this title (relating to Superintendent Certificate). If an applicant has not met the minimum certification, degree, and/or experience requirement(s) for issuance of a standard certificate prior to admission, the EPP shall inform the applicant in writing of any deficiency prior to admission.
  - (6) An applicant must demonstrate basic skills in reading, written communication, and mathematics by meeting the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative under the rules established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Texas Success Initiative), including one of the requirements established by §4.54 of this title (relating to Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers).

- (7) An applicant must demonstrate the English language proficiency skills as specified in §230.11 of

certificate specified in §230.31 of this title (relating to Types of Certificates) in one of the following certificate categories:

- (1) Bilingual Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- (2) Bilingual Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (3) Core Subjects: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (4) Core/Fine Arts/Physical Education/Health with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (5) Core/Special Education with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (6) Core/Bilingual Education Spanish with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (7) Core/English as a Second Language Supplemental with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (8) Core with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (9) Early Childhood Education;
- (10) Elementary--General;
- (11) Elementary--General (Grades 1-6);
- (12) Elementary--General (Grades 1-8);
- (13) Elementary Early Childhood Education (Prekindergarten-Grade 6);
- (14) Elementary Self-Contained (Grades 1-8);
- (15) English as a Second Language Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- (16) English as a Second Language Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (17) Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 4;
- (18) Generalist: Early Childhood-Grade 6;
- (19) Kindergarten;
- (20) Prekindergarten-Grade 5--General;
- (21) Prekindergarten-Grade 6--General; or
- (22) Teacher of Young Children--General.

*Source: The provisions of this §227.10 adopted to be effective July 11, 1999, 24 TexReg 5011; amended to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355; amended to be effective December 22, 2019, 44 TexReg 7683; amended to be effective October 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 7249; amended to be effective August 4, 2024, 49 TexReg 5533.*

#### **§227.15. Contingency Admission.**

- (a) An applicant may be accepted into an alternative certification program or post-baccalaureate program on a contingency basis pending receipt of an official transcript showing degree conferred, as specified in §227.10(a)(2) of this title (relating to Admission Criteria), provided that:
  - (1) the applicant is currently enrolled in and expects to complete the courses and other requirements for obtaining, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree at the end of the semester in which admission to the program is sought;
  - (2) all other admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title have been met;

- (3) the EPP must notify the applicant of the offer of contingency admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification; and
- (4) the applicant must accept the offer of contingency admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (b) The effective date of contingency admission shall be included in the offer of contingency admission.
- (c) An EPP must notify the Texas Education Agency within seven calendar days of a candidate's contingency admission.
- (d) An applicant admitted on a contingency basis may begin program training and may be approved to take a certification examination, but shall not be recommended for an intern or a probationary certificate until the bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education (IHE) has been conferred.
- (e) Except as provided by this section, an alternative certification program or post-baccalaureate program, prior to admission on a contingency basis, shall not provide coursework, training, and/or examination approval to an applicant that leads to initial certification in any class of certificate. A post-baccalaureate or alternative certification program at an IHE may admit an applicant if coursework and training was provided by the same IHE as part of:
  - (1) the degree to be conferred;
  - (2) a prerequisite for a master's degree leading to initial certification; or
  - (3) a different post-baccalaureate program of study.
- (f) The contingency admission will be valid for only the fall, spring, or summer semester for which the contingency admission was granted and may not be extended for another semester. The end of each semester shall be consistent with the common calendar established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

*Source: The provisions of this §227.15 adopted to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10011; amended to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355; amended to be effective October 15, 2020, 45 TexReg 7249.*

**§227.17. Formal Admission.**

- (a) For an applicant to be formally admitted to an educator preparation program (EPP), the applicant must meet all the admission requirements specified in §227.10 of this title (relating to Admission Criteria).
- (b) For an applicant to be formally admitted to an EPP, the EPP must notify the applicant of the offer of formal admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (c) For an applicant to be considered formally admitted to the EPP, the applicant must accept the offer of formal admission in writing by mail, personal delivery, facsimile, email, or an electronic notification.
- (d) The effective date of formal admission shall be included in the offer of I Tw 40.9i ( a)4.2 ( )1.6 adm.2 (ni)6.9 (t)6.9 (t)9.5 (i)

*Source: The provisions of this §227.17 adopted to be effective February 28, 2016, 41 TexReg 1238; amended to be effective October 18, 2016, 41 TexReg 8198; amended to be effective June 3, 2018, 43 TexReg 3355.*

**§227.19. Incoming Class Grade Point Average.**

- (a) The overall grade point average (GPA) of each incoming class admitted between September 1 and August 31 of each year by an educator preparation program (EPP), including an alternative certification program, may not be less than 3.00 on a four-