

STATUTORY AUTHORITY REFERENCE

SECTION: TEXAS CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XVI

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE (TEC)

TEXAS FAMILY CODE (TFC)

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE (TGC)

TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE (TOC)

TEXAS PENAL CODE (TPC)

UNITED STATES CODE

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE 16. GENERAL PROVISIONS
SECTION 17

Sec. 17. SERVICE OF PUBLIC OFFICER PENDING QUALIFICATION OF SUCCESSOR.

- (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, all officers of this State shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified.
- (b) Following the expiration of a term of an appointive office that is filled by appointment of the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and that is not an office for which the officer receives a salary, the period for which the officer shall continue to perform the duties of office under Subsection (a) of this section ends on the last day of the first regular session of the Legislature that begins after the expiration of the term.

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SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

TEC, §21.003. CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.

- (a) 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 Subchapter B.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a person may not be employed by a school district as an audiologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, physician, nurse, school psychologist, associate school psychologist, licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, social worker, or speech language pathologist unless the person is licensed by the state agency that licenses that profession and may perform specific services within those professions for a school district only if the person holds the appropriate credential from the appropriate state agency. As long as a person employed by a district before September 1, 2011, to perform marriage and family therapy, as defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code, is employed by the same district, the person is not required to hold a license as a marriage and family therapist to perform marriage and family therapy with that district.
- (c) The commissioner may waive the requirement for certification of a superintendent if requested by a school district as provided by Section 7.056. A person who is not certified as a superintendent may not be employed by a school district as the superintendent before the person has received a waiver of certification from the commissioner. The commissioner may limit the waiver of certification in any manner the commissioner determines is appropriate. A person may be designated to act as a temporary or interim superintendent for a school district, but the district may not employ the person under a contract as superintendent unless the person has been certified or a waiver has been granted.

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TEC, §21.0031. FAILURE TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION; CONTRACT VOID.

- (a) An employee's probationary, continuing, or term contract under this chapter is void if the employee:
 - (1) does not hold a valid certificate or permit issued by the State Board for Educator Certification;
 - (2) fails to fulfill the requirements necessary to renew or extend the employee's temporary, probationary, or emergency certificate or any other certificate or permit issued under Subchapter B; or
 - (3) fails to comply with any requirement under Subchapter C, Chapter [22](#), if the failure results in suspension or revocation of the employee's certificate under Section [22.0831\(f\)\(2\)](#).
- (b) If a school district has knowledge that an employee's contract is void under Subsection (a):
 - (1) the district may, except as provided by Subsection (b-1):
 - (A) terminate the employee;
 - (B) suspend the employee with or without pay; or
 - (C) retain the employee for the remainder of the school year on an at-will employment basis in a position other than a position required to be held by an employee under a contract under Section [21.002](#) at the employee's existing rate of pay or at a reduced rate; and
 - (2) the employee is not entitled to the minimum salary prescribed by Section [21.402](#).
- (b-1) A school district may not terminate or suspend under Subsection (b) an employee whose contract is void under Subsection (a)(1) or (2) because the employee failed to renew or extend the employee's certificate or permit if the employee:
 - (1) requests an extension from the State Board for Educator Certification to renew, extend, or otherwise validate the employee's certificate or permit; and
 - (2) not later than the 10th day after the date the contract is void, takes necessary measures to renew, extend, or otherwise validate the employee's certificate or permit, as determined by the State Board for Educator Certification.
- (c) A school district's decision under Subsection (b) is not subject to appeal under this chapter, and the notice and hearing requirements of this chapter do not apply to the decision.
- (d) This section does not affect the rights and remedies of a party in an at-will employment relationship.
- (e) This section does not apply to a certified teacher assigned to teach a subject for which the teacher is not certified.

- (f) For purposes of this section, a certificate or permit is not considered to have expired if:
- (1) the employee has completed the requirements for renewal of the certificate or permit;
 - (2) the employee submitted the request for renewal prior to the expiration date; and
 - (3) the date the certificate or permit would have expired is before the date the State Board for Educator Certification takes action to approve the renewal of the certificate or permit.

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TEC, §21.006. REQUIREMENT TO REPORT MISCONDUCT.

- (a) In this section:
- (1) "Abuse" has the meaning assigned by Section [261.001](#), Family Code, and includes any sexual conduct involving an educator and a student or minor.
 - (2) "Other charter entity" means:
 - (A) a school district operating under a home-rule school district charter adopted under Subchapter B, Chapter [12](#);
 - (B) a campus or campus program operating under a charter granted under Subchapter C, Chapter [12](#); and
 - (C) an entity that contracts to partner with a school district under Section [11.174\(a\)\(2\)](#) to operate a district campus under a charter granted to the entity by the district under Subchapter C, Chapter [12](#).
- (b) In addition to the reporting requirement under Section [261.101](#), Family Code, and except as provided by Subsection (c-2), the superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall notify the State Board for Educator Certification if:
- (1) an educator employed by or seeking employment by the school district, district of innovation, charter school, other charter entity, service center, or shared services arrangement has a criminal record and the school district, district of innovation, charter school, other charter entity, service center, or shared services arrangement obtained information about the educator's criminal record by a means other than the criminal history clearinghouse established under Section [411.0845](#), Government Code;
 - (2) an educator's employment at the school district, district of innovation, charter school, other charter entity, service center, or shared services arrangement was terminated and there is evidence that the educator:
 - (A) abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor;
 - (A-1) was involved in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor;
 - (B) possessed, transferred, sold, or distributed a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter [481](#), Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.;
 - (C) illegally transferred, appropriated, or expended funds or other property of the school district, district of innovation, charter school, other charter entity, service center, or shared services arrangement;
 - (D) attempted by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter a professional certificate or license for the purpose of promotion or additional compensation; or

- (E) committed a criminal offense or any part of a criminal offense on school property or at a school-sponsored event;
 - (3) the educator resigned and there is evidence that the educator engaged in misconduct described by Subdivision (2); or
 - (4) the educator engaged in conduct that violated the assessment instrument security procedures established under Section [39.0301](#).
- (b-1) A superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall complete an investigation of an educator that involves evidence that the educator may have engaged in misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2)(A) or (A-1), despite the educator's resignation from employment before completion of the investigation.
- (b-2) The principal of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, or other charter entity campus must notify the superintendent or director of the school district, district of innovation, charter school, or other charter entity not later than the seventh business day after the date:
- (1) of an educator's termination of employment or resignation following an alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b); or
 - (2) the principal knew about an educator's criminal record under Subsection (b)(1).
- (c) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2), the superintendent or director must notify the State Board for Educator Certification by filing a report with the board not later than the seventh business day after the date the superintendent or director receives a report from a principal under Subsection (b-2) or knew about an educator's termination of employment or resignation following an alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b) or an employee's criminal record under Subsection (b)(1).
- (c-1) The report under Subsection (c):
- (1) must be:
 - (A) in writing; and
 - (B) in a form prescribed by the board; and
 - (2) may be filed through the Internet portal developed and maintained by the State Board for Educator Certification under Subsection (g-1).
- (c-2) A superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement is not required to notify the State Board for Educator Certification or file a report with the board under Subsection (b) or (c) if the superintendent or director:
- (1) completes an investigation into an educator's alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2)(A) or (A-1) before the educator's termination of employment or resignation; and

- (2) determines the educator did not engage in the alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2)(A) or (A-1).
- (d) The superintendent or director shall notify the board of trustees or governing body of the school district, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement and the educator of the filing of the report required by Subsection (c).
- (e) A superintendent, director, or principal of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement who in good faith and while acting in an official capacity files a report with the State Board for Educator Certification under this section or communicates with another superintendent, director, or principal concerning an educator's criminal record or alleged incident of misconduct is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.
- (f) The State Board for Educator Certification shall determine whether to impose sanctions, including an administrative penalty under Subsection (i), against a principal who fails to provide notification to a superintendent or director in violation of Subsection (b-2) or against a superintendent or director who fails to file a report in violation of Subsection (c).
- (g) The State Board for Educator Certification shall propose rules as necessary to implement this section.
- (g-1) The State Board for Educator Certification shall develop and maintain an Internet portal through which a report required under Subsection (c) may be confidentially and securely filed.
- (h) The name of a student or minor who is the victim of abuse or unlawful conduct by an educator must be included in a report filed under this section, but the name of the student or minor is not public information under Chapter [552](#), Government Code.
- (i) If an educator serving as a superintendent or director is required to file a report under Subsection (c) and fails to file the report by the date required by that subsection, or if an educator serving as a principal is required to notify a superintendent or director about an educator's criminal record or alleged incident of misconduct under Subsection (b-2) and fails to provide the notice by the date required by that subsection, the State Board for Educator Certification may impose on the educator an administrative penalty of not less than \$500 and not more than \$10,000. The State Board for Educator Certification may not renew the certification of an educator against whom an administrative penalty is imposed under this subsection until the penalty is paid.
- (j) A superintendent or director required to file a report under Subsection (c) commits an offense if the superintendent or director fails to file the report by the date required by that subsection with intent to conceal an educator's criminal record or alleged incident of misconduct. A principal required to notify a superintendent or director about an educator's criminal record or alleged incident of misconduct under Subsection (b-2) commits an offense if the principal fails to provide the notice by the date required by that subsection with intent to conceal an educator's criminal record or alleged incident of misconduct. An offense under this subsection is a state jail felony.
- (k) The commissioner may review the records of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement to ensure compliance with the requirement to report misconduct under this section.

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TEC, §21.0062. REQUIREMENT TO REPORT MISCONDUCT: PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

- (a) In this section:
 - (1) "Abuse" has the meaning assigned by Section [261.001](#), Family Code, and includes any sexual conduct involving a student or minor and private school educator.
 - (2) "Private school educator" means a person employed by or seeking employment in a private school for a position in which the person would be required to hold a certificate issued under Subchapter B if the person were employed by a school district.
- (b) In addition to the reporting requirement under Section [261.101](#), Family Code, the chief administrative officer of a private school shall notify the State Board for Educator Certification if a private school educator:
 - (1) has a criminal record and the private school obtained information about the educator's criminal record; or
 - (2) was terminated and there is evidence that the educator:
 - (A) abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor; or
 - (B) was involved in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor.
- (c) If there is evidence that a private school educator may have engaged in misconduct described by Subsection (b) and the educator resigns from employment before completion of the investigation, the chief administrative officer of the private school shall submit the evidence of misconduct collected to the State Board for Educator Certification.
- (d) The chief administrative officer of the private school must notify the State Board for Educator Certification by filing a report with the board not later than the seventh business day after the date the chief administrative officer knew that a private school educator:
 - (1) has a criminal record under Subsection (b)(1); or
 - (2) was terminated following an alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2).
- (e) The report filed under Subsection (d) must be:
 - (1) in writing; and
 - (2) in a form prescribed by the board.
- (f) Any person who knows or has reason to believe that a private school educator engaged in the misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2) may file a report with the State Board for Educator Certification under this section.

- (g) A chief administrative officer of a private school or any other person who in good faith files a report with the State Board for Educator Certification under this section or communicates with a chief administrative officer or other administrator of a private school concerning the criminal record of or an alleged incident of misconduct by a private school educator is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.
- (h) The name of a student or minor who is the victim of abuse or unlawful conduct by a private school educator must be included in a report filed under this section, but the name of the student or minor is not public information under Chapter [552](#), Government Code.
- (i) The State Board for Educator Certification shall propose rules as necessary to implement this section.

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TEC, §21.007. NOTICE ON CERTIFICATION RECORD OF ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.

- (a) In this section, "board" means the State Board for Educator Certification.
- (b) The board shall adopt a procedure for placing a notice of alleged misconduct on an educator's public certification records. The procedure adopted by the board must provide for immediate placement of a notice of alleged misconduct on an educator's public certification records if the alleged misconduct presents a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of a student or minor as determined by the board.
- (c) The board must notify an educator in writing when placing a notice of an alleged incident of misconduct on the public certification records of the educator.
- (d) The board must provide an opportunity for an educator to show cause why the notice should not be placed on the educator's public certification records. The board shall propose rules establishing the length of time that a notice may remain on the educator's public certification records before the board must:
 - (1) initiate a proceeding to impose a sanction on the educator on the basis of the alleged misconduct; or
 - (2) remove the notice from the educator's public certification records.
- (e) If it is determined that the educator has not engaged in the alleged incident of misconduct, the board shall immediately remove the notice from the educator's public certification records.
- (f) The board shall propose rules necessary to administer this section.

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TEC, §21.009. PRE-EMPLOYMENT AFFIDAVIT.

- a) An applicant for a position described by Section [21.003](#)(a) or (b) with a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, private school, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement must submit, using a form adopted by the agency, a pre-employment affidavit disclosing whether the applicant has ever been charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor.
- (b) An applicant who answers affirmatively concerning an inappropriate relationship with a minor must disclose in the affidavit all relevant facts pertaining to the charge, adjudication, or conviction, including, for a charge, whether the charge was determined to be true or false.
- (c) An applicant is not precluded from being employed based on a disclosed charge if the employing entity determines based on the information disclosed in the affidavit that the charge was false.
- (d) A determination that an employee failed to disclose information required to be disclosed by an applicant under this section is grounds for termination of employment.
- (e) The State Board for Educator Certification may revoke the certificate of an administrator if the board determines it is reasonable to believe that the administrator employed an applicant for a position described by Section [21.003](#)(a) or (b) despite being aware that the applicant had been adjudicated for or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor.

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TEC, §21.031. PURPOSE.

- (a) The State Board for Educator Certification is established to recognize public school educators as professionals and to grant educators the authority to govern the standards of their profession. The board shall regulate and oversee all aspects of the certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators.

- (b) In proposing rules under this subchapter, the board shall ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

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TEC, §21.035. DELEGATION AUTHORITY; ADMINISTRATION BY AGENCY.

- (a) The board is permitted to make a written delegation of authority to the commissioner or the agency to informally dispose of a contested case involving educator certification.
- (b) The agency shall provide the board's administrative functions and services.

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TEC, §21.036. OFFICERS.

The board shall elect one of its members to serve as presiding officer for a term of two years. The presiding officer is entitled to vote on all matters before the board. The board may elect other officers from among its membership.

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TEC, §21.040. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD.

The board shall:

- (1) appoint the members of any advisory committee to the board;
- (2) for each class of educator certificate, appoint an advisory committee composed of members of that class to recommend standards for that class to the board;
- (3) provide to its members and employees, as often as necessary, information regarding their qualifications for office or employment under this chapter and their responsibilities under applicable laws relating to standards of conduct for state officers or employees; and
- (4) develop and implement policies that clearly define the respective responsibilities of the board and the board's staff.

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TEC, §21.041. RULES; FEES.

- (a) The board may adopt rules as necessary for its own procedures.
- (b) The board shall propose rules that:
 - (1) provide for the regulation of educators and the general administration of this subchapter in a manner consistent with this subchapter;
 - (2) specify the classes of educator certificates to be issued, including emergency certificates;
 - (3) specify the period for which each class of educator certificate is valid;
 - (4) specify the requirements for the issuance and renewal of an educator certificate;
 - (5) provide for the issuance of an educator certificate to a person who holds a similar certificate issued by another state or foreign country, subject to Section 21.052;
 - (6) provide for special or restricted certification of educators, including certification of instructors of American Sign Language;
 - (7) provide for disciplinary proceedings, including the suspension or revocation of an educator certificate, as provided by Chapter 2001, Government Code;
 - (8) provide for the adoption, amendment, and enforcement of an educator's code of ethics;
 - (9) provide for continuing education requirements; and
 - (10) provide for certification of persons performing appraisals under Subchapter H.
- (c) The board shall propose a rule adopting a fee for the issuance and maintenance of an educator certificate that, when combined with any fees imposed under Subsection (d), is adequate to cover the cost of administration of this subchapter.
- (d) The board may propose a rule adopting a fee for the approval or renewal of approval of an educator preparation program, or for the addition of a certificate or field of certification to the scope of a program's approval. A fee imposed under this subsection may not exceed the amount necessary, as determined by the board, to provide for the administrative cost of approving, renewing the approval of, and appropriately ensuring the accountability of educator preparation programs under this subchapter.

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TEC, §21.042. APPROVAL OF RULES.

The State Board for Educator Certification must submit a written copy of each rule it proposes to adopt to the State Board of Education for review. The State Board of Education may reject a proposed rule by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the board present and voting. If the State Board of Education fails to reject a proposal before the 90th day after the date on which it receives the proposal, the proposal takes effect as a rule of the State Board for Educator Certification as provided by Chapter 2001, Government Code. The State Board of Education may not modify a rule proposed by the State Board for Educator Certification.

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TEC, §21.043. ACCESS TO PEIMS DATA.

- (a) The agency shall provide the board with access to data obtained under the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).
- (b) The agency shall provide educator preparation programs with data based on information reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) that enables an educator preparation program to:
 - (1) assess the impact of the program; and
 - (2) revise the program as needed to improve the design and effectiveness of the program.
- (c) The agency in coordination with the board shall solicit input from educator preparation programs to determine the data to be provided to educator preparation programs.

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TEC, §21.044. EDUCATOR PREPARATION.

- (a) The board shall propose rules:
 - (1) specifying what each educator is expected to know and be able to do, particularly with regard to students with disabilities;
 - (2) establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program; and
 - (3) specifying the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.
- (a-1) Any training requirements for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) must require that the person demonstrate:
 - (1) basic knowledge of:
 - (A) each disability category under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq.) and how each category can affect student learning and development; and
 - (B) conditions that may be considered a disability under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), and how a condition covered by that section can affect student learning and development;
 - (2) competence in the use of proactive instructional planning techniques that:
 - (A) provide flexibility in the ways:
 - (i) information is presented;
 - (ii) students respond or demonstrate knowledge and skills; and
 - (iii) students are engaged;
 - (B) reduce barriers in instruction;
 - (C) provide appropriate accommodations, supports, and challenges; and
 - (D) maintain high achievement expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students of limited English proficiency; and
 - (3) competence in the use of evidence-based inclusive instructional practices, including:
 - (A) general and special education collaborative and co-teaching models and approaches;
 - (B) multitiered systems of support, including response to intervention strategies, classroom and school level data-based collaborative structures, and evidence-based strategies for intervention and progress monitoring systems in academic areas;

- (C) classroom management techniques using evidence-based behavioral intervention strategies and supports; and
 - (D) appropriate adaptation strategies, including accommodations, modifications, and instruction in the use of assistive technology for instruction.
- (b) The minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) must require that the person receive, as part of the training required to obtain that certificate, instruction in detection and education of students with dyslexia.
- (c) The instruction under Subsection (b) must:
 - (1) be developed by a panel of experts in the diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia who are:
 - (A) employed by institutions of higher education; and
 - (B) approved by the board; and
 - (2) include information on:
 - (A) characteristics of dyslexia;
 - (B) identification of dyslexia; and
 - (C) effective, multisensory strategies for teaching students with dyslexia.
- (c-1) The minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) must require that the person receive, as part of the training required to obtain that certificate, instruction regarding mental health, substance abuse, and youth suicide. The instruction required must:
 - (1) be provided through:
 - (A) a program selected from the list of recommended best practice-based programs and research-based practices established under Section [38.351](#); or
 - (B) a course offered by any accredited public or private postsecondary educational institution as part of a degree program; and
 - (2) include effective strategies, including de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral interventions and supports, for teaching and intervening with students with mental health conditions or who engage in substance abuse.
- (c-2) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as part of the training required to obtain that certificate, instruction in digital learning, virtual learning, and virtual instruction, including a digital literacy evaluation followed by a prescribed digital learning curriculum. The instruction required must:
 - (1) be aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education's standards for teachers;
 - (2) provide effective, evidence-based strategies to determine a person's degree of digital

- literacy;
- (3) cover best practices in:
 - (A) assessing students receiving virtual instruction, based on academic progress; and
 - (B) developing a virtual learning curriculum; and
 - (4) include resources to address any deficiencies identified by the digital literacy evaluation.
- (d) In proposing rules under this section, the board shall specify that to obtain a certificate to teach an "applied STEM course," as that term is defined by Section [28.027](#), at a secondary school, a person must:
- (1) pass the certification test administered by the recognized national or international business and industry group that created the curriculum the applied STEM course is based on; and
 - (2) have at a minimum:
 - (A) an associate degree from an accredited institution of higher education; and
 - (B) three years of work experience in an occupation for which the applied STEM course is intended to prepare the student.
- (e) In proposing rules under this section for a person to obtain a certificate to teach a health science technology education course, the board shall specify that a person must have:
- (1) an associate degree or more advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education;
 - (2) current licensure, certification, or registration as a health professions practitioner issued by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for health professionals; and
 - (3) at least two years of wage earning experience utilizing the licensure requirement.
- (f) The board may not propose rules for a certificate to teach a health science technology education course that specify that a person must have a bachelor's degree or that establish any other credential or teaching experience requirements that exceed the requirements under Subsection (e).
- (f-1) Board rules addressing ongoing educator preparation program support for a candidate seeking certification in a certification class other than classroom teacher may not require that an educator preparation program conduct one or more formal observations of the candidate on the candidate's site in a face-to-face setting. The rules must permit each required formal observation to occur on the candidate's site or through use of electronic transmission or other video-based or technology-based method.
- (g) Each educator preparation program must provide information regarding:
- (1) the skills that educators are required to possess, the responsibilities that educators are required to accept, and the high expectations for all students, including students with disabilities, in this state;

- (2) the effect of supply and demand forces on the educator workforce in this state;
- (3) the performance over time of the educator preparation program;
- (4) the importance of building strong classroom management skills;
- (5) the framework in this state for teacher and principal evaluation, including the procedures followed in accordance with Subchapter H; and
- (6) appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students.

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TEC, §21.0441. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS .

- (a) Rules of the board proposed under this subchapter must provide that a person, other than a person seeking career and technology education certification, is not eligible for admission to an educator preparation program, including an alternative educator preparation program, unless the person:
 - (1) except as provided by Subsection (b), satisfies the following minimum grade point average requirements:
 - (A) an overall grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on any course work previously attempted at a public or private institution of higher education; or
 - (B) a grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale or the equivalent for the last 60 semester credit hours attempted at a public or private institution of higher education; and
 - (2) if the person is seeking initial certification:
 - (A) has successfully completed at least:
 - (i) 15 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area in which the person is seeking certification, if the person is seeking certification to teach mathematics or science at or above grade level seven; or
 - (ii) 12 semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area in which the person is seeking certification, if the person is not seeking certification to teach mathematics or science at or above grade level seven; or
 - (B) has achieved a satisfactory level of performance on a content certification examination, which may be a content certification examination administered by a vendor approved by the commissioner for purposes of administering such an examination for the year for which the person is applying for admission to the program.
- (b) The board's rules must permit an educator preparation program to admit in extraordinary circumstances a person who fails to satisfy a grade point average requirement prescribed by Subsection (a)(1)(A) or (B), provided that:

- (1) not more than 10 percent of the total number of persons admitted to the program in a year fail to satisfy the requirement under Subsection (a)(1)(A) or (B);
 - (2) each person admitted as described by this subsection performs, before admission, at a satisfactory level on an appropriate subject matter examination for each subject in which the person seeks certification; and
 - (3) for each person admitted as described by this subsection, the director of the program determines and certifies, based on documentation provided by the person, that the person's work, business, or career experience demonstrates achievement comparable to the academic achievement represented by the grade point average requirement.
- (c) The overall grade point average of each incoming class admitted by an educator preparation program, including an alternative educator preparation program, may not be less than 3.00 on a four-point scale or the equivalent or a higher overall grade point average prescribed by the board. In computing the overall grade point average of an incoming class for purposes of this subsection, a program may:
- (1) include the grade point average of each person in the incoming class based on all course work previously attempted by the person at a public or private institution of higher education; or
 - (2) include the grade point average of each person in the incoming class based only on the last 60 semester credit hours attempted by the person at a public or private institution of higher education.
- (d) A person seeking career and technology education certification is not included in determining the overall grade point average of an incoming class under Subsection (c).

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TEC, §21.0442. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR PROBATIONARY AND STANDARD TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE TRAINING CERTIFICATES.

- (a) The board shall propose rules under this subchapter to create an abbreviated educator preparation program for a person seeking certification in trade and industrial workforce training.
- (b) A person is eligible for admission to an educator preparation program created under this section only if the person:
 - (1) has been issued a high school diploma or a postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree;
 - (2) has seven years of full-time wage-earning experience within the preceding 10 years in an approved occupation for which instruction is offered;
 - (3) holds with respect to that occupation a current license, certificate, or registration, as applicable, issued by a nationally recognized accrediting agency based on a recognized test or measurement; and
 - (4) within the period described by Subdivision (2), has not been the subject of a complaint filed with a licensing entity or other agency that regulates the occupation of the person, other than a complaint that was determined baseless or unfounded by that entity or agency.
- (c) In proposing rules for an educator preparation program under this section, the board shall ensure that the program requires at least 80 hours of classroom instruction in:
 - (1) a specific pedagogy;
 - (2) creating lesson plans;
 - (3) creating student assessment instruments;
 - (4) classroom management; and
 - (5) relevant federal and state education laws.

Text of section effective on June 15, 2017, but only if a specific appropriation is provided as described by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1077 (H.B. [3349](#)), Sec. 3, which states: This Act takes effect only if a specific appropriation for the implementation of the Act is provided in a general appropriations act of the 85th Legislature.

Added by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1077 (H.B. [3349](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2017.

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TEC, §21.0443. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL AND RENEWAL.

- (a) The board shall propose rules to establish standards to govern the approval or renewal of approval of:
 - (1) educator preparation programs; and
 - (2) certification fields authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
- (b) To be eligible for approval or renewal of approval, an educator preparation program must:
 - (1) incorporate proactive instructional planning techniques throughout course work and across content areas using a framework that:
 - (A) provides flexibility in the ways:
 - (i) information is presented;
 - (ii) students respond or demonstrate knowledge and skills; and
 - (iii) students are engaged;
 - (B) reduces barriers in instruction;
 - (C) provides appropriate accommodations, supports, and challenges; and
 - (D) maintains high achievement expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students of limited English proficiency;
 - (2) integrate inclusive practices for all students, including students with disabilities, and evidence-based instruction and intervention strategies throughout course work, clinical experience, and student teaching;
 - (3) adequately prepare candidates for educator certification; and
 - (4) meet the standards and requirements of the board.
- (c) The board shall require that each educator preparation program be reviewed for renewal of approval at least every five years. The board shall adopt an evaluation process to be used in reviewing an educator preparation program for renewal of approval.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 931 (H.B. [2205](#)), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 215 (H.B. [159](#)), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2021.

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TEC, §21.0444. TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.

- (a) The Defines "first responder."
- (b) To Provides that this section applies to a person seeking certification who:
 - (1) has served in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty; or
 - (2) has served as a first responder and, while in good standing and not because of pending or final disciplinary actions or a documented performance problem, retired, resigned, or separated from employment as a first responder.
- (c) Requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to propose rules under Subchapter B (Certification of Educators) providing for the issuance of a temporary certificate to a person described by Subsection (b) who meets all other eligibility requirements for certification, except that the person is authorized to substitute for a requirement that the person hold:
 - (1) an associate degree from an accredited institution of higher education, 48 months of active duty military service or service as a first responder; or
 - (2) a bachelor's degree:
 - (A) the military service or service as a first responder described by Subdivision (1); and
 - (B) 60 semester credit hours completed at a public or private institution of higher education with a minimum grade point average of at least 2.50 on a four-point scale.
- (d) Requires that rules proposed by SBEC for a temporary certificate issued under this section provide that the certificate is:
 - (1) valid for no more than five years;
 - (2) limited to a one-time issuance; and
 - (3) not subject to renewal.
- (e) Authorizes a person issued a temporary certificate under this section to be issued a standard certificate if the person completes all eligibility requirements required for that certification.

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TEC, §21.045. ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

- a) The board shall propose rules necessary to establish standards to govern the continuing accountability of all educator preparation programs based on the following information that is disaggregated with respect to race, sex, and ethnicity:
- (1) results of the certification examinations prescribed under Section [21.048\(a\)](#);
 - (2) performance based on the appraisal system for beginning teachers adopted by the board;
 - (3) achievement, including improvement in achievement, of all students, including students with disabilities, taught by beginning teachers for the first three years following certification, to the extent practicable;
 - (4) compliance with board requirements regarding the frequency, duration, and quality of structural guidance and ongoing support provided by field supervisors to candidates completing student teaching, clinical teaching, or an internship; and
 - (5) results from a teacher satisfaction survey, developed by the board with stakeholder input, of new teachers performed at the end of the teacher's first year of teaching.
- (b) Each educator preparation program shall submit data elements as required by the board for an annual performance report to ensure access and equity. At a minimum, the annual report must contain:
- (1) the performance data from Subsection (a), other than the data required for purposes of Subsection (a)(3);
 - (2) data related to the program's compliance with requirements for field supervision of candidates during their clinical teaching and internship experiences;
 - (3) the following information, disaggregated by race, sex, and ethnicity:
 - (A) the number of candidates who apply;
 - (B) the number of candidates admitted;
 - (C) the number of candidates retained;
 - (D) the number of candidates completing the program;

- (E) the number of candidates employed as beginning teachers under standard teaching certificates by not later than the first anniversary of completing the program;
 - (F) the amount of time required by candidates employed as beginning teachers under probationary teaching certificates to be issued standard teaching certificates;
 - (G) the number of candidates retained in the profession; and
 - (H) any other information required by federal law;
- (4) the ratio of field supervisors to candidates completing student teaching, clinical teaching, or an internship; and
 - (5) any other information necessary to enable the board to assess the effectiveness of the program on the basis of teacher retention and success criteria adopted by the board.
- (c) The board shall propose rules necessary to establish performance standards for the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for accrediting educator preparation programs. At a minimum, performance standards must be based on Subsection (a).
 - (d) To assist an educator preparation program in improving the design and effectiveness of the program in preparing educators for the classroom, the agency shall provide to each program data that is compiled and analyzed by the agency based on information reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) relating to the program.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 723 (S.B. [174](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 2009.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 931 (H.B. [2205](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 757 (S.B. [1839](#)), Sec. 4, eff. June 12, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 215 (H.B. [159](#)), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2021.

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TEC, §21.0451. SANCTIONS UNDER ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

- (a) The board shall propose rules necessary for the sanction of educator preparation programs that do not meet accountability standards or comply with state law or rules and shall at least annually review the accreditation status of each educator preparation program. The rules:
- (1) shall provide for the assignment of the following accreditation statuses:
 - (A) not rated;
 - (B) accredited;
 - (C) accredited-warned;
 - (D) accredited-probation; and
 - (E) not accredited-revoked;
 - (2) may provide for the agency to take any necessary action, including one or more of the following actions:
 - (A) requiring the program to obtain technical assistance approved by the agency or board;
 - (B) requiring the program to obtain professional services under contract with another person;
 - (C) appointing a monitor to participate in and report to the board on the activities of the program; and
 - (D) if a program has been rated as accredited-probation under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for a period of at least one year, revoking the approval of the program and ordering the program to be closed, provided that the board or agency has provided the opportunity for a contested case hearing;
 - (3) shall provide for the agency to revoke the approval of the program and order the program to be closed if the program has been rated as accredited-probation under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation for three consecutive years, provided that the board or agency has provided the opportunity for a contested case hearing; and
 - (4) shall provide the board procedure for changing the accreditation status of a program that:

- (A) does not meet the accreditation standards established under Section [21.045\(a\)](#); or
 - (B) violates a board or agency regulation.
- (b) Any action authorized or required to be taken against an educator preparation program under Subsection (a) may also be taken with regard to a particular field of certification authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
- (c) A revocation must be effective for a period of at least two years. After two years, the program may seek renewed approval to prepare educators for state certification.
- (d) The costs of technical assistance required under Subsection (a)(2)(A) or the costs associated with the appointment of a monitor under Subsection (a)(2)(C) shall be paid by the educator preparation program.

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TEC, §21.4514. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING CLEARINGHOUSE; ADVISORY GROUP.

- (a) In this section:
 - (1) "Board" means the State Board for Educator Certification.
 - (2) "Clearinghouse advisory group" means the clearinghouse advisory group established under Subsection (d).
- (b) The board shall publish a comprehensive clearinghouse of information regarding continuing education and training requirements for:
 - (1) educators; and
 - (2) other school personnel.
- (c) The clearinghouse must:
 - (1) include best practices and industry recommendations for the frequency for training of educators and other school personnel; and
 - (2) be published in consultation with the clearinghouse advisory group.
- (d) The board shall establish a clearinghouse advisory group consisting of educators, including classroom teachers, and representatives of organizations that represent educators to review and provide input regarding the best practices and industry recommendations included in the clearinghouse. In publishing the clearinghouse, the board shall ensure the clearinghouse reflects input provided by the clearinghouse advisory group.
- (e) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the clearinghouse advisory group shall complete a review of the clearinghouse and submit a report to the legislature of the group's recommendations regarding whether any required continuing education or training may be reduced, eliminated, or consolidated with other existing continuing education or training.

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TEC, §21.0452. CONSUMER INFORMATION REGARDING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

- (a) To assist persons interested in obtaining teaching certification in selecting an educator preparation program and assist school districts in making staffing decisions, the board shall make information regarding educator programs in this state available to the public through the board's Internet website.
- (b) The board shall make available at least the following information regarding each educator preparation program:
 - (1) the information specified in Sections [21.045\(a\)](#) and (b);
 - (2) in addition to any other appropriate information indicating the quality of persons admitted to the program, the average academic qualifications possessed by persons admitted to the program, including:
 - (A) average overall grade point average and average grade point average in specific subject areas; and
 - (B) average scores on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), the American College Test (ACT), or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), as applicable;
 - (3) the degree to which persons who complete the program are successful in obtaining teaching positions;
 - (4) the extent to which the program prepares teachers, including general education teachers and special education teachers, to effectively teach:
 - (A) students with disabilities; and
 - (B) emergent bilingual students, as defined by Section [29.052](#);
 - (5) the activities offered by the program that are designed to prepare teachers to:
 - (A) integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction, including activities consistent with the principles of universal design for learning; and
 - (B) use technology effectively to collect, manage, and analyze data to improve teaching and learning for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement;
 - (6) for each semester, the average ratio of field supervisors to candidates completing student teaching, clinical teaching, or an internship in an educator preparation program;
 - (7) the perseverance of beginning teachers in the profession, based on information reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) providing the

- number of beginning teachers employed as classroom teachers for at least three years after certification in comparison to similar programs;
- (8) the results of exit surveys given to program participants on completion of the program that involve evaluation of the program's effectiveness in preparing participants to succeed in the classroom;
 - (9) 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; and
 - (10) the results of teacher satisfaction surveys developed under Section [21.045](#) and given to program participants at the end of the first year of teaching.
- (c) For purposes of Subsection (b)(9), the board shall require an educator preparation program to distribute an exit survey that a program participant must complete before the participant is eligible to receive a certificate under this subchapter.
 - (d) For purposes of Subsections (b)(9) and (10), the board shall develop surveys for distribution to program participants and school principals.
 - (e) The board may develop procedures under which each educator preparation program receives a designation or ranking based on the information required to be made available under Subsection (b). If the board develops procedures under this subsection, the designation or ranking received by each program must be included in the information made available under this section.
 - (f) In addition to other information required to be made available under this section, the board shall provide information identifying employment opportunities for teachers in the various regions of this state. The board shall specifically identify each region of this state in which a shortage of qualified teachers exists.
 - (g) The board may require any person to provide information to the board for purposes of this section.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 723 (S.B. [174](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 2009.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 931 (H.B. [2205](#)), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 573 (S.B. [241](#)), Sec. 1.01, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 597 (S.B. [668](#)), Sec. 1.02, eff. June 10, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 973 (S.B. [2066](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2021.

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TEC, §21.0453. INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION.

- (a) The board shall require an educator preparation program to provide candidates for teacher certification with information concerning the following:
 - (1) skills and responsibilities required of teachers with regard to all students, including students with disabilities;
 - (2) expectations for student performance, including students with disabilities, based on state standards;
 - (3) the current supply of and demand for teachers in this state;
 - (4) the importance of developing classroom management skills; and
 - (5) the state's framework for appraisal of teachers and principals.
- (b) The board may propose rules as necessary for administration of this section, including rules to ensure that accurate and consistent information is provided by all educator preparation programs.

Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1292 (H.B. [2318](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 215 (H.B. [159](#)), Sec. 5, eff. September 1, 2021.

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TEC, §21.0454. RISK FACTORS FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS; RISK-ASSESSMENT MODEL.

- a) The board shall propose rules necessary to develop a set of risk factors to use in assessing the overall risk level of each educator preparation program. The set of risk factors must include:
 - (1) a history of the program's compliance with state law and board rules, standards, and procedures, with consideration given to:
 - (A) the seriousness of any violation of a rule, standard or procedure;
 - (B) whether the violation resulted in an action being taken against the program;
 - (C) whether the violation was promptly remedied by the program;
 - (D) the number of alleged violations; and
 - (E) any other matter considered to be appropriate in evaluating the program's compliance history; and
 - (2) whether the program meets the accountability standards under Section [21.045](#).
- (b) The set of risk factors developed by the board may include whether an educator preparation
- (c) The board shall use the set of risk factors to guide the agency in conducting monitoring, inspections, and compliance audits of educator preparation programs, including evaluations associated with renewals under Section [21.0443](#).

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TEC, §21.0455. COMPLAINTS REGARDING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

- (a) The board shall propose rules necessary to establish a process for a candidate for teacher certification to direct a complaint against an educator preparation program to the agency.
- (b) The board by rule shall require an educator preparation program to notify candidates for teacher certification of the complaint process adopted under Subsection (a). The notice must include the name, mailing address, telephone number, and Internet website address of the agency for the purpose of directing complaints to the agency. The educator preparation program shall provide for that notification:
 - (1) on the Internet website of the educator preparation program, if the program maintains a website; and
 - (2) on a sign prominently displayed in program facilities.
- (c) The board shall post the complaint process adopted under Subsection (a) on the agency's Internet website.
- (d) The board has no authority to arbitrate or resolve contractual or commercial issues between an educator preparation program and a candidate for teacher certification.

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TEC, §21.046. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION AS SUPERINTENDENT OR PRINCIPAL.

- (a) The qualifications for superintendent must permit a candidate for certification to substitute management training or experience for part of the educational experience.
- (b) The qualifications for certification as a principal must be sufficiently flexible so that an outstanding teacher may qualify by substituting approved experience and professional training for part of the educational requirements. Supervised and approved on-the-job experience in addition to required internship shall be accepted in lieu of classroom hours. The qualifications must emphasize:
 - (1) instructional leadership, including the ability to create an inclusive school environment and to foster parent involvement;
 - (2) administration, supervision, and communication skills;
 - (3) curriculum and instruction management, including curriculum and instruction management for students with disabilities;
 - (4) performance evaluation;
 - (5) organization; and
 - (6) fiscal management.
- (c) Because an effective principal is essential to school improvement, the board shall ensure that:
 - (1) each candidate for certification as a principal is of the highest caliber; and
 - (2) multi-level screening processes, validated comprehensive assessment programs, and flexible internships with successful mentors exist to determine whether a candidate for certification as a principal possesses the essential knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities necessary for success.
- (d) In creating the qualifications for certification as a principal, the board shall consider the knowledge, skills, and proficiencies for principals as developed by relevant national organizations and the State Board of Education.
- (e) For purposes of satisfying eligibility requirements for certification as a principal, a teacher who is certified under Section [21.0487](#):
 - (1) is considered to hold a classroom teaching certificate; and
 - (2) may apply as creditable years of teaching experience as a classroom teacher any period during which the teacher was employed by a school district as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor before or after the teacher was certified under Section [21.0487](#).

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1194 (S.B. [1309](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 19, 2015.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 215 (H.B. [159](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2021.

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TEC, §21.048. CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS.

- (a) The board shall propose rules prescribing comprehensive examinations for each class of certificate issued by the board. The commissioner shall determine the satisfactory level of performance required for each certification examination. For the issuance of a generalist certificate, the commissioner shall require a satisfactory level of examination performance in each core subject covered by the examination.
- (a-1) The board may not require that more than 45 days elapse before a person may retake an examination. A person may not retake an examination more than four times, unless the board waives the limitation for good cause as prescribed by the board.
- (a-2) The board shall adopt rules that provide that in order to teach any grade level from prekindergarten through grade six a person must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification examination for each class of certificate issued by the board after January 1, 2021.
- (b) The board may not administer a written examination to determine the competence or level of performance of an educator who has a hearing impairment unless the examination has been field tested to determine its appropriateness, reliability, and validity as applied to, and minimum acceptable performance scores for, persons with hearing impairments.
- (c) An educator who has a hearing impairment is exempt from taking a written examination for a period ending on the first anniversary of the date on which the board determines, on the basis of appropriate field tests, that the examination complies with the standards specified in Subsection (b). On application to the board, the board shall issue a temporary exemption certificate to a person entitled to an exemption under this subsection.
- (c-1) The results of an examination administered under this section are confidential and are not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, unless the disclosure is regarding notification to a parent of the assignment of an uncertified teacher to a classroom as required by Section 21.057.
- (d) In this section:

- (1) "Hearing impairment" means a hearing impairment so severe that the person cannot process linguistic information with or without amplification.
- (2) "Reliability" means the extent to which an experiment, test, or measuring procedure yields the same results on repeated trials.
- (3) "Validity" means being:
 - (A) well-grounded or justifiable;
 - (B) relevant and meaningful;
 - (C) correctly derived from premises or inferences; and
 - (D) supported by objective truth or generally accepted authority.

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TEC, §21.0485. CERTIFICATION TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.

- (a) To be eligible to be issued a certificate to teach students with visual impairments, a person must:
 - (1) complete either:
 - (A) all course work required for that certification in an approved educator preparation program; or
 - (B) an alternative educator certification program approved for the purpose by the board;
 - (2) perform satisfactorily on each examination prescribed under Section [21.048](#) for certification to teach students with visual impairments, after completing the course work or program described by Subdivision (1); and
 - (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the board.
- (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to eligibility for a certificate to teach students with visual impairments, including eligibility for renewal of that certificate, if the application for the initial certificate was submitted on or before September 1, 2011.

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**TEC, §21.0487. JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS TEACHER
CERTIFICATION.**

- (a) The board shall establish a standard Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps teaching certificate to provide Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instruction.
- (b) To be eligible for a certificate under this section, a person must:
 - (1) hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that is, and at the time the person received the degree was, accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;
 - (2) satisfy the eligibility and testing requirements for certification as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor established by the branch of service in which the person served; and
 - (3) complete an approved educator preparation program.
- (c) The board shall propose rules to:
 - (1) approve educator preparation programs to prepare a person as a teacher for certification under this section; and
 - (2) establish requirements under which:
 - (A) a person's training and experience acquired during the person's military service serves as proof of the person's demonstration of subject matter knowledge if that training and experience is verified by the branch of service in which the person served; and
 - (B) a person's employment by a school district as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor before the person was enrolled in an educator preparation program or while the person is enrolled in an educator preparation program is applied to satisfy any student teaching, internship, or field-based experience program requirement.
- (d) A person is not required to hold a certificate established under this section to be employed by a school district as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor.

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TEC, §21.0489. EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION.

- (a) To ensure that there are teachers with special training in early childhood education focusing on prekindergarten through grade three, the board shall establish an early childhood certificate.
- (b) A person is not required to hold a certificate established under this section to be employed by a school district to provide instruction in prekindergarten through grade three.
- (c) To be eligible for a certificate established under this section, a person must:
 - (1) either:
 - (A) satisfactorily complete the course work for that certificate in an educator preparation program, including a knowledge-based and skills-based course of instruction on early childhood education that includes:
 - (i) teaching methods for:
 - (a) using small group instructional formats that focus on building social, emotional, and academic skills;
 - (b) navigating multiple content areas; and
 - (c) managing a classroom environment in which small groups of students are working on different tasks; and
 - (ii) strategies for teaching fundamental academic skills, including reading, writing, and numeracy; or
 - (B) hold an early childhood through grade six certificate issued under this subchapter and satisfactorily complete a course of instruction described by Paragraph (A);
 - (2) perform satisfactorily on an early childhood certificate examination prescribed by the board; and
 - (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the board.
- (d) The criteria for the course of instruction described by Subsection (c)(1)(A) shall be developed by the board in consultation with faculty members who provide instruction at institutions of higher education in educator preparation programs for an early childhood through grade six certificate.

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TEC, §21.04891. BILINGUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION.

- (a) In this section, "limited English proficiency" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.052.
- (b) To ensure that there are teachers with special training in providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, the board shall establish a bilingual special education certificate.
- (c) To be eligible for a certificate established under this section, a person must:
 - (1) satisfactorily complete the coursework for that certificate in an educator preparation program, including a skills-based course of instruction on providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, which must include instruction on:
 - (A) the foundations of bilingual, multicultural, and second language special education;
 - (B) providing individualized education programs for students of limited English proficiency with disabilities;
 - (C) providing assessment of students of limited English proficiency with and without disabilities;
 - (D) developing teaching methods to recognize the intellectual, developmental, and emotional needs of students in dual language and transitional bilingual education settings;
 - (E) teaching fundamental academic skills, including reading, writing, and mathematics, to students of limited English proficiency; and
 - (F) creating partnerships with families and school professionals;
 - (2) perform satisfactorily on a bilingual special education certificate examination prescribed by the board; and
 - (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the board.

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TEC, §21.049. ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION.

- (a) To provide a continuing additional source of qualified educators, the board shall propose rules providing for educator certification programs as an alternative to traditional educator preparation programs. The rules may not provide that a person may be certified under this section only if there is a demonstrated shortage of educators in a school district or subject area.
- (b) The board may not require a person employed as a teacher in an alternative education program under Section 37.008 or a juvenile justice alternative education program under Section 37.011 for at least three years to complete an alternative educator certification program adopted under this section before taking the appropriate certification examination.

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TEC, §21.0491. PROBATIONARY AND STANDARD TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE TRAINING CERTIFICATES.

- (a) To provide a continuing additional source of teachers to provide workforce training, the board shall establish a probationary trade and industrial workforce training certificate and a standard trade and industrial workforce training certificate that may be obtained through an abbreviated educator preparation program under Section [21.0442](#).
- (b) To be eligible for a probationary certificate under this section, a person must:
 - (1) satisfactorily complete the course work for that certificate in an educator preparation program under Section [21.0442](#); and
 - (2) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the board.
- (c) To be eligible for a standard certificate under this section, a person must
 - (1) hold a probationary certificate issued under this section;
 - (2) be employed by:
 - (A) a public or private primary or secondary school; or
 - (B) an institution of higher education or an independent or private institution of higher education as those terms are defined by Section [61.003](#); and
 - (3) perform satisfactorily on a standard trade and industrial workforce training certificate examination prescribed by the board
- (d) The limitation imposed by Section [21.048\(a-1\)](#) on the number of administrations of an examination does not apply to the administration of the standard trade and industrial workforce training certificate examination prescribed by the board.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other law, the board may administer the standard trade and industrial workforce training certificate examination to a person who satisfies the requirements of Subsections (c)(1) and (2).
- (f) The board shall propose rules to:
 - (1) specify the term of a probationary certificate and a standard certificate issued under this section; and
 - (2) be establish the requirements for renewal of a standard certificate.

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TEC, §21.050. ACADEMIC DEGREE REQUIRED FOR TEACHING CERTIFICATE; FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE OR INTERNSHIP.

- (a) A person who applies for a teaching certificate for which board rules require a bachelor's degree must possess a bachelor's degree received with an academic major or interdisciplinary academic major, including reading, that is related to the curriculum as prescribed under Subchapter A, Chapter 28.
- (b) The board shall provide for a minimum number of semester credit hours of field-based experience or internship to be included in the credit hours needed for certification. The board may propose rules requiring additional credit hours for certification in bilingual education, English as a second language, early childhood education, or special education.
- (c) A person who receives a bachelor's degree required for a teaching certificate on the basis of higher education coursework completed while receiving an exemption from tuition and fees under Section 54.363 may not be required to participate in any field experience or internship consisting of student teaching to receive a teaching certificate.

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TEC, §21.051. RULES REGARDING FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE AND OPTIONS FOR FIELD EXPERIENCE AND INTERNSHIPS.

- (a) In this section, "teacher of record" means a person employed by a school district who teaches the majority of the instructional day in an academic instructional setting and is responsible for evaluating student achievement and assigning grades.
- (b) Before a school district may employ a candidate for certification as a teacher of record and, except as provided by Subsection (b-1), after the candidate's admission to an educator preparation program, the candidate must complete at least 15 hours of field-based experience in which the candidate is actively engaged in instructional or educational activities involving a diverse student population that, to the greatest extent practicable, includes students with disabilities under supervision at:
 - (1) a public school campus accredited or approved for the purpose by the agency; or
 - (2) a private school recognized or approved for the purpose by the agency.
- (b-1) A candidate may satisfy up to 15 hours of the field-based experience requirement under Subsection (b) by serving as a long-term substitute teacher as prescribed by board rule. Experience under this subsection may occur after the candidate's admission to an educator preparation program or during the two years before the date the candidate is admitted to the program. The candidate's experience in instructional or educational activities must be documented by the educator preparation program and must be obtained at:
 - (1) a public school campus accredited or approved for the purpose by the agency; or
 - (2) a private school recognized or approved for the purpose by the agency.
- (c) Subsection (b) applies only to an initial certification issued on or after September 1, 2012. Subsection (b) does not affect:
 - (1) the validity of a certification issued before September 1, 2012; or
 - (2) the eligibility of a person who holds a certification issued before September 1, 2012, to obtain a subsequent renewal of the certification in accordance with board rule.

- (d) Subsection (b) does not affect the period within which an individual must complete field-based experience hours as determined by board rule if the individual is not accepted into an educator preparation program before the deadline prescribed by board rule and is hired for a teaching assignment by a school district after the deadline prescribed by board rule.
- (e) The board shall propose rules relating to the field-based experience required by Subsection (b). The commissioner by rule shall adopt procedures and standards for recognizing a private school under Subsection (b)(2).

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 952 (S.B. [1590](#)), Sec. 1

- (f) The board shall propose rules providing flexible options for persons for any field-based experience or internship required for certification, including options for candidate observations that provide for at least:
 - (1) two observations to occur in person and two additional observations to occur in virtual settings that are equivalent in rigor to in-person options for observation; or
 - (2) three observations to occur in person.

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 215 (H.B. [159](#)), Sec. 8

- (f) The board shall propose rules providing flexible options for persons for any field-based experience or internship required for certification. The options must, to the greatest extent practicable, involve interaction with a diverse student population, including students with disabilities.
- (g) Rules proposed by the board under Section [21.044\(a\)](#) or this section may allow a candidate to satisfy certification requirements through an internship that provides the candidate employment as a teacher for courses offered through a local remote learning program under Section [29.9091](#) or the state virtual school network under Chapter [30A](#). This subsection expires September 1, 2023.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., Ch. 8 (S.B. [8](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 28, 2011.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 757 (S.B. [1839](#)), Sec. 6, eff. June 12, 2017.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 215 (H.B. [159](#)), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 952 (S.B. [1590](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., 2nd C.S., Ch. 5 (S.B. [15](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 9, 2021.

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TEC, §21.052. CERTIFICATION OF EDUCATORS FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE.

- (a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who applies for a certificate and:
 - (1) holds:
 - (A) a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board; or
 - (B) a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described by Paragraph (A);
 - (2) holds an appropriate certificate or other credential issued by another state or country; and
 - (3) performs satisfactorily on:
 - (A) the examination prescribed under Section [21.048](#); or
 - (B) if the educator holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state or country, an examination similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.
- (a-1) The commissioner may adopt rules establishing exceptions to the examination requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(3) for an educator from outside the state, including military service members, military spouses, and military veterans, to obtain a certificate in this state.
- (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a person is considered to hold a certificate or other credential if the credential is not valid solely because it has expired.
- (b-1) The board shall propose rules in accordance with Chapter [55](#), Occupations Code, to establish procedures to expedite the processing of an application for a certificate under this section submitted by an educator who is a military veteran or military spouse, including rules for providing a permanent change of station order for purposes of establishing residency and for providing a military identification card.
- (c) The board may issue a temporary certificate under this section to an educator who holds a degree required by Subsection (a)(1) and a certificate or other credential required by Subsection (a)(2) but who has not satisfied the requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(3). Subject to Subsections (d) and (d-1), the board may specify the term of a temporary certificate issued under this subsection.
- (d) A temporary certificate issued under Subsection (c) to an educator employed by a school district that has constructed or expanded at least one instructional facility as a result of increased student enrollment due to actions taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687) may not expire before the first anniversary of the date on which the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section [21.048](#) on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

- (d-1) A temporary certificate issued under Subsection (c) to an educator who is the spouse of a person who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States may not expire before the third anniversary of the date on which the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section [21.048](#) on which the educator must perform satisfactorily to receive a standard certificate.
- (e) An educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a temporary certificate as provided by Subsection (c) must perform satisfactorily on the examination prescribed under Section [21.048](#) not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section [21.048](#) on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.
- (f) The board shall post on the board's Internet website the procedures for obtaining a certificate under Subsection (a) and the notice required under Section [55.010](#), Occupations Code.
- (g) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 757 (S.B. [1839](#)), Sec. 12(2), eff. June 12, 2017.
- (h) This subsection applies only to an applicant who holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state in mathematics, science, special education, or bilingual education, or another subject area that the commissioner determines has a shortage of teachers. In any state fiscal year, the board shall accept or reject, not later than the 14th day after the date the board receives the completed application, at least 90 percent of the applications the board receives for a certificate under this subsection, and shall accept or reject all completed applications the board receives under this subsection not later than the 30th day after the date the board receives the completed application. An applicant under this subsection must submit:
 - (1) a letter of good standing from the state in which the teacher is certified on a form determined by the board;
 - (2) information necessary to complete a national criminal history record information review; and
 - (3) an application fee as required by the board.
 - (i) In this section:
 - (1) "Active duty" means current full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States or active duty military service as a member of the Texas military forces, as defined by Section [437.001](#), Government Code, or similar military service of another state.
 - (2) "Armed forces of the United States" means the army, navy, air force, space force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States or a reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed forces.
 - (3) "Military service member" means a person who is on active duty.
 - (4) "Military spouse" means a person who is married to a military service member.
 - (5) "Military veteran" means a person who has served on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.

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TEC, §21.0525. CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS; TEMPORARY TEACHING CERTIFICATE.

- (a) The board shall propose rules providing for a person who holds a bachelor's degree and has at least two semesters' experience as a full-time instructor for the Community College of the Air Force to:
 - (1) be issued a temporary teaching certificate on the person's enrollment in an educator preparation program; and
 - (2) receive credit for the person's education, training, and clinical or professional experience as an instructor for the Community College of the Air Force toward the requirements for completion of an educator preparation program, including requirements regarding coursework, field-based experience, or clinical experience.
- (b) A temporary teaching certificate issued under this section is valid for a term of one year from the date of issuance.

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TEC, §21.054. CONTINUING EDUCATION.

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing a process for identifying continuing education courses and programs that fulfill educators' continuing education requirements, including opportunities for educators to receive micro-credentials in fields of study related to the educator's certification class as provided by Subsection (i).
- (a-1) Continuing education requirements for educators must include training regarding educating students with disabilities.
- (b) Continuing education requirements for an educator who teaches students with dyslexia must include training regarding new research and practices in educating students with dyslexia.
- (c) The training required under Subsection (b) may be offered in an online course.

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1045 (S.B. [1267](#)), Sec. 3

- (d) Continuing education requirements for a classroom teacher must provide that not more than 25 percent of the training required every five years include instruction regarding:
 - (1) collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;
 - (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;
 - (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into classroom instruction;
 - (4) educating diverse student populations, including:
 - (A) students who are educationally disadvantaged; and
 - (B) students at risk of dropping out of school; and
 - (5) understanding appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students.

Text of subsection as amended by Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 973 (S.B. [2066](#)), Sec. 2

- (d) Continuing education requirements for a classroom teacher must provide that at least 25 percent of the training required every five years include instruction regarding:
 - (1) collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;
 - (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;
 - (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into classroom instruction;
 - (4) educating diverse student populations, including:

- Subchapter (A) students who are eligible to participate in special education programs under [A](#), Chapter [29](#);
- 504, (B) students who are eligible to receive educational services required under Section Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794);
- (C) students with mental health conditions or who engage in substance abuse;
- (D) students with intellectual or developmental disabilities;
- (E) students who are educationally disadvantaged;
- (F) emergent bilingual students; and
- (G) students at risk of dropping out of school;
- (5) understanding appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students; and
- (6) how mental health conditions, including grief and trauma, affect student learning and behavior and how evidence-based, grief-informed, and trauma-informed strategies support the academic success of students affected by grief and trauma.
- (d-1) The instruction required under Subsection (d) may include two or more listed topics together.
- (e) Continuing education requirements for a principal must provide that not more than 25 percent of the training required every five years include instruction regarding:
 - (1) effective and efficient management, including:
 - (A) collecting and analyzing information;
 - (B) making decisions and managing time; and
 - (C) supervising student discipline and managing behavior;
 - (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;
 - (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into campus curriculum and instruction;
 - (4) effective implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program under Section [33.005](#);
 - (5) mental health programs addressing a mental health condition;
 - (6) educating diverse student populations, including:
 - (A) students who are educationally disadvantaged;
 - (B) emergent bilingual students; and
 - (C) students at risk of dropping out of school; and
 - (7) preventing, recognizing, and reporting any sexual conduct between an educator and student that is prohibited under Section [21.12](#), Penal Code, or for which reporting is required under Section [21.006](#) of this code.

- (f) Continuing education requirements for a counselor must provide that not more than 25 percent of training required every five years include instruction regarding:
 - (1) assisting students in developing high school graduation plans;
 - (2) implementing dropout prevention strategies;
 - (3) informing students concerning:
 - (A) college admissions, including college financial aid resources and application procedures; and
 - (B) career opportunities;
 - (4) counseling students concerning mental health conditions and substance abuse, including through the use of grief-informed and trauma-informed interventions and crisis management and suicide prevention strategies; and
 - (5) effective implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program under Section [33.005](#).
- (g) The board shall adopt rules that allow an educator to fulfill continuing education requirements by participating in an evidence-based mental health first aid training program or an evidence-based grief-informed and trauma-informed care program. The rules adopted under this subsection must allow an educator to complete a program described by this subsection and receive credit toward continuing education requirements for twice the number of hours of instruction provided under that program, not to exceed 16 hours. The program must be offered through a classroom instruction format that requires in-person attendance.
- (h) Continuing education requirements for a superintendent must include at least 2-1/2 hours of training every five years on identifying and reporting potential victims of sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. For purposes of this subsection, "other maltreatment" has the meaning assigned by Section [42.002](#), Human Resources Code.
- (i) The board shall propose rules establishing a program to issue micro-credentials in fields of study related to an educator's certification class. The agency shall approve continuing education providers to offer micro-credential courses. A micro-credential received by an educator shall be recorded on the agency's Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) and included as part of the educator's public certification records.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 260, Sec. 1, eff. May 30, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 675 (S.B. [143](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 17, 2005.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 596 (H.B. [200](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 895 (H.B. [3](#)), Sec. 67(a), eff. June 19, 2009.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 635 (S.B. [866](#)), Sec. 2, eff. June 17, 2011.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 638 (H.B. [642](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1306 (H.B. [3793](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1236 (S.B. [1296](#)), Sec. 21.001(9), eff. September 1, 2015.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 178 (S.B. [7](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 522 (S.B. [179](#)), Sec. 8, eff. September 1, 2017.

Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 757 (S.B. [1839](#)), Sec. 8, eff. June 12, 2017.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 214 (H.B. [403](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 352 (H.B. [18](#)), Sec. 1.04, eff. December 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 464 (S.B. [11](#)), Sec. 4, eff. June 6, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1123 (H.B. [2424](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2019.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 973 (S.B. [2066](#)), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1045 (S.B. [1267](#)), Sec. 3, eff. June 18, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1045 (S.B. [1267](#)), Sec. 24(1), eff. June 18, 2021.

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1045 (S.B. [1267](#)), Sec. 24(2), eff. June 18, 2021.

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**TEC, §21.0541. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR INSTRUCTION RELATED TO
USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.**

The board shall adopt rules allowing an educator to receive credit towards the educator's continuing education requirements for completion of an instructional course on the use of an automated external defibrillator that meets any guidelines for automated external defibrillator training approved by the board.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1143 (S.B. [382](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 2015.

Amended by:

Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., Ch. 545 (S.B. [199](#)), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2021.

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TEC, §21.0543. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR INSTRUCTION RELATED TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY.

The board shall propose rules allowing an educator to receive credit toward the educator's continuing education requirements for completion of education courses that:

- (1) use technology to increase the educator's digital literacy; and
- (2) assist the educator in the use of digital technology in learning activities that improve teaching, assessment, and instructional practices.

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**TEC, §21.058. REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
BASED ON CONVICTION OF OR PLACEMENT ON DEFERRED
ADJUDICATION COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.**

- (a) The procedures described by Subsections (b) and (c) apply only:
- (1) to conviction of or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter [62](#), Code of Criminal Procedure; or
 - (2) to conviction of a felony offense under Title 5, Penal Code, if the victim of the offense was under 18 years of age at the time the offense was committed.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section [21.041](#)(b)(7), not later than the fifth day after the date the board receives notice under Article [42.018](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, of the conviction or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision of a person who holds a certificate under this subchapter, the board shall:
- (1) revoke the certificate held by the person; and
 - (2) provide to the person, to the agency, and to any school district or open-enrollment charter school employing the person at the time of revocation written notice of:
 - (A) the revocation; and
 - (B) the basis for the revocation.
- (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school that receives notice under Subsection (b) of the revocation of a certificate issued under this subchapter shall:
- (1) immediately remove the person whose certificate has been revoked from campus or from an administrative office, as applicable, to prevent the person from having any contact with a student; and
 - (2) if the person is employed under a probationary, continuing, or term contract under this chapter, with the approval of the board of trustees or governing body or a designee of the board or governing body:
 - (A) suspend the person without pay;
 - (B) provide the person with written notice that the person's contract is void as provided by Subsection (c-2); and
 - (C) terminate the employment of the person as soon as practicable.
- (c-1) If a school district or open-enrollment charter school becomes aware that a person employed by the district or school under a probationary, continuing, or term contract under this chapter has

been convicted of or received deferred adjudication for a felony offense, and the person is not subject to Subsection (c), the district or school may, with the approval of the board of trustees or governing body or a designee of the board of trustees or governing body:

- (1) suspend the person without pay;
 - (2) provide the person with written notice that the person's contract is void as provided by Subsection (c-2); and
 - (3) terminate the employment of the person as soon as practicable.
- (c-2) A person's probationary, continuing, or term contract is void if, with the approval of the board of trustees or governing body or a designee of the board or governing body, the school district or open-enrollment charter school takes action under Subsection (c)(2)(B) or (c-1)(2).
- (d) A person whose certificate is revoked under Subsection (b) may reapply for a certificate in accordance with board rules.
- (e) Action taken by a school district or open-enrollment charter school under Subsection (c) or (c-1) is not subject to appeal under this chapter, and the notice and hearing requirements of this chapter do not apply to the action.

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TEC, §21.0581. REVOCATION FOR ASSISTING PERSON WHO ENGAGED IN SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT.

- (a) The board may suspend or revoke a certificate held by a person under this subchapter, impose other sanctions against the person, or refuse to issue a certificate to the person under this subchapter if:
 - (1) the person assists another person in obtaining employment at a school district, private school, or open-enrollment charter school, other than by the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files; and
 - (2) the person knew that the other person has previously engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor or student in violation of the law.
- (b) The commissioner may require a school district to revoke or decline to issue a school district teaching permit under Section [21.055](#) issued to or requested by a person subject to board action under Subsection (a).

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TEC, §21.060. ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN OFFENSES.

The board may suspend or revoke the certificate or permit held by a person under this subchapter, impose other sanctions against the person, or refuse to issue a certificate or permit to a person under this subchapter if the person has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor offense relating to the duties and responsibilities of the education profession, including:

- (1) an offense involving moral turpitude;
- (2) an offense involving a form of sexual or physical abuse of a minor or student or other illegal conduct in which the victim is a minor or student;
- (3) a felony offense involving the possession, transfer, sale, or distribution of or conspiracy to possess, transfer, sell, or distribute a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter [481](#), Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.;
- (4) an offense involving the illegal transfer, appropriation, or use of school district funds or other district property; or
- (5) an offense involving an attempt by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter a professional certificate or license issued under this subchapter.

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TEC, §21.061. REVIEW AND UPDATING OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

The board shall, after consulting with appropriate higher education faculty and public school teachers and administrators and soliciting advice from other interested persons with relevant knowledge and experience, develop and carry out a process for reviewing and, as necessary, updating standards and requirements for educator preparation programs.

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TEC, §21.064. LEGACY MASTER TEACHER CERTIFICATIONS.

- (a) The board shall recognize a master teacher certificate issued under former Section 21.0481, 21.0482, 21.0483, or 21.0484 until the certificate expires. The board shall note a designation of "legacy" on the certificate.
- (b) A master teacher certificate described by Subsection (a) is not eligible for funding under the teacher incentive allotment under Section [48.112](#).

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TEC, §21.065. NOTICE TO TEACHER REGARDING SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATE OR PERMIT.

- (a) In this section, "teacher" means a superintendent, principal, supervisor, classroom teacher, school counselor, paraprofessional, or other full-time professional employee who is required to hold a certificate issued under this subchapter.
- (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), on the suspension of a teacher's certificate or permit issued under this subchapter, the board shall promptly notify the teacher of the suspension. The notice must include:
 - (1) the basis for the suspension; and
 - (2) information regarding the method in which the teacher may respond to the suspension.
- (c) Subsection (b) does not apply to the suspension of a teacher's certificate or permit by an agreed order.

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SUBCHAPTER C. PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS

TEC, §21.105. RESIGNATIONS UNDER PROBATIONARY CONTRACT.

- (a) A teacher employed under a probationary contract for the following school year may relinquish the position and leave the employment of the district at the end of a school year without penalty by filing with the board of trustees or its designee a written resignation not later than the 45th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year. A written resignation mailed by prepaid certified or registered mail to the president of the board of trustees or the board's designee at the post office address of the district is considered filed at the time of mailing.
- (b) A teacher employed under a probationary contract may resign, with the consent of the board of trustees or the board's designee, at any other time.
- (c) Subject to Subsections (e) and (f), on written complaint by the employing district, the State Board for Educator Certification may impose sanctions against a teacher employed under a probationary contract who:
 - (1) resigns;
 - (2) fails without good cause to comply with Subsection (a) or (b); and
 - (3) fails to perform the contract.
- (d) If a school district submits a complaint regarding a teacher to the State Board for Educator Certification under Subsection (c), the district shall promptly notify the teacher of the complaint. The notice must include:
 - (1) the basis of the complaint;
 - (2) information regarding how the teacher may contact the State Board for Educator Certification; and
 - (3) a reminder that the teacher should verify that the teacher's mailing address on file with the State Board for Educator Certification is current.
- (e) Before imposing sanctions against a teacher under Subsection (c), the State Board for Educator Certification:
 - (1) must consider any mitigating factors relevant to the teacher's conduct; and
 - (2) may consider alternatives to sanctions, including additional continuing education or training.
- (f) If a teacher fails to timely file a written resignation as required by Subsection (a) but files a written resignation in the manner provided by that subsection not later than the 30th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year, the State Board for Educator Certification may not suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate under Subsection (c).

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SUBCHAPTER D. CONTINUING CONTRACTS

TEC, §21.160. RESIGNATION UNDER CONTINUING CONTRACT.

- (a) A teacher employed under a continuing contract may relinquish the position and leave the employment of the district at the end of a school year without penalty by filing with the board of trustees or its designee a written resignation not later than the 45th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year. A written resignation mailed by prepaid certified or registered mail to the president of the board of trustees or the board's designee at the post office address of the district is considered filed at time of mailing.
- (b) A teacher employed under a continuing contract may resign, with the consent of the board of trustees or the board's designee, at any other time.
- (c) Subject to Subsections (e) and (f), on written complaint by the employing district, the State Board for Educator Certification may impose sanctions against a teacher who is employed under a continuing contract that obligates the district to employ the person for the following school year and who:
 - (1) resigns;
 - (2) fails without good cause to comply with Subsection (a) or (b); and
 - (3) fails to perform the contract.
- (d) If a school district submits a complaint regarding a teacher to the State Board for Educator Certification under Subsection (c), the district shall promptly notify the teacher of the complaint. The notice must include:
 - (1) the basis of the complaint;
 - (2) information regarding how the teacher may contact the State Board for Educator Certification; and
 - (3) a reminder that the teacher should verify that the teacher's mailing address on file with the State Board for Educator Certification is current.
- (e) Before imposing sanctions against a teacher under Subsection (c), the State Board for Educator Certification:
 - (1) must consider any mitigating factors relevant to the teacher's conduct; and
 - (2) may consider alternatives to sanctions, including additional continuing education or training.
- (f) If a teacher fails to timely file a written resignation as required by Subsection (a) but files a written resignation in the manner provided by that subsection not later than the 30th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year, the State Board for Educator Certification may not suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate under Subsection (c).

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SUBCHAPTER E. TERM CONTRACTS

TEC, §21.210. RESIGNATION UNDER TERM CONTRACT.

- (a) A teacher employed under a term contract with a school district may relinquish the teaching position and leave the employment of the district at the end of a school year without penalty by filing a written resignation with the board of trustees or the board's designee not later than the 45th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year. A written resignation mailed by prepaid certified or registered mail to the president of the board of trustees or the board's designee at the post office address of the district is considered filed at the time of mailing.
- (b) A teacher employed under a term contract may resign, with the consent of the board of trustees or the board's designee, at any other time.
- (c) Subject to Subsections (e) and (f), on written complaint by the employing district, the State Board for Educator Certification may impose sanctions against a teacher who is employed under a term contract that obligates the district to employ the person for the following school year and who:
 - (1) resigns;
 - (2) fails without good cause to comply with Subsection (a) or (b); and
 - (3) fails to perform the contract.
- (d) If a school district submits a complaint regarding a teacher to the State Board for Educator Certification under Subsection (c), the district shall promptly notify the teacher of the complaint. The notice must include:
 - (1) the basis of the complaint;
 - (2) information regarding how the teacher may contact the State Board for Educator Certification; and
 - (3) a reminder that the teacher should verify that the teacher's mailing address on file with the State Board for Educator Certification is current.
- (e) Before imposing sanctions against a teacher under Subsection (c), the State Board for Educator Certification:
 - (1) must consider any mitigating factors relevant to the teacher's conduct; and
 - (2) may consider alternatives to sanctions, including additional continuing education or training.
- (f) If a teacher fails to timely file a written resignation as required by Subsection (a) but files a written resignation in the manner provided by that subsection not later than the 30th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year, the State Board for Educator Certification may not suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate under Subsection (c).

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SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

TEC, §21.458. MENTORS.

- (a) Each school district may assign a mentor teacher to each classroom teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience in the subject or grade level to which the teacher is assigned. A teacher assigned as a mentor must:
 - (1) to the extent practicable, teach in the same school;
 - (2) to the extent practicable, teach the same subject or grade level, as applicable; and
 - (3) meet the qualifications prescribed by commissioner rules adopted under Subsection (b).
- (a-1) To be assigned as a mentor, a teacher must agree to serve as a mentor teacher for at least one school year. The assignment must begin not later than the 30th day of employment of the classroom teacher to whom the mentor teacher is assigned. A district must agree to assign a mentor to a new classroom teacher for at least two school years.
- (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to administer this section, including rules concerning the duties and qualifications of a teacher who serves as a mentor and the number of classroom teachers that may be assigned to a mentor. The rules concerning qualifications must require that to serve as a mentor a teacher must:
 - (1) complete a research-based mentor and induction training program approved by the commissioner;
 - (2) complete a mentor training program provided by the district, which the district may allow to be satisfied by completing the training program described by Subdivision (1);
 - (3) have at least three complete years of teaching experience with a superior record of assisting students, as a whole, in achieving improvement in student performance; and
 - (4) demonstrate interpersonal skills, instructional effectiveness, and leadership skills.
- (b-1) A school district must provide training as described by Subsection (b)(2) to mentor teachers and any appropriate district and campus employees who work with the classroom teacher or supervise the classroom teacher. A district may allow a training program approved by the commissioner under Subsection (b)(1) to qualify for the training required by this section. The training must be completed by the mentor teacher and the district and campus employees before the beginning of the school year. The district shall also provide supplemental training to mentor teachers and employees during the school year. The training must include content related to best mentorship practices.
- (c) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 943 (H.B. [3](#)), Sec. 4.001(a)(10), eff. September 1, 2019.
- (d) In adopting rules under this section, the commissioner shall rely on research-based mentoring programs that, through external evaluation, have demonstrated success.

- (e) Each year the commissioner shall report to the legislature regarding the effectiveness of school district mentoring programs.
- (f) A mentor teacher must meet with each classroom teacher assigned to the mentor not less than 12 hours each semester. Observations of the mentor by the classroom teacher being mentored or of the classroom teacher being mentored by the mentor may count toward the 12 hours of meeting time required for the semester. Except as provided by Subsection (f-1), the mentoring sessions must address the following topics:
 - (1) orientation to the context, policies, and practices of the school district;
 - (2) data-driven instructional practices;
 - (3) specific instructional coaching cycles, including coaching regarding conferences between parents and the classroom teacher;
 - (4) professional development; and
 - (5) professional expectations.
- (f-1) Subject to approval by the agency, in determining the topics to be addressed in the mentoring sessions, a school district may create an appropriate curriculum that meets the district needs.
- (g) A school district must:
 - (1) designate a specific time during the regularly contracted school day for meetings between mentor teachers and classroom teachers assigned to a mentor; and
 - (2) schedule release time or a reduced teaching load for mentor teachers and classroom teachers under this section to facilitate mentoring activities, including classroom observations or participation in supportive coaching.

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**TEC, §22.082. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS BY STATE BOARD FOR
EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION.**

The State Board for Educator Certification shall subscribe to the criminal history clearinghouse as provided by Section [411.0845](#), Government Code, and may obtain from any law enforcement or criminal justice agency all criminal history record information and all records contained in any closed criminal investigation file that relate to a specific applicant for or holder of a certificate issued under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#).

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TEC, §22.0831. NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION REVIEW OF CERTIFIED EDUCATORS .

- (a) In this section, "board" means the State Board for Educator Certification.
- (b) This section applies to a person who is an applicant for or holder of a certificate under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#), and who is employed by or is an applicant for employment by a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or shared services arrangement.
- (c) The board shall review the national criminal history record information of a person who has not previously submitted fingerprints to the department or been subject to a national criminal history record information review.
- (d) The board shall place an educator's certificate on inactive status for failure to comply with a deadline for submitting information required under this section.
- (e) The board may allow a person who is applying for a certificate under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#), and who currently resides in another state to submit the person's fingerprints and other required information in a manner that does not impose an undue hardship on the person.
- (f) The board may propose rules to implement this section, including rules establishing:
 - (1) deadlines for a person to submit fingerprints and photographs in compliance with this section; and
 - (2) sanctions for a person's failure to comply with the requirements of this section, including suspension or revocation of a certificate or refusal to issue a certificate.
- (g) Expired.

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TEC, §22.085. EMPLOYEES AND APPLICANTS CONVICTED OF OR PLACED ON DEFERRED ADJUDICATION COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.

- (a) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or shared services arrangement shall discharge or refuse to hire an employee or applicant for employment if the district, school, or shared services arrangement obtains information through a criminal history record information review that the employee or applicant has been:
- (1) convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter [62](#), Code of Criminal Procedure; or
 - (2) convicted of:
 - (A) a felony offense under Title 5, Penal Code, if the victim of the offense was under 18 years of age at the time the offense was committed; or
 - (B) an offense under the laws of another state or federal law that is equivalent to an offense under Subdivision (1) or Paragraph (A).
- (b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the employee or applicant for employment committed an offense under Title 5, Penal Code and:
- (1) the date of the offense is more than 30 years before:
 - (A) the effective date of S.B. No. 9, Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, in the case of a person employed by a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or shared services arrangement as of that date; or
 - (B) the date the person's employment will begin, in the case of a person applying for employment with a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or shared services arrangement after the effective date of S.B. No. 9, Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007; and
 - (2) the employee or applicant for employment satisfied all terms of the court order entered on conviction.
- (c) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or shared services arrangement may not allow a person who is an employee of or applicant for employment by an entity that contracts with the district, school, or shared services arrangement to serve at the district or school or for the shared services arrangement if the district, school, or shared services arrangement obtains information described by Subsection (a) through a criminal history record information review concerning the employee or applicant. A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or shared services arrangement must ensure that an entity that the district, school, or shared services arrangement contracts with for services has obtained all criminal history record information as required by Section 22.0834 or 22.08341.

- (d) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, private school, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement may discharge an employee if the district or school obtains information of the employee's conviction of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude that the employee did not disclose to the State Board for Educator Certification or the district, school, service center, or shared services arrangement. An employee discharged under this section is considered to have been discharged for misconduct for purposes of Section [207.044](#), Labor Code.
- (e) The State Board for Educator Certification may impose a sanction on an educator who does not discharge an employee or refuse to hire an applicant for employment if the educator knows or should have known, through a criminal history record information review, that the employee or applicant has been:
 - (1) convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense described by Subsection (a)(1); or
 - (2) convicted of an offense described by Subsection (a)(2).
- (f) Each school year, the superintendent of a school district or chief operating officer of an open-enrollment charter school shall certify to the commissioner that the district or school has complied with this section.

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TEC, §22.087. NOTIFICATION TO STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION.

The superintendent of a school district or the director of an open-enrollment charter school, private school, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall promptly notify the State Board for Educator Certification in writing if:

- (1) the person obtains or has knowledge of information showing that an applicant for or holder of a certificate issued under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#), has a reported criminal history; and
- (2) the person obtained the information by a means other than the criminal history clearinghouse established under Section [411.0845](#), Government Code.

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TEC, §22.092. REGISTRY OF PERSONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

- (a) The agency shall maintain and make available through the Internet portal developed and maintained by the agency under Section [22.095](#) a registry of persons who are not eligible to be employed by a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement.
- (b) A school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall discharge or refuse to hire a person listed on the registry maintained under this section.
- (c) The registry maintained under this section must list the following persons as not eligible to be employed by public schools:
 - (1) a person determined by the agency under Section [22.0832](#) as a person who would not be eligible for educator certification under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#);
 - (2) a person determined by the agency to be not eligible for employment based on the person's criminal history record information review, as provided by Section [22.0833](#);
 - (3) a person who is not eligible for employment based on criminal history record information received by the agency under Section [21.058](#)(b);
 - (4) a person whose certification or permit issued under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#), is revoked by the State Board for Educator Certification on a finding that the person engaged in misconduct described by Section [21.006](#)(b)(2)(A) or (A-1); and
 - (5) a person who is determined by the commissioner under Section [22.094](#) to have engaged in misconduct described by Section [22.093](#)(c)(1)(A) or (B).
- (d) The agency shall provide private schools and public schools equivalent access to the registry maintained under this section.

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TEC, §22.093. REQUIREMENT TO REPORT EMPLOYEE MISCONDUCT.

- (a) In this section, "abuse" has the meaning assigned by Section [261.001](#), Family Code, and includes any sexual conduct involving a student or minor.
- (b) This section applies to a person who is employed by a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement and who does not hold a certification or permit issued under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#).
- (c) In addition to the reporting requirement under Section [261.101](#), Family Code, the superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall notify the commissioner if:
 - (1) an employee's employment at the school district, district of innovation, charter school, other charter entity, service center, or shared services arrangement was terminated and there is evidence that the employee:
 - (A) abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor; or
 - (B) was involved in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor; or
 - (2) the employee resigned and there is evidence that the employee engaged in misconduct described by Subdivision (1).
- (d) A superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall complete an investigation of an employee that involves evidence that the employee may have engaged in misconduct described by Subsection (c)(1)(A) or (B), despite the employee's resignation from employment before completion of the investigation.
- (e) The principal of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, or other charter entity campus must notify the superintendent or director of the school district, district of innovation, charter school, or other charter entity not later than the seventh business day after the date of an employee's termination of employment or resignation following an alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (c)(1)(A) or (B).
- (f) The superintendent or director must notify the commissioner by filing a report with the commissioner not later than the seventh business day after the date the superintendent or director receives a report from a principal under Subsection (e) or knew about an employee's termination of employment or resignation following an alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (c)(1)(A) or (B). The report must be:
 - (1) in writing; and
 - (2) in a form prescribed by the commissioner.

- (g) The superintendent or director shall notify the board of trustees or governing body of the school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement and the employee of the filing of the report required by Subsection (f).
- (h) A superintendent or director who in good faith and while acting in an official capacity files a report with the commissioner under Subsection (f) or a principal who in good faith and while acting in an official capacity notifies a superintendent or director under Subsection (e) is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.
- (i) The commissioner shall refer an educator who fails to file a report in violation of Subsection (f) to the State Board for Educator Certification, and the board shall determine whether to impose sanctions against the educator.
- (j) The name of a student or minor who is the victim of abuse or unlawful conduct by an employee must be included in a report filed under this section, but the name of the student or minor is not public information under Chapter [552](#), Government Code.
- (k) A superintendent or director required to file a report under Subsection (f) commits an offense if the superintendent or director fails to file the report by the date required by that subsection with intent to conceal an employee's criminal record or alleged incident of misconduct. A principal required to notify a superintendent or director about an employee's alleged incident of misconduct under Subsection (e) commits an offense if the principal fails to provide the notice by the date required by that subsection with intent to conceal an employee's alleged incident of misconduct. An offense under this subsection is a state jail felony.
- (l) The commissioner may review the records of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, other charter entity, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement to ensure compliance with the requirement to report misconduct under this section.
- (m) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

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SUBTITLE F. CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES
CHAPTER 29. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
SUBCHAPTER A. SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

TEC, §29.061. BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND SPECIAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM TEACHERS.

- (a) The State Board for Educator Certification shall provide for the issuance of teaching certificates appropriate for bilingual education instruction to teachers who possess a speaking, reading, and writing ability in a language other than English in which bilingual education programs are offered and who meet the general requirements of Chapter 21. The board shall also provide for the issuance of teaching certificates appropriate for teaching English as a second language. The board may issue emergency endorsements in bilingual education and in teaching English as a second language.
- (b) A teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using one of the following program models must be appropriately certified for bilingual education by the board:
 - (1) transitional bilingual/early exit program model; or
 - (2) transitional bilingual/late exit program model.
- (b-1) A teacher assigned to a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model must be appropriately certified by the board for:
 - (1) bilingual education for the component of the program provided in a language other than English; and
 - (2) bilingual education or English as a second language for the component of the program provided in English.
- (b-2) A school district that provides a bilingual education program using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model may assign a teacher certified under Subsection (b-1)(1) for the language other than English component of the program and a different teacher certified under Subsection (b-1)(2) for the English language component.
- (c) A teacher assigned to an English as a second language program must be appropriately certified for English as a second language by the board.

- (d) A school district may compensate a bilingual education or special language teacher for participating in a continuing education program that is in addition to the teacher's regular contract. The continuing education program must be designed to provide advanced bilingual education or special language program endorsement or skills.

- (e) The State Board for Educator Certification and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop a comprehensive plan for meeting the teacher supply needs created by the programs outlined in this subchapter.

TEXAS FAMILY CODE
TITLE 5. THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND THE SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-
CHILD RELATIONSHIP
SUBTITLE E. PROTECTION OF THE CHILD
CHAPTER 261. INVESTIGATION OF REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT
SUBCHAPTER D. INVESTIGATIONS

TFC, §261.308. SUBMISSION OF INVESTIGATION REPORT.

- (a) The department shall make a complete written report of the investigation.
- (b) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 , Sec. 86(9), eff. September 1, 2015.
- (c) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 944 , Sec. 86(9), eff. September 1, 2015.
- (d) The department shall release information regarding a person alleged to have committed abuse or neglect to persons who have control over the person's access to children, including, as appropriate, the Texas Education Agency, the State Board for Educator Certification, the local school board or the school's governing body, the superintendent of the school district, the public school principal or director, the director of the open-enrollment charter school, or the chief executive officer of the private school if the department determines that:
 - (1) the person alleged to have committed abuse or neglect poses a substantial and immediate risk of harm to one or more children outside the family of a child who is the subject of the investigation; and
 - (2) the release of the information is necessary to assist in protecting one or more children from the person alleged to have committed abuse or neglect.
- (e) On request, the department shall release information about a person alleged to have committed abuse or neglect to the State Board for Educator Certification if the board has a reasonable basis for believing that the information is necessary to assist the board in protecting children from the person alleged to have committed abuse or neglect.

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SUBCHAPTER E. INVESTIGATIONS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION IN CERTAIN
FACILITIES

TFC, §261.406. INVESTIGATIONS IN SCHOOLS.

- (a) On receipt of a report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect of a child in a public or private school, the department shall perform an investigation as provided by this chapter.
- (b) The department shall send a copy of the completed report of the department's investigation to the Texas Education Agency or, in the case of a private school, the school's chief executive officer. On request, the department shall provide a copy of the completed report of the department's investigation to the State Board for Educator Certification, the local school board or the school's governing body, the superintendent of the school district, the public school principal or director, or the chief executive officer of the private school, unless the principal, director, or chief executive officer is alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect, for appropriate action. On request, the department shall provide a copy of the report of investigation to the parent, managing conservator, or legal guardian of a child who is the subject of the investigation and to the person alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect. The report of investigation shall be edited to protect the identity of the persons who made the report of abuse or neglect. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, Section [261.201\(b\)](#) applies to the release of the report relating to the investigation of abuse or neglect under this section and to the identity of the person who made the report of abuse or neglect.
- (c) Nothing in this section may prevent a law enforcement agency from conducting an investigation of a report made under this section.
- (d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 4. EXECUTIVE BRANCH
SUBTITLE B. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
CHAPTER 411. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
SUBCHAPTER F. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION

TGC, § 411.087. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OR LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY.

(a) Unless otherwise authorized by Subsection (e), a person, agency, department, political subdivision, or other entity that is authorized by this subchapter or Subchapter E-1 to obtain from the department criminal history record information maintained by the department that relates to another person is authorized to:

- (1) obtain through the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record information maintained or indexed by that bureau that pertains to that person; or
- (2) obtain from any other criminal justice agency in this state criminal history record information maintained by that criminal justice agency that relates to that person.

(b) Any restriction or limitation in this subchapter or Subchapter E-1 on criminal history record information that a person, agency, department, political subdivision, or other entity is entitled to obtain from the department applies equally to the criminal history record information that the person, agency, department, political subdivision, or other entity is entitled to obtain from the identification division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other criminal justice agency.

(c) Subsection (a) does not authorize a person, agency, department, political subdivision, or other entity to obtain criminal history record information from the identification division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation if dissemination of criminal history record information by the division is prohibited by federal law, executive order, or rule.

(d) A person, agency, department, political subdivision, or other entity that is not a criminal justice agency is entitled to obtain criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation only if:

- (1) the requestor submits a complete set of the individual's fingerprints and other identifying information and pays any fee required or approved by the bureau;
- (2) no disqualifying record or information from a state or local criminal justice agency is known to the requestor; and

(3) the request is not for the purpose of discriminating against a person because of the person's race, sex, age, disability, religion, color, or national origin.

(e) The department may provide access to state and national criminal history record information to qualified entities entitled to that information under 42 U.S.C. Section 5119a. The department must follow federal law and regulation, federal executive orders, and federal policy in releasing information under this subsection.

(f) Notwithstanding any other law, a person, agency, department, political subdivision, or other entity entitled to access the criminal history record information of a person under Subsection (e) is not required to collect or submit the person's fingerprints if:

- (1) a complete set of the person's fingerprints was previously submitted under Subsection (d)(1);
- (2) the department retained the fingerprints;
- (3) the fingerprints are acceptable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for access to criminal history record information; and
- (4) the only purpose for which the person's fingerprints are collected is to access criminal history record information under Subsection (e).

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TITLE 4. EXECUTIVE BRANCH
SUBTITLE B. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
CHAPTER 411. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
SUBCHAPTER F. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION

TGC, § 411.090. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION: STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION.

- (a) The State Board for Educator Certification is entitled to obtain from the department any criminal history record information maintained by the department about a person who has applied to the board for a certificate under Subchapter B, Chapter [21](#), Education Code.
- (b) Criminal history record information obtained by the board in the original form or any subsequent form:
 - (1) may be used only for a purpose related to the issuance, denial, suspension, or cancellation of a certificate issued by the board;
 - (2) may not be released to any person except:
 - (A) the person who is the subject of the information;
 - (B) the Texas Education Agency;
 - (C) a local or regional educational entity as provided by Section [411.097](#); or
 - (D) by court order;
 - (3) is not subject to disclosure as provided by Chapter [552](#); and
 - (4) shall be destroyed by the board after the information is used for the authorized purposes.
- (c) The department shall notify the State Board for Educator Certification of the arrest of any educator, as defined by Section [5.001](#), Education Code, who has fingerprints on file with the department. Any record of the notification and any information contained in the notification is not subject to disclosure as provided by Chapter [552](#).

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
SUBTITLE A. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE
CHAPTER 2001. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
SUBCHAPTER B. RULEMAKING

TGC, §2001.021. PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF RULES.

- (a) An interested person by petition to a state agency may request the adoption of a rule.
- (b) A state agency by rule shall prescribe the form for a petition under this section and the procedure for its submission, consideration, and disposition. If a state agency requires signatures for a petition under this section, at least 51 percent of the total number of signatures required must be of residents of this state.
- (c) Not later than the 60th day after the date of submission of a petition under this section, a state agency shall:
 - (1) deny the petition in writing, stating its reasons for the denial; or
 - (2) initiate a rulemaking proceeding under this subchapter.
- (d) For the purposes of this section, an interested person must be:
 - (1) a resident of this state;
 - (2) a business entity located in this state;
 - (3) a governmental subdivision located in this state; or
 - (4) a public or private organization located in this state that is not a state agency.

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TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
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SUBCHAPTER B. RULEMAKING

TGC, §2001.021. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED RULE.

A proposed rule is withdrawn six months after the date of publication of notice of the proposed rule in the Texas Register if a state agency has failed by that time to adopt, adopt as amended, or withdraw the proposed rule.

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TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
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SUBCHAPTER B. RULEMAKING

TGC, §2001.039. AGENCY REVIEW OF EXISTING RULES.

- (a) A state agency shall review and consider for readoption each of its rules in accordance with this section.
- (b) A state agency shall review a rule not later than the fourth anniversary of the date on which the rule takes effect and every four years after that date. The adoption of an amendment to an existing rule does not affect the dates on which the rule must be reviewed except that the effective date of an amendment is considered to be the effective date of the rule if the agency formally conducts a review of the rule in accordance with this section as part of the process of adopting the amendment.
- (c) The state agency shall readopt, readopt with amendments, or repeal a rule as the result of reviewing the rule under this section.
- (d) The procedures of this subchapter relating to the original adoption of a rule apply to the review of a rule and to the resulting repeal, readoption, or readoption with amendments of the rule, except as provided by this subsection. Publishing the Texas Administrative Code citation to a rule under review satisfies the requirements of this subchapter relating to publishing the text of the rule unless the agency readopts the rule with amendments as a result of the review.
- (e) A state agency's review of a rule must include an assessment of whether the reasons for initially adopting the rule continue to exist.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
SUBTITLE A. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE
CHAPTER 2001. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
SUBCHAPTER C. CONTESTED CASES: GENERAL RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

TGC, §2001.056. INFORMAL DISPOSITION OF CONTESTED CASE.

Unless precluded by law, an informal disposition may be made of a contested case by:

- (1) stipulation;
- (2) agreed settlement;
- (3) consent order; or
- (4) default.

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TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
SUBTITLE A. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE
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SUBCHAPTER C. CONTESTED CASES: GENERAL RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

TGC, §2001.058. HEARING CONDUCTED BY STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS.

- (a) This section applies only to an administrative law judge employed by the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
- (b) An administrative law judge who conducts a contested case hearing shall consider applicable agency rules or policies in conducting the hearing, but the state agency deciding the case may not supervise the administrative law judge.
- (c) A state agency shall provide the administrative law judge with a written statement of applicable rules or policies.
- (d) A state agency may not attempt to influence the finding of facts or the administrative law judge's application of the law in a contested case except by proper evidence and legal argument.
- (d-1) On making a finding that a party to a contested case has defaulted under the rules of the State Office of Administrative Hearings, the administrative law judge may dismiss the case from the docket of the State Office of Administrative Hearings and remand it to the referring agency for informal disposition under Section [2001.056](#). After the case is dismissed and remanded, the agency may informally dispose of the case by applying its own rules or the procedural rules of the State Office of Administrative Hearings relating to default proceedings. This subsection does not apply to a contested case in which the administrative law judge is authorized to render a final decision.
- (e) A state agency may change a finding of fact or conclusion of law made by the administrative law judge, or may vacate or modify an order issued by the administrative judge, only if the agency determines:
 - (1) that the administrative law judge did not properly apply or interpret applicable law, agency rules, written policies provided under Subsection (c), or prior administrative decisions;
 - (2) that a prior administrative decision on which the administrative law judge relied is incorrect or should be changed; or
 - (3) that a technical error in a finding of fact should be changed.

The agency shall state in writing the specific reason and legal basis for a change made under this subsection.

- (e-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (e), a state agency may not vacate or modify an order of an administrative law judge that awards attorney's fees and costs under Section [2001.903](#).
- (f) A state agency by rule may provide that, in a contested case before the agency that concerns licensing in relation to an occupational license and that is not disposed of by stipulation, agreed settlement, or consent order, the administrative law judge shall render the final decision in the

contested case. If a state agency adopts such a rule, the following provisions apply to contested cases covered by the rule:

- (1) the administrative law judge shall render the decision that may become final under Section [2001.144](#) not later than the 60th day after the latter of the date on which the hearing is finally closed or the date by which the judge has ordered all briefs, reply briefs, and other posthearing documents to be filed, and the 60-day period may be extended only with the consent of all parties, including the occupational licensing agency;
- (2) the administrative law judge shall include in the findings of fact and conclusions of law a determination whether the license at issue is primarily a license to engage in an occupation;
- (3) the State Office of Administrative Hearings is the state agency with which a motion for rehearing or a reply to a motion for rehearing is filed under Section [2001.146](#) and is the state agency that acts on the motion or extends a time period under Section [2001.146](#);
- (4) the State Office of Administrative Hearings is the state agency responsible for sending a copy of the decision that may become final under Section [2001.144](#) or an order ruling on a motion for rehearing to the parties, including the occupational licensing agency, in accordance with Section [2001.142](#); and
- (5) the occupational licensing agency and any other party to the contested case is entitled to obtain judicial review of the final decision in accordance with this chapter.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
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CHAPTER 2001. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
SUBCHAPTER F. CONTESTED CASES: FINAL DECISIONS AND ORDERS; MOTION FOR
REHEARING

TGC, §2001.142. NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS AND ORDERS.

- (a) A state agency shall notify each party to a contested case of any decision or order of the agency using at least one of the following methods of service:
- (1) personal service;
 - (2) if agreed to by the party to be notified, service by electronic means sent to the current e-mail address or facsimile number of the party's attorney of record or of the party if the party is not represented by counsel;
 - (3) service by first class, certified, or registered mail sent to the last known address of the party's attorney of record or of the party if the party is not represented by counsel; or
 - (4) service by a method required under the state agency's rules or orders for a party to serve copies of pleadings in a contested case.
- (b) When a decision or order in a contested case that may become final under Section 2001.144 is signed or when an order ruling on a motion for rehearing is signed, a state agency shall deliver or send a copy of the decision or order to each party in accordance with Subsection (a). The state agency shall keep a record documenting the provision of the notice provided to each party in accordance with Subsection (a).
- (c) If an adversely affected party or the party's attorney of record does not receive the notice required by Subsections (a) and (b) or acquire actual knowledge of a signed decision or order before the 15th day after the date the decision or order is signed, a period specified by or agreed to under Section 2001.144(a), 2001.146, 2001.147, or 2001.176(a) relating to a decision or order or motion for rehearing begins, with respect to that party, on the date the party or the party's attorney of record receives the notice or acquires actual knowledge of the signed decision or order, whichever occurs first. The period may not begin earlier than the 15th day or later than the 45th day after the date the decision or order was signed.
- (d) To establish a revised period under Subsection (c), the adversely affected party must prove, on sworn motion and notice, that:
- (1) the date the party or the party's attorney of record first received notice from the state agency or acquired actual knowledge of the signing of the decision or order was after the 14th day after the date the decision or order was signed;
 - (2) the adversely affected party exercised due diligence by keeping the state agency and all other parties to the contested case apprised of the current mailing address and any electronic contact information for the adversely affected party or the adversely affected party's attorney of record; and

- (3) the adversely affected party and the party's attorney of record did not take any action that impeded or prevented receipt of notice of the signing of the decision or order.
- (e) The state agency or a person authorized to act for the agency must grant or deny the sworn motion not later than the date of the agency's governing board's next meeting or, for a state agency without a governing board with decision-making authority in contested cases, not later than the 10th day after the date the agency receives the sworn motion.
- (f) If the state agency or a person authorized to act for the agency fails to grant or deny the motion at the next meeting or before the 10th day after the date the agency receives the motion, as appropriate, the motion is considered granted.
- (g) If a sworn motion filed under Subsection (d) is granted with respect to the adversely affected party filing that motion, all the periods specified by or agreed to under Section 2001.144(a), 2001.146, 2001.147, or 2001.176(a) relating to a decision or order, or motion for rehearing, shall begin for the movant on the date specified in the sworn motion that the movant or the movant's attorney of record first received the notice required by Subsections (a) and (b) or acquired actual knowledge of the signed decision or order. The date specified in the sworn motion shall be considered the date the decision or order was signed for the movant. The timely filing of a sworn motion for rehearing under Subsection (d) extends the period for agency action on any motion for rehearing until the 100th day after the date the decision or order subject to the motion for rehearing is signed.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
SUBTITLE C. STATE ACCOUNTING, FISCAL MANAGEMENT, AND PRODUCTIVITY
CHAPTER 2110. STATE AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

TGC, §2110.001 DEFINITION.

In this chapter, "advisory committee" means a committee, council, commission, task force, or other entity with multiple members that has as its primary function advising a state agency in the executive branch of state government.

TGC, §2110.0011 APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER.

This chapter applies unless and to the extent:

- (1) another state law specifically states that this chapter does not apply; or
- (2) a federal law or regulation:
 - (A) imposes an unconditional requirement that irreconcilably conflicts with this chapter;
or
 - (B) imposes a condition on the state's eligibility to receive money from the federal government that irreconcilably conflicts with this chapter.

TGC, §2110.0012 ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

For purposes of this chapter, a state agency has established an advisory committee if:

- (1) state or federal law has specifically created the committee to advise the agency; or
- (2) the agency has, under state or federal law, created the committee to advise the agency.

TGC, §2110.002 COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

- (a) An advisory committee must be composed of a reasonable number of members not to exceed 24.
- (b) The composition of an advisory committee that advises a state agency regarding an industry or occupation regulated or directly affected by the agency must provide a balanced representation between:
 - (1) the industry or occupation; and
 - (2) consumers of services provided by the agency, industry, or occupation.

TGC, §2110.003 PRESIDING OFFICER.

- (a) An advisory committee shall select from among its members a presiding officer.

- (b) The presiding officer shall preside over the advisory committee and report to the advised state agency.

TGC, §2110.004 REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES; APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

- (a) Notwithstanding other law, the manner and amount of reimbursement for expenses, including travel expenses, of members of an advisory committee may be prescribed only:
 - (1) by the General Appropriations Act; or
 - (2) through the budget execution process under Chapter [317](#) if the advisory committee is created after it is practicable to address the existence of the committee in the General Appropriations Act.
- (b) A state agency that is advised by an advisory committee must request authority to reimburse the expenses of members of the committee through the appropriations or budget execution process, as appropriate, if the agency determines that the expenses of committee members should be reimbursed. The request must:
 - (1) Identify the costs related to the advisory committee's existence, including the cost of agency staff time spent in support of the committee's activities;
 - (2) state the reasons the advisory committee should continue in existence; and
 - (3) identify any other advisory committees created to advise the agency that should be consolidated or abolished.
- (c) As part of the appropriations and budget execution process, the governor and the Legislative Budget Board shall jointly identify advisory committees that should be abolished. The comptroller may recommend to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board that an advisory committee should be abolished.
- (d) The General Appropriations Act may provide for reimbursing the expenses of members of certain advisory committees without providing for reimbursing the expenses of members of other advisory committees.
- (e) This section does not apply to an advisory committee the services of which are determined by the governing board of a retirement system trust fund to be necessary for the performance of the governing board's fiduciary duties under the state constitution.

TGC, §2110.005 AGENCY-DEVELOPED STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND TASKS; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

A state agency that establishes an advisory committee shall by rule:

- (1) state the purpose and tasks of the committee; and

- (2) describe the manner in which the committee will report to the agency.

TGC, §2110.006 AGENCY EVALUATION OF COMMITTEE COSTS AND EFFECTIVENESS.

A state agency that has established an advisory committee shall evaluate annually:

- (1) the committee's work;
- (2) the committee's usefulness; and
- (3) the costs related to the committee's existence, including the cost of agency staff time spent in support of the committee's activities.

TGC, §2110.007 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD.

A state agency that has established an advisory committee shall report to the Legislative Budget Board the information developed in the evaluation required by Section [2110.006](#). The agency shall file the report biennially in connection with the agency's request for appropriations.

TGC, §2110.008 DURATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

- (a) A state agency that has established an advisory committee may designate the date on which the committee will automatically be abolished. The designation must be by rule. The committee may continue in existence after that date only if the agency amends the rule to provide for a different abolishment date.
- (b) A Unless the state agency that establishes an advisory committee designates a different date under Subsection (a), the committee is automatically abolished on the later of:
 - (1) September 1, 2005; or
 - (2) the fourth anniversary of the date of its creation.
- (c) Not An advisory committee that state or federal law has specifically created as described in Section [2110.0012](#)(1) is considered for purposes of Subsection (b)(2) to have been created on the effective date of that law unless the law specifically provides for a different date of creation.
- (d) This section does not apply to an advisory committee that has a specific duration prescribed by statute.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
SUBTITLE B. INFORMATION AND PLANNING
CHAPTER 2054. INFORMATION RESOURCES
SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

TGC, §2054.011 STATEWIDE NETWORK APPLICATIONS ACCOUNT.

- (a) The statewide network applications account is established in the general revenue fund.
- (b) Amounts credited to the statewide network applications account may be appropriated only for the purchase, improvement, or maintenance of information resources, information resources technologies or applications, or related services or items for use by a network of state agencies that may include agencies in the legislative branch of state government.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE
TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT
SUBTITLE B. INFORMATION AND PLANNING
CHAPTER 2054. INFORMATION RESOURCES

TGC, §2054.252. STATE ELECTRONIC INTERNET PORTAL PROJECT.

- (a) The department shall implement a state electronic Internet portal project that establishes a common electronic infrastructure through which state agencies and local governments, including licensing entities, may by any method:
 - (1) may send and receive documents or required payments to and from:
 - (A) members of the public;
 - (B) persons who are regulated by the agencies or local governments; and
 - (C) the agencies and local governments;
 - (2) render (2) receive applications for original and renewal licenses and permits, including occupational licenses, complaints about occupational license holders, and other documents for filing from members of the public and persons who are regulated by a state agency or local government that, when secure access is necessary, can be electronically validated by the agency, local government, member of the public, or regulated person;
 - (3) send original and renewal occupational licenses to persons regulated by licensing entities;
 - (4) send profiles of occupational license holders to persons regulated by licensing entities and to the public;
 - (5) store information; and
 - (6) provide and receive any other service to and from the agencies and local governments or the public.
- (b) The electronic infrastructure established by the department under Subsection (a) may include the Internet, intranets, extranets, and wide area networks.
- (b-1) The department may include in the electronic infrastructure established under Subsection (a) a method by which a state agency or local government may track payments, including cash and credit card payments, received by the state agency or local government, whether or not the payments are made through the infrastructure.

- (c) The department may implement this section in phases. Each state agency or local government that chooses to participate in the project and each licensing entity shall comply with the schedule established by the department.
- (d) The department may contract with a private vendor to implement this section.
- (e) The department shall charge fees to licensing entities as provided by this subchapter in amounts sufficient to cover the cost of implementing this section with respect to licensing entities. The department shall charge a subscription fee to be paid by each licensing entity. The department may not charge the subscription fee until the service for which the fee is charged is available on the Internet. If the department determines that the transaction costs exceed the maximum increase in occupational license issuance or renewal fees allowed under Subsection (g), the department may also charge a reasonable convenience fee to be recovered from a license holder who uses the project for online issuance or renewal of a license.
- (f) The department may exempt a licensing entity from subscription fees under Subsection (e) if the department determines that the licensing entity has established an Internet portal that is performing the functions described by Subsection (a).
- (g) Each licensing entity shall increase the occupational license issuance or renewal fees imposed by the licensing entity by an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the subscription fee imposed on the licensing entity under Subsection (e) but not to exceed:
 - (1) \$5 for an annual occupational license;
 - (2) \$10 for a biennial occupational license; or
 - (3) the amount necessary to cover the cost of the subscription fee imposed on the licensing entity under Subsection (e) for permits or facilities licenses.
- (h) The department shall provide an opportunity for a person to make a contribution to the trafficked persons program account established under Section [50.0153](#), Health and Safety Code, when the person accesses the state electronic Internet portal for a purpose described by Subsection (a) that involves submitting a payment to this state. The department may deduct from the donations made under this subsection an amount equal to the department's reasonable expenses associated with administering this subsection. Money contributed under this subsection shall be deposited to the credit of the account.

- (i) The department shall collaborate with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Public Safety, and any other state agency to maximize donations to the trafficked persons program account established under Section [50.0153](#), Health and Safety Code.

TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE
TITLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO LICENSING
CHAPTER 53. CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION
SUBCHAPTER B. INELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSE

TOC, §53.021. AUTHORITY TO REVOKE, SUSPEND, OR DENY LICENSE.

- (a) Subject to Section [53.0231](#), a licensing authority may suspend or revoke a license, disqualify a person from receiving a license, or deny to a person the opportunity to take a licensing examination on the grounds that the person has been convicted of:
 - (1) an offense that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation;
 - (2) an offense listed in Article [42A.054](#), Code of Criminal Procedure; or
 - (3) a sexually violent offense, as defined by Article [62.001](#), Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (a-1) Subsection (a) does not apply to a person who has been convicted only of an offense punishable as a Class C misdemeanor unless:
 - (1) the person is an applicant for or the holder of a license that authorizes the person to possess a firearm; and
 - (2) the offense for which the person was convicted is a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as that term is defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 921.
- (b) A license holder's license shall be revoked on the license holder's imprisonment following a felony conviction, felony community supervision revocation, revocation of parole, or revocation of mandatory supervision.
- (c) Except as provided by Subsections (d) and (e), notwithstanding any other law, a licensing authority may not consider a person to have been convicted of an offense for purposes of this section if, regardless of the statutory authorization:
 - (1) the person entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere;
 - (2) the judge deferred further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and placed the person under the supervision of the court or an officer under the supervision of the court; and
 - (3) at the end of the period of supervision, the judge dismissed the proceedings and discharged the person.
- (d) A licensing authority may consider a person to have been convicted of an offense for purposes of this section regardless of whether the proceedings were dismissed and the person was discharged as described by Subsection (c) if:
 - (1) the person was charged with:
 - (A) any offense described by Article [62.001](#)(5), Code of Criminal Procedure; or
 - (B) an offense other than an offense described by Paragraph (A) if:

- (i) the person has not completed the period of supervision or the person completed the period of supervision less than five years before the date the person applied for the license; or
 - (ii) a conviction for the offense would make the person ineligible for the license by operation of law; and
 - (2) after consideration of the factors described by Sections [53.022](#) and [53.023\(a\)](#), the licensing authority determines that:
 - (A) the person may pose a continued threat to public safety; or
 - (B) employment of the person in the licensed occupation would create a situation in which the person has an opportunity to repeat the prohibited conduct.
- (e) Subsection (c) does not apply if the person is an applicant for or the holder of a license that authorizes the person to provide:
 - (1) law enforcement or public health, education, or safety services; or
 - (2) financial services in an industry regulated by a person listed in Section [411.0765\(b\)\(18\)](#), Government Code.

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TOC, §53.022. FACTORS IN DETERMINING WHETHER CONVICTION DIRECTLY RELATES TO OCCUPATION.

In determining whether a criminal conviction directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of a licensed occupation, the licensing authority shall consider each of the following factors:

- (1) the nature and seriousness of the crime;
- (2) the relationship of the crime to the purposes for requiring a license to engage in the occupation;
- (3) the extent to which a license might offer an opportunity to engage in further criminal activity of the same type as that in which the person previously had been involved;
- (4) the relationship of the crime to the ability or capacity required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the licensed occupation; and
- (5) any correlation between the elements of the crime and the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation.

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**TOC, §53.023. ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR LICENSING AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER
AFTER DETERMINING CONVICTION DIRECTLY RELATES TO
OCCUPATION.**

- (a) If a licensing authority determines under Section [53.022](#) that a criminal conviction directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of a licensed occupation, the licensing authority shall consider the following in determining whether to take an action authorized by Section [53.021](#):
- (1) the extent and nature of the person's past criminal activity;
 - (2) the age of the person when the crime was committed;
 - (3) the amount of time that has elapsed since the person's last criminal activity;
 - (4) the conduct and work activity of the person before and after the criminal activity;
 - (5) evidence of the person's rehabilitation or rehabilitative effort while incarcerated or after release;
 - (6) evidence of the person's compliance with any conditions of community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision; and
 - (7) other evidence of the person's fitness, including letters of recommendation.
- (b) The applicant has the responsibility, to the extent possible, to obtain and provide to the licensing authority the recommendations described by Subsection (a)(7).
- (c) Repealed by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 765 (H.B. [1342](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2019.

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TOC, §53.024. PROCEEDINGS GOVERNED BY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT.

A proceeding before a licensing authority to establish factors required to be considered under this subchapter is governed by Chapter [2001](#), Government Code.

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TOC, §53.025. GUIDELINES.

- (a) Each licensing authority shall issue guidelines relating to the practice of the licensing authority under this chapter. The guidelines must state the reasons a particular crime is considered to relate to a particular license and any other criterion that affects the decisions of the licensing authority.
- (b) A state licensing authority that issues guidelines under this section shall file the guidelines with the secretary of state for publication in the Texas Register.
- (c) A local or county licensing authority that issues guidelines under this section shall post the guidelines at the courthouse for the county in which the licensing authority is located or publish the guidelines in a newspaper having countywide circulation in that county.
- (d) Amendments to the guidelines, if any, shall be issued annually.

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SUBCHAPTER C. NOTICE AND REVIEW OF SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, OR DENIAL OF
LICENSE

TOC, §53.051. NOTICE.

A licensing authority that suspends or revokes a license or denies a person a license or the opportunity to be examined for a license because of the person's prior conviction of an offense shall notify the person in writing of:

- (1) the reason for the suspension, revocation, denial, or disqualification, including any factor considered under Section [53.022](#) or [53.023](#) that served as the basis for the suspension, revocation, denial, or disqualification;
- (2) the review procedure provided by Section [53.052](#); and
- (3) the earliest date the person may appeal the action of the licensing authority.

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TOC, §53.052. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

- (a) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked or who has been denied a license or the opportunity to take an examination under Section [53.021](#) and who has exhausted the person's administrative appeals may file an action in the district court in the county in which the licensing authority is located for review of the evidence presented to the licensing authority and the decision of the licensing authority.
- (b) The petition for an action under Subsection (a) must be filed not later than the 30th day after the date the licensing authority's decision is final and appealable.

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SUBCHAPTER D. PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF LICENSE ELIGIBILITY

TOC, §53.105. FEES.

A licensing authority may charge a person requesting an evaluation under this subchapter a fee adopted by the authority. Fees adopted by a licensing authority under this subchapter must be in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of administering this subchapter.

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SUBCHAPTER E. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL INELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSE

TOC, §53.151. DEFINITIONS.

Notwithstanding Section [53.001](#), in this subchapter, "licensing authority" and "occupational license" have the meanings assigned to those terms by Section [58.001](#).

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SUBCHAPTER E. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL INELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSE

TOC, §53.152. NOTICE BY ENTITIES PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

- (a) An entity that provides an educational program to prepare an individual for issuance of an initial occupational license shall notify each applicant to and enrollee in the educational program of:
- (1) the potential ineligibility of an individual who has been convicted of an offense for issuance of an occupational license on completion of the educational program;
 - (2) the current guidelines issued under Section [53.025](#) by any licensing authority that may issue an occupational license to an individual who completes the educational program;
 - (3) any other state or local restriction or guideline used by a licensing authority described by Subdivision (2) to determine the eligibility of an individual who has been convicted of an offense for an occupational license issued by the licensing authority; and
 - (4) the right to request a criminal history evaluation letter under Section [53.102](#).
- (b) The entity shall provide the notice required under Subsection (a) to each applicant and enrollee regardless of whether the applicant or enrollee has been convicted of an offense.

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TOC, §53.153. REFUNDS AND ORDERED PAYMENTS.

A licensing authority that determines that an entity regulated by the licensing authority has failed to provide the notice required by Section [53.152](#) to an individual entitled to receive the notice and that the individual's application for an occupational license for which the entity's educational program prepares the individual was denied because the individual has been convicted of an offense shall order the entity to:

- (1) refund the amount of any tuition paid by the individual to the entity; 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 licensing authority; and
 - (B) the amount of any examination fees paid by the individual to the licensing authority or an examination provider approved by the licensing authority.

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TITLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO LICENSING
CHAPTER 54. EXAMINATION ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY;
EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSON WITH DYSLEXIA

TOC, §54.003. EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSON WITH DYSLEXIA.

- (a) In this section, "dyslexia" has the meaning assigned by Section [51.970](#), Education Code.
- (b) For each licensing examination administered by a state agency, the agency shall provide reasonable examination accommodations to an examinee diagnosed as having dyslexia.
- (c) Each state agency shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules to establish the eligibility criteria an examinee must meet for accommodation under this section.

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CHAPTER 55. LICENSING OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS, MILITARY VETERANS, AND
MILITARY SPOUSES

TOC, §55.001. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

- (1) "Active duty" means current full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States or active duty military service as a member of the Texas military forces, as defined by Section [437.001](#), Government Code, or similar military service of another state.
- (2) "Armed forces of the United States" means the army, navy, air force, space force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States or a reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed forces.
- (3) "License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or a state agency rule that must be obtained by an individual to engage in a particular business.
- (4) "Military service member" means a person who is on active duty.
- (5) "Military spouse" means a person who is married to a military service member.
- (6) "Military veteran" means a person who has served on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.
- (7) "State agency" means a department, board, bureau, commission, committee, division, office, council, or agency of the state.

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TOC, §55.002. EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO RENEW LICENSE.

A state agency that issues a license shall adopt rules to exempt an individual who holds a license issued by the agency from any increased fee or other penalty imposed by the agency for failing to renew the license in a timely manner if the individual establishes to the satisfaction of the agency that the individual failed to renew the license in a timely manner because the individual was serving as a military service member.

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TOC, §55.003. EXTENSION OF LICENSE RENEWAL DEADLINES FOR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS.

A military service member who holds a license is entitled to two years of additional time to complete:

- (1) any continuing education requirements; and
- (2) any other requirement related to the renewal of the military service member's license.

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**TOC, §55.004. ALTERNATIVE LICENSING FOR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS,
MILITARY VETERANS, AND MILITARY SPOUSES.**

- (a) A state agency that issues a license shall adopt rules for the issuance of the license to an applicant who is a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse and:
 - (1) holds a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in this state; or
 - (2) within the five years preceding the application date held the license in this state.
- (b) The executive director of a state agency may waive any prerequisite to obtaining a license for an applicant described by Subsection (a) after reviewing the applicant's credentials.
- (c) In addition to the rules adopted under Subsection (a), a state agency that issues a license may adopt rules that would establish alternate methods for a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse to demonstrate competency to meet the requirements for obtaining the license, including receiving appropriate credit for training, education, and clinical and professional experience.
- (d) A state agency that issues a license that has a residency requirement for license eligibility shall adopt rules regarding documentation necessary for a military spouse applicant to establish residency for purposes of this subsection, including by providing to the agency a copy of the permanent change of station order for the military service member to whom the spouse is married.

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TOC, §55.0041. RECOGNITION OF OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE OF MILITARY SPOUSE.

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a military spouse may engage in a business or occupation for which a license is required without obtaining the applicable license if the spouse is currently licensed in good standing by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in this state.
- (b) Before engaging in the practice of the business or occupation, the military spouse must:
 - (1) notify the applicable state agency of the spouse's intent to practice in this state;
 - (2) submit to the agency proof of the spouse's residency in this state in accordance with rules adopted under Section [55.004\(d\)](#) and a copy of the spouse's military identification card; and
 - (3) receive from the agency confirmation that:
 - (A) the agency has verified the spouse's license in the other jurisdiction; and
 - (B) the spouse is authorized to engage in the business or occupation in accordance with this section.
- (c) The military spouse shall comply with all other laws and regulations applicable to the business or occupation in this state.
- (d) A military spouse may engage in the business or occupation under the authority of this section only for the period during which the military service member to whom the military spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in this state but not to exceed three years from the date the spouse receives the confirmation described by Subsection (b)(3).
- (e) A state agency that issues a license shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules must establish a process for the agency to:
 - (1) identify, with respect to each type of license issued by the agency, the jurisdictions that have licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in this state; and
 - (2) verify that a military spouse is licensed in good standing in a jurisdiction described by Subdivision (1).
- (f) In addition to the rules adopted under Subsection (e), a state agency that issues a license may adopt rules to provide for the issuance of a license to a military spouse to whom the agency provides confirmation under Subsection (b)(3). A license issued under this subsection must expire not later than the third anniversary of the date the agency provided the confirmation and may not be renewed. A state agency may not charge a fee for the issuance of the license.

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**TOC, §55.005. EXPEDITED LICENSE PROCEDURE FOR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS,
MILITARY VETERANS, AND MILITARY SPOUSES.**

- (a) A state agency that issues a license shall, as soon as practicable after a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse files an application for a license:
 - (1) process the application; and
 - (2) issue the license to an applicant who qualifies for the license under Section [55.004](#).
- (b) A license issued under this section may not be a provisional license and must confer the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as a license not issued under this section.

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TOC, §55.006. RENEWAL OF EXPEDITED LICENSE ISSUED TO MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER, MILITARY VETERAN, OR MILITARY SPOUSE.

- (a) As soon as practicable after a state agency issues a license under Section [55.005](#), the state agency shall determine the requirements for the license holder to renew the license.
- (b) The state agency shall notify the license holder of the requirements for renewing the license in writing or by electronic means.
- (c) A license issued under Section [55.005](#) has the term established by law or state agency rule, or a term of 12 months from the date the license is issued, whichever term is longer.

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**TOC, §55.007. LICENSE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS WITH
MILITARY EXPERIENCE.**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a state agency that issues a license shall, with respect to an applicant who is a military service member or military veteran, credit verified military service, training, or education toward the licensing requirements, other than an examination requirement, for a license issued by the state agency.
- (b) The state agency shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.
- (c) Rules adopted under this section may not apply to an applicant who:
 - (1) holds a restricted license issued by another jurisdiction; or
 - (2) has an unacceptable criminal history according to the law applicable to the state agency.

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TOC, §55.008. APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANT WITH MILITARY EXPERIENCE.

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, if an apprenticeship is required for a license issued by a state agency, the state agency shall credit verified military service, training, or education that is relevant to the occupation toward the apprenticeship requirements for the license.
- (b) The state agency shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

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TOC, §55.009. LICENSE APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES.

Notwithstanding any other law, a state agency that issues a license shall waive the license application and examination fees paid to the state for an applicant who is:

- (1) a military service member or military veteran whose military service, training, or education substantially meets all of the requirements for the license; or
- (2) a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse who holds a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in this state.

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TOC, §55.010. NOTICE OF CHAPTER PROVISIONS.

A state agency that issues a license shall prominently post a notice on the home page of the agency's Internet website describing the provisions of this chapter that are available to military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.

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TITLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO LICENSING
CHAPTER 56. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST RECIPIENTS OF STUDENT FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED

**TOC, §56.003. DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN EVENT OF DEFAULT OR BREACH
PROHIBITED.**

A licensing authority may not take disciplinary action against a person based on the person's default on a student loan or breach of a student loan repayment contract or scholarship contract, including by:

- (1) denying the person's application for a license or license renewal;
- (2) suspending the person's license; or
- (3) taking other disciplinary action against the person.

TEXAS PENAL CODE
TITLE 5: OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON
CHAPTER 21. SEXUAL OFFENSES

TPC, §21.12. IMPROPER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATOR AND STUDENT.

- (a) An employee of a public or private primary or secondary school commits an offense if the employee:
- (1) engages in sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or deviate sexual intercourse with a person who is enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school at which the employee works;
 - (2) holds a position described by Section [21.003](#)(a) or (b), Education Code, regardless of whether the employee holds the appropriate certificate, permit, license, or credential for the position, and engages in sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or deviate sexual intercourse with a person the employee knows is:
 - (A) enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school, other than a school described by Subdivision (1); or
 - (B) a student participant in an educational activity that is sponsored by a school district or a public or private primary or secondary school, if students enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school are the primary participants in the activity; or
 - (3) engages in conduct described by Section [33.021](#), with a person described by Subdivision (1), or a person the employee knows is a person described by Subdivision (2)(A) or (B), regardless of the age of that person.
- (b) An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree.
- (b-1) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that:
- (1) the actor was the spouse of the enrolled person at the time of the offense; or
 - (2) the actor was not more than three years older than the enrolled person and, at the time of the offense, the actor and the enrolled person were in a relationship that began before the actor's employment at a public or private primary or secondary school.

(c) If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under another section of this code, the actor may be prosecuted under either section or both sections.

(d) The name of a person who is enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school and involved in an improper relationship with an educator as provided by Subsection (a) may not be released to the public and is not public information under Chapter [552](#), Government Code.

(d-1) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a public or private primary or secondary school, or a person or entity that operates a public or private primary or secondary school, may not release externally to the general public the name of an employee of the school who is accused of committing an offense under this section until the employee is indicted for the offense. The school, or the person or entity that operates the school, may release the name of the accused employee regardless of whether the employee has been indicted for the offense as necessary for the school to:

(1) report the accusation:

(A) to the Texas Education Agency, another state agency, or local law enforcement or as otherwise required by law; or

(B) to the school's members or community in accordance with the school's policies or procedures or with the religious law observed by the school; or

(2) conduct an investigation of the accusation.

(e) In this section, "sexual contact" means the following acts, if committed with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person:

(1) any touching by an employee of a public or private primary or secondary school of the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of:

(A) an enrolled person described by Subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2)(A); or

(B) a student participant described by Subsection (a)(2)(B); or

(2) any touching of any part of the body of the enrolled person or student participant with the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of the employee.

Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 United States Code (USC), §7926, Prohibition on Aiding and Abetting Sexual Abuse (excerpt):

(a) In general

A State, State educational agency, or local educational agency in the case of a local educational agency that receives Federal funds under this chapter shall have laws, regulations, or policies that prohibit any individual who is a school employee, contractor, or agent, or any State educational agency or local educational agency, from assisting a school employee, contractor, or agent in obtaining a new job, apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files, if the individual or agency knows, or has probable cause to believe, that such school employee, contractor, or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor or student in violation of the law.