

Item 16:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve New Class of Certificate at Region 13 Education Service Center

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve a request by Education Service Center 13, an approved and accredited educator preparation program (EPP) located in Austin, Texas, to offer the Reading Specialist class of certificate as part of their certificate inventory.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority related to the approval of new classes of certification are the Texas Education Code, §21.0443 and §21.044.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon SBEC approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: The SBEC approves all new classes of certificates that are offered through an EPP. An EPP must be rated "Accredited" under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation to be eligible to add new classes to program offerings.

House Bill (HB) 3, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, stopped the issuance of Master Teacher certifications effective September 1, 2019. The implementation date of the statute did not allow currently active programs with Master Teacher candidates time to complete their program. Education Service Center (ESC) 13 has applied to offer the Reading Specialist class of certificate to minimize the impact to their current cohort of candidates. The EPP has attested to the following:

- The program is currently approved to offer the Master Reading Teacher (MRT) certificate in the alternative certificate route;
- The program is actively preparing candidates for the MRT certificate and these candidates will not be able to complete requirements before the MRT certificate expires on 9/1/2019;
- The program has the standards-based curriculum to support preparation of candidates for the Reading Specialist certificate;
- The program knows and will abide by the requirements in Texas Administrative Code for preparing and certifying candidates in the Reading Specialist certificate class; and
- The program is currently Accredited.

PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT: Approving a new class of certificate offering will increase the number of certified Reading Specialists in the state.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Reading Specialist class of certificate at Education Service Center 13 as presented.

Staff Members Responsible:

Grace Wu, Director, Educator Standards, Testing, and Preparation

Tam Jones, Director, Educator Preparation

Attachment:

Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Classes of Certification

ATTACHMENT

Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Classes of Certification

Texas Education Code, §21.0443, Educator Preparation (excerpts):

- (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 adequately prepare candidates for educator certification and meet the standards and requirements of the board.

Texas Education Code, §21.044, Educator Preparation (excerpt):

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.