



## SPECIAL REPORT

### February 2010

### Educator Preparation Programs in Texas

#### Background Information

As of October 2009, Texas has 177 State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) approved educator preparation programs. All programs must be approved by the SBEC, including expansion programs. The program submits a detailed proposal that includes the areas of certification being requested. The SBEC must approve additional certification areas as well. The chart below shows the types of preparation programs and the number of programs for each type.

Type of Preparation Program	Number of Programs	Expansion Programs
ACP Private	50	18
ACP Community College	25	3
ACP School Districts	5	
ACP Education Service Centers	18	
ACP County	2	
ACP University	20	
University Undergraduate	72	
University Post-Baccalaureate	70	

During the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session, summer 2009, SB 174 was passed. This bill includes the requirements for the educator preparation program accountability system. Also during the summer 2009, the United States Department of Education (USDE) passed the Higher Education Act (HEA). As a result of SB 174 and the USDE HEA, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Division of Educator Standards began rewriting rules in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 229, *Accountability System for Educator Preparation*. The proposed new chapter was adopted by the SBEC on February 5, 2010. The effective date of the new rules in Chapter 229 is April 18, 2010.

## **SB 174 Overview of Required Surveys from Principals**

SB 174 amends Texas Education Code (TEC) §21.041 and §21.045, and adds §21.0451 and §21.0452. TEC §21.045 requires the SBEC to “propose rules establishing standards to govern the approval and continuing accountability of all educator preparation programs” in four specified areas. One of the four specified areas is: “performance based on the appraisal system for beginning teachers adopted by the board.” The Attorney General has held that the Professional Development and Appraisal System (PDAS) is confidential and may not be used for this purpose.

TEC §21.0451 requires the SBEC to “propose rules for the sanction of educator preparation programs that do not meet accountability standards and shall annually review the accreditation status of each educator preparation program.”

TEC §21.0452 requires the SBEC to post certain consumer information on its website to assist educator candidates in choosing an educator preparation program and school districts in making staffing decisions. One item required as part of the consumer information that is required is “the results of surveys given to school principals that involve evaluation of the program’s effectiveness in preparing participants to succeed in the classroom, based on experience with employed program participants.”

Because PDAS cannot be used to link the beginning teacher’s performance to educator preparation program effectiveness as part of the consumer information requirements, school principals will be required to complete a survey regarding the beginning teacher’s performance and the program’s effectiveness in preparing its participants. Specific rules can be found in 19 TAC Chapter 229, §229.3, Required Submissions of Information, Surveys, and Other Data. Below is the rule text for this section as adopted by the SBEC.

### **19 TAC Chapter 229, §229.3. Required Submissions of Information, Surveys, and Other Data**

(The underlined text and strikethroughs are as presented in the February 5, 2010 SBEC Agenda. The new rules in Chapter 229 will not be posted to the website until their effective date, April 18, 2010.)

- (a) Educator preparation programs (EPPs), educator preparation candidates, beginning teachers, field supervisors, school principals and administrators, campus mentors, and cooperating teachers shall provide to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff all data and information required by this chapter, as set forth in subsection (e) of this section and the Texas Education Code (TEC), §21.045 and §21.0452.
- (b) Any individual holding a Texas-issued educator certificate who willfully or recklessly fails to provide information required by this chapter and the TEC, §21.045 and §21.0452, as set forth in subsection (e) of this section, shall be subject to sanction of his or her certificate, including the placement of restrictions, inscribed or non-inscribed reprimand, suspension, or revocation.
- (c) Any Texas public school that willfully or recklessly fails to provide information required by this chapter and the TEC, §21.045 and §21.0452, as set forth in subsection (e) of this section, shall be referred to the commissioner of education with a recommendation that ~~[subject to]~~ sanctions upon its accreditation status be imposed for failure to comply with this section and the TEC, §21.0452 .
- (d) Any open-enrollment charter school that willfully or recklessly fails to provide information required by this chapter and the TEC, §21.045 and §21.0452, as set forth in subsection (e) of this section, shall be referred to the commissioner of education with a recommendation that sanctions be imposed for failure to comply with this section and the TEC, §21.0452 ~~[may be considered to have committed a material violation of the school's charter pursuant to the TEC, Chapter 12]~~ .
- (e) All required EPP data for an academic year shall be submitted to the TEA staff annually on September 15 following the end of that academic year. All surveys and information required to be submitted pursuant to this chapter by school administrators and principals shall be submitted by June 15 of any academic year in which the school administrator and principal have had experience with a candidate or beginning teacher who was a participant in an EPP. All surveys and information required to be submitted pursuant to this chapter by EPP candidates shall be submitted by August 1 of each academic year in which it is required.

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(f) The following apply to data submissions required by this chapter.

(1) EPPs shall provide data for all candidates as specified in the figure provided in this paragraph.

Figure: 19 TAC §229.3(f)(1)

(2) Participants in an EPP shall complete a survey, in a form approved by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), evaluating the preparation he or she received in the EPP. Completion and submission to the SBEC of the survey is a requirement for issuance of a standard certificate.

(3) Principals or designated administrators in Texas public schools and open-enrollment charter schools shall complete individual teacher performance surveys, in a form to be approved by the SBEC, for each beginning teacher under the supervision of an EPP.

(4) Principals or designated administrators in Texas public schools and open-enrollment charter schools shall complete surveys, in a form to be approved by the SBEC, evaluating the effectiveness of preparation for classroom success for each EPP with which the principals or designated administrators have had experience in the previous year.

### **Stakeholder Meeting: Development of Survey Instrument**

On Thursday, February 11, 2010, the TEA Division of Educator Standards conducted a stakeholder meeting for the purpose of seeking input from the field with regard to the survey that school principals will be required to complete. Approximately 35 elementary and secondary principals from around the State participated. Additionally, there were representatives from various professional associations, including TASPAA. A second stakeholder meeting was conducted on Friday, February 12, 2010, with representatives from various educator preparation programs.

TEA has contracted with the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) to develop the survey. A draft copy of the survey was presented to stakeholders who were asked to respond to the relevance and appropriateness of each question. While statute requires two surveys, one related to the teacher's preparation and one related to the program's effectiveness, SEDL has combined both requirements into one survey. The survey is designed to be completed within 15 minutes, and it will be available in electronic format. The first year of implementation will be considered a pilot year.

### **How will the survey process work?**

As specified in 19 TAC §229.3, a survey will be required for all first year teachers. The school principal or assigned administrator will complete a survey for each first year teacher assigned to the campus. This includes first year teachers who are enrolled in an educator preparation program (such as an alternative certification program or post-baccalaureate program) and first year teachers who completed a university undergraduate educator preparation program. The survey will not be required for student teachers assigned to the campus. The results of the survey will be linked to the teacher's educator preparation program as a measure of its effectiveness.

As stated in §229.3(b), "Any individual holding a Texas-issued educator certificate who willfully or recklessly fails to provide information required by this chapter and the TEC, §21.045 and §21.0452, as set forth in subsection (e) of this section, shall be subject to sanction of his or her certificate, including the placement of restrictions, inscribed or non-inscribed reprimand, suspension, or revocation."

### **Implementation**

Once the survey is approved, additional information will be provided regarding its actual implementation timeline. Questions related to the educator preparation program accountability system should be directed to Dr. Janice López, Director of Educator Standards, at the TEA, 512-936-8226.

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