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This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss proposed revisions to the English language proficiency requirements outlined in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements, §230.11. General Certification Requirements.

The statutory authority for 19 TAC Chapter 230 is the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§ 21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1), (4), and (5), 21.041 (b)(2) and (4), 21.044(a), 21.048, 21.050, and 22.082, for Subchapter B.

TEC §21.003(a), states that a person may not be employed as a teacher, teacher intern or teacher trainee, librarian, educational aide, administrator, educational diagnostician, or school counselor by a school district unless the person holds an appropriate certificate or permit issued as provided by TEC, Chapter 21, Subchapter B.

TEC §21.031, authorizes the SBEC to regulate and oversee all aspects of the certification, .

quires the SBEC to provide for the issuance of an educator certificate to a

similar certificate issued by another state or foreign country, subject to TEC

res the SBEC to make rules specifying what each educator is expected to do, particularly with regard to students with disabilities.

the SBEC shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for

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Figure: 19 TAC §230.11(b)(5)(C) in Attachment II, currently includes a total of 32 countries approved by the SBEC to qualify for an exemption from the ELP requirement. Individuals seeking certification in Texas with an undergraduate or graduate degree earned at an institution of higher education in one of the countries on the list are exempt from the TOEFL-iBT requirement.

TEA staff sees an opportunity to expand the current approved list of countries to include all U.S. Territories. This expansion would create equity in the general certification requirements for all U.S. Territories.

Questions for the Board's consideration:

1. Would the Board like staff to explore options to revisit the list of approved countries?
2. Does the Board have an opinion on the criteria that should be considered to add more countries (e.g., English only; English primarily; English as one of the official languages)?
3. Are there any immediate concerns about how the potential options could affect the future?
4. Does the Board believe an approved list of countries is still valuable and necessary?

Based on 2022-2023 certification application data, the top five countries from which we receive requests for out-of-country credential reviews are Canada, India, Jamaica, Philippines, and Spain. Canada, India, and Jamaica appear on the SBEC list.

TEA staff believe there is merit in revisiting the ELP requirement as it relates to the territories of the United States. The U.S. territories are American Samoa; Guam (

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