

Chapter 230. Professional Educator Preparation and Certification

Subchapter D. Types and Classes of Certificates Issued

§230.31. Types of Certificates.

- (a) "Type of certificate" means a designation of the period of validity for a certificate and includes the following certificate designations:
- (1) standard, as specified in subsection (c) of this section;
 - (2) provisional, as specified in subsection (b) of this section;
 - (3) professional, as specified in subsection (b) of this section;
 - (4) one year, as specified in §230.113 of this title (relating to Requirements for Texas Certificates Based on Certification from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries);
 - (5) intern, as specified in §230.36 of this title (relating to Intern Certificates);
 - (6) probationary, as specified in §230.37 of this title (relating to Probationary Certificates);
 - (7) emergency, as specified in §230.73 of this title (relating to Validity of Emergency Permits); and
 - (8) educational aide, as specified in Subchapter E of this chapter (relating to Educational Aide Certificate).
- (b) All provisional and professional educator certificates issued prior to September 1, 1999, shall be valid for the life of the individual unless suspended, surrendered in lieu of revocation, or revoked by lawful authority.
- (c) Effective September 1, 1999, the standard certificate shall be issued for all classes of certificates and shall be valid for five years, subject to the requirements of Chapter 232, Subchapter A, of this title (relating to Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements). The standard certificate is issued to individuals who have met all requirements for a given subject area or class of certification.
- (d) Effective September 1, 2017, the educational aide certificate shall be valid for two years. Educational aide certificates issued effective September 1, 2017, will expire at the end of the two-year validity period. Individuals issued an educational aide certificate prior to September 1, 2017, as well as new applicants for the educational aide certificate, will be required to reapply for certification every two years and meet any other requirements for the educational aide certificate as specified in §230.65 of this title (relating to Requirements for Reissuance of Educational Aide Certificates).

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §230.31 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1)-(5) and (9), 21.051, and 22.0831(c) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §230.31 adopted to be effective August 12, 2012, 37 TexReg 5753; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10309.

§230.33. Classes of Certificates.

- (a) "Class of certificates" means a certificate with the following characteristics:
- (1) specific job duties or functions associated with the certificate;
 - (2) standards established by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) for the issuance of the certificate; and
 - (3) comprehensive examination(s) prescribed by the SBEC, as specified in §230.21 of this title (relating to Educator Assessment).
- (b) Classes of certificates include the following:

- (1) superintendent;
- (2) principal;
- (3) classroom teacher (categories of classroom teaching certificates are described in Chapter 233 of this title (relating to Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates));
- (4) reading specialist;
- (5) legacy master teacher;
- (6) school librarian;
- (7) school counselor; and
- (8) educational diagnostician.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §230.33 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1)-(5) and (9), 21.051, 21.064, and 22.0831(c) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §230.33 adopted to be effective August 12, 2012, 37 TexReg 5753; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10309; amended to be effective May 17, 2020, 45 TexReg 3288.

§230.35. Development, Approval, Implementation, and Evaluation of Teacher Certification Standards.

- (a) Purpose. The purpose of the certification standards shall be to ensure the highest level of educator preparation and practice to achieve student excellence.
- (b) Objectives. The objectives of the certification standards are:
 - (1) to establish the knowledge and skills required of an individual seeking certification in a particular subject area;
 - (2) to guide the design and delivery of educator preparation programs (EPPs); and
 - (3) to direct the development of certification examinations and other requirements for issuance of the certificate.
- (c) Policy. The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) shall appoint an advisory committee to develop and recommend certification standards for approval that are based on the applicable Texas essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and reflect current research-based practices and knowledge of the developmental stages of learning to promote successful outcomes and academic achievement from Early Childhood-Grade 12.
- (d) Development. The SBEC shall develop the certification standards based on information provided by Texas educators, EPP representatives, parents, and citizens. Before approving standards for a certificate, the SBEC shall make the proposed standards available for public comment.
- (e) Implementation. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall be primarily responsible for implementing the certification standards approved by the SBEC by having certification examinations developed or recommended to the SBEC on the basis of such standards.
- (f) Evaluation. The TEA staff shall periodically evaluate approved certification standards based, at a minimum, on any changes to the TEKS or the job functions and duties of the related certificate.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §230.35 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1)-(5) and (9), 21.051, and 22.0831(c) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §230.35 adopted to be effective August 12, 2012, 37 TexReg 5753; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10309.

§230.36. Intern Certificates.

- (a) General provisions.

- (1) Certificate classes. An intern certificate may be issued for any class of certificate except educational aide.
 - (2) Requirement to hold an intern certificate. A candidate seeking certification as an educator must hold an intern certificate while participating in an internship through an approved educator preparation program (EPP).
- (b) Requirements for issuance. An intern certificate may be issued to a candidate seeking certification as an educator who meets the conditions and requirements prescribed in this subsection.
- (1) Bachelor's degree. Except as otherwise provided in rules of the State Board for Educator Certification related to certain career and technical education certificates based on skill and experience, the candidate must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education. An individual who has earned a degree outside the United States must provide an original, detailed report or course-by-course evaluation for all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The evaluation must verify that the individual holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.
 - (2) General certification requirements. The candidate must meet the general certification requirements prescribed in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).
 - (3) Fee. The candidate must pay the fee prescribed in §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).
 - (4) Fingerprints. The candidate must submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code (TEC), §22.0831.
- (c) Conditions. The validity and effectiveness of an intern certificate is subject to the following conditions.
- (1) Internship. The holder of an intern certificate must be a participant in good standing of an approved Texas EPP, serving in an acceptable, paid internship supervised by the EPP.
 - (2) Inactive status. An intern certificate will become inactive 30 calendar days after the holder's separation from the school assignment or the EPP. The unexpired term of an intern certificate may be reactivated if the holder satisfies the requirements specified in this section.
 - (3) Term of an intern certificate. An intern certificate shall be valid for one 12-month period from the date of issuance.
 - (4) Limit on preliminary certifications and permits. Without obtaining standard certification, an individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods while holding any combination of the following:
 - (A) intern certificates, limited to one 12-month period maximum, as described in this subsection;
 - (B) probationary certificates, limited to two 12-month periods maximum, as specified in §230.37 of this title (relating to Probationary Certificates)
 - (C) emergency permits as specified in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Permits); or
 - (D) one-year certificates as specified in Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).
 - (5) Reduction in force exception. If an educator is employed under an intern certificate and is terminated or resigns in lieu of termination before the end of the school year due to a reduction in force, that intern term shall not count as one of the three years referenced in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

- (d) Testing requirements for issuance of an intern certificate. Beginning September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet the subject matter knowledge requirements for issuance of an intern certificate to serve an internship in a classroom teacher assignment for each subject area to be taught.
- (1) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued an intern certificate for an internship in a classroom teacher assignment on or after September 1, 2017, a candidate must pass all of the appropriate content pedagogy examinations, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.
 - (2) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued an intern certificate for an internship in a career and technical education classroom teacher assignment that is based on skill and experience on or after September 1, 2017, a candidate must satisfy the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)) and pass the appropriate content pedagogy examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Assessment of Educators).
- (e) Intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher. An intern certificate may be issued for assignment as a superintendent, principal, reading specialist, master teacher, school librarian, school counselor, and educational diagnostician to an individual who meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and who also meets the requirements prescribed in this subsection.
- (1) An applicant for an intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher must meet all requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements for the class of certification sought and the duties to be performed by the holder of an intern certificate in that class.
 - (2) The individual must have also been:
 - (A) accepted and enrolled to participate in a Texas EPP that has been approved to prepare candidates for the certificate sought; and
 - (B) assigned in the certificate area being sought in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or, pursuant to §228.35 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training), other school approved by the TEA.
 - (3) The holder of an intern certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher is subject to all terms and conditions of an intern certificate prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.
 - (4) The following provisions apply to the intern certificate for Principal as Instructional Leader.
 - (A) During the transition period of December 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019, the SBEC may issue an intern certificate to a candidate who meets the requirements specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection.
 - (B) Effective September 1, 2019, the SBEC may issue an intern certificate to a candidate who meets requirements specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection and has passed the Principal as Instructional Leader examination specified in Subchapter C of this chapter.
- (f) Intern certificate for intensive pre-service. An intern certificate may be issued to an applicant who is admitted to an EPP intensive pre-service as prescribed in §228.33 of this title (relating to Intensive Pre-Service) on or after January 1, 2020, who:
- (1) obtained a passing score on the aligned pedagogical rubric specified in §228.33 of this title;
 - (2) obtained a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title (relating to Passing Standards), on the required content certification (subject-matter only) examination and the following additional requirements for special education and bilingual assignments;
 - (A) Special education assignments also require a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title, on the TExES Special Education Supplemental examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title (relating to Educator Assessment); and

- (B) Bilingual education assignments also require a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title, on the TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency examination or the related language proficiency examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title; and
 - (C) English as Second Language (ESL) assignments also require a passing score, in accordance with §151.1001 of this title, on the TExES ESL Supplemental examination or the related language proficiency examination prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title; and
- (3) met the requirements as prescribed in subsections (a)-(c) of this section.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §230.36 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1)-(5) and (9); 21.051; 21.064; and 22.0831(c) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §230.36 adopted to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10309; amended to be effective December 23, 2018, 43 TexReg 5470; amended to be effective October 13, 2019, 44 TexReg 5767; amended to be effective May 17, 2020, 45 TexReg 3288.

§230.37. Probationary Certificates.

- (a) General provisions.
 - (1) Certificate classes. A probationary certificate may be issued for any class of certificate except educational aide.
 - (2) Requirement to hold a probationary certificate. A candidate seeking certification as an educator must hold a probationary certificate while participating in an internship through an approved educator preparation program (EPP).
- (b) Requirements for issuance. A probationary certificate may be issued to a candidate seeking certification as an educator who meets the conditions and requirements prescribed in this subsection.
 - (1) Bachelor's degree. Except as otherwise provided in rules of the State Board for Educator Certification related to certain career and technical education certificates based on skill and experience, the candidate must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education. An individual who has earned a degree outside the United States must provide an original, detailed report or course-by-course evaluation of all college-level credits prepared by a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The evaluation must verify that the individual holds, at a minimum, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an accredited institution of higher education in the United States.
 - (2) General certification requirements. The candidate must meet the general certification requirements prescribed in §230.11 of this title (relating to General Requirements).
 - (3) Fee. The candidate must pay the fee prescribed in §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).
 - (4) Fingerprints. The candidate must submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code (TEC), §22.0831.
- (c) Conditions. The validity and effectiveness of a probationary certificate is subject to the following conditions.
 - (1) Internship. The holder of a probationary certificate must be a participant in good standing of an approved Texas EPP, serving in an acceptable, paid internship supervised by the EPP.
 - (2) Inactive status. A probationary certificate will become inactive 30 calendar days after the holder's separation from the school assignment or the EPP. The unexpired term of a probationary certificate may be reactivated if the holder satisfies the program enrollment and school assignment requirements specified in §228.35 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training).

- (3) Term of a probationary certificate. A probationary certificate shall be valid for a 12-month period from the date of issuance.
- (4) Limit on preliminary certifications and permits. Without obtaining standard certification, an individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods while holding any combination of the following:
 - (A) intern certificates, limited to one 12-month period maximum, as described in this subsection;
 - (B) probationary certificates, limited to two 12-month periods maximum, as described in this subsection;
 - (C) emergency permits as specified in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Permits); or
 - (D) one-year certificates as specified in Subchapter H of this chapter (relating to Texas Educator Certificates Based on Certification and College Credentials from Other States or Territories of the United States) and Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).
- (5) Reduction in force exception. If an educator is employed under a probationary certificate and is terminated or resigns in lieu of termination before the end of the school year due to a reduction in force, that probationary term shall not count as one of the two allowed annual probationary terms.
- (d) Testing requirements for issuance of a probationary certificate.
 - (1) Prior to September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet the subject matter knowledge requirements for issuance of a probationary certificate to serve an internship in a classroom teacher assignment for each subject area to be taught:
 - (A) At the elementary school level, by passing the appropriate content area certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Assessment of Educators), appropriate to the grade level and subject matter assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title (relating to Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments).
 - (B) At the middle or high school level:
 - (i) by passing the appropriate content area certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter, appropriate to the grade level and subject matter assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title; or
 - (ii) by completing coursework that complies with the TEC, §21.050, and comprised of not fewer than 24 semester credit hours, including 12 semester credit hours of upper division coursework in the subject area(s) taught; or
 - (iii) in the case of career and technical education assignments based on skill and experience, by satisfying the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title (relating to Career and Technical Education (Certificates requiring experience and preparation in a skill area)).
 - (C) A candidate who is the teacher of record in a special education assignment must meet the appropriate subject matter knowledge requirements prescribed in subparagraph (A) and/or (B) of this paragraph and pass the appropriate special education certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter, appropriate to the assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title. If a candidate has not passed the special education supplemental-examination prior to the beginning of an internship, an EPP may permit the internship assignment if:
 - (i) the EPP has developed a plan to address any deficiencies identified through the candidate's previous attempt(s) on the examination; and
 - (ii) the EPP implements the plan during the initial internship. An EPP shall not permit an additional internship if all examinations requirements are not met.

- (D) A candidate who is in a bilingual education and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) assignment must meet the appropriate subject matter knowledge requirements prescribed in subparagraph (A) and/or (B) of this paragraph and pass the appropriate bilingual education and/or ESL certification examination(s), as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter, appropriate to the assignment(s) as prescribed in Chapter 231 of this title. If a candidate has not passed the bilingual education supplemental examination, ESL supplemental examination, or the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency test prior to the beginning of an internship, an EPP may permit the internship if:
 - (i) the EPP has developed a plan to address any deficiencies identified through the candidate's previous attempt(s) on the examination(s); and
 - (ii) the EPP implements the plan during the initial internship. An EPP shall not permit an additional internship if all examination requirements are not met.
- (2) Beginning September 1, 2017, a candidate must meet all testing requirements for issuance of a probationary certificate.
 - (A) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued a probationary certificate for an internship in a classroom teacher assignment, a candidate must pass the appropriate certification examination(s), including the appropriate pedagogy and professional responsibilities examination, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.
 - (B) To meet the subject matter knowledge requirements to be issued a probationary certificate for an internship in a career and technical education classroom teacher assignment that is based on skill and experience, a candidate must satisfy the requirements for that subject area contained in §233.14 of this title and pass the appropriate certification examination(s), including the appropriate pedagogy and professional responsibilities examination, as prescribed in Subchapter C of this chapter.
- (e) Probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher. A probationary certificate may be issued for an assignment as a superintendent, principal, reading specialist, master teacher, school librarian, school counselor, and/or educational diagnostician to an individual who meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and who also meets the requirements prescribed in this subsection.
 - (1) An applicant for a probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher must meet all requirements established by the recommending EPP, which shall be based on the qualifications and requirements for the class of certification sought and the duties to be performed by the holder of a probationary certificate in that class.
 - (2) The individual must have also been:
 - (A) accepted and enrolled to participate in a Texas EPP that has been approved to prepare candidates for the certificate sought; and
 - (B) assigned in the certificate category being sought in a Texas school district, open-enrollment charter school, or, pursuant to §228.35 of this title, other school approved by the TEA.
 - (3) Effective September 1, 2017, to meet the subject matter requirements for issuance of the probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher, the individual must pass the appropriate content pedagogy examination(s) for that certificate.
 - (4) The holder of a probationary certificate in a certification class other than classroom teacher is subject to all terms and conditions of an intern certificate prescribed in subsection (c) of this section.
- (f) Probationary certificate for intensive pre-service. A probationary certificate may be issued to an applicant who is admitted to an EPP intensive pre-service as prescribed in §228.33 of this title (relating to Intensive Pre-Service) on or after January 1, 2020, who:
 - (1) meets the applicable requirements prescribed in subsections (a)-(c) of this section;

- (2) has met requirements of §230.36(f) of this title; and
- (3) has obtained a passing score, in accordance with 19 TAC §151.1001 of this title (relating to Passing Standards), on the required content pedagogy tests prescribed in §230.21(e) of this title (relating to Educator Assessment).

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §230.37 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1)-(5) and (9), 21.051, and 22.0831(c) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §230.37 adopted to be effective August 12, 2012, 37 TexReg 5753; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 1030; amended to effective October 4, 2019, 44 TexReg 5767.

§230.41. Visiting International Teacher Certificates.

- (a) For purposes of this subsection, Visiting International Teacher Program is defined as a J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program officially approved by the United States Department of State.
- (b) The State Board for Educator Certification will issue a visiting international teacher certificate to an individual who meets the conditions and requirements specified in this subsection. The individual must:
 - (1) meet appropriate requirements prescribed in §230.11(b)(1)-(4) of this title (relating to General Requirements);
 - (2) be recommended for certification by a school district participating in a Visiting International Teacher Program;
 - (3) hold valid teaching credentials from the country of origin based, at a minimum, on the equivalent of a bachelor's degree issued by an institution of higher education in the United States accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or by the U.S. Department of Education;
 - (4) demonstrate English language proficiency and subject matter competence in subject area(s) taught, as verified by the Visiting International Teacher Program sponsor and the employing school district;
 - (5) have criminal activity clearance from country of origin;
 - (6) pay appropriate fee prescribed by §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services); and
 - (7) submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code, §22.0831.
- (c) School districts that recommend educators for visiting international teacher certificates agree to provide the visiting international teachers with intensive supervision consisting of structured guidance and regular ongoing support through a mentoring program.
- (d) The Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall establish reasonable procedures to implement this section.
- (e) The visiting international teacher certificate is valid for three years and may be extended two additional years, for a maximum total of five years, for all candidates actively enrolled in and in good standing with a Visiting International Teacher Program as verified by the employing school district.
- (f) Issuance of a visiting international teacher certificate does not prohibit issuance of a one-year certificate following a successful review of credentials, as specified in Chapter 245 of this title (relating to Certification of Educators from Other Countries).

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §230.41 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§21.003(a), 21.031, 21.041(b)(1)-(5) and (9); 21.051; and 22.0831(c) and (f).

Source: The provisions of this §230.41 adopted to be effective August 12, 2012, 37 TexReg 5753; amended to be effective December 27, 2016, 41 TexReg 10309; amended to be effective December 23, 2018, 43 TexReg 5470.