

For guidance and FAQs for current educators and staff please see the **Guidance for Current Educators and Staff - Educator Evaluations and Non-renewal** document located under the [Current Educator Evaluation and Support](#).

For guidance and FAQs for educator certification and preparation – *for candidates completing programs in the 2019-20 academic year* - please also see the **Guidance on Educator Certification and Preparation** document located under [Educator Certification and Preparation](#).

Intern and Emergency Permit Waiver FAQs: Section Topics

Click on the links below to go directly to that section of the FAQ.

- [Intern Certification](#)
- [Internships, Clinical Teaching, Practicums, and Field-based Experiences](#)
- [Emergency Permits](#)

Under the public health crisis's social distancing requirements, educator certification testing centers have been closed for extended periods or operating at significantly reduced capacity, limiting the ability of educators and educator candidates to complete certification exam requirements necessary to receive certification. Additionally, preparation programs may be unable to complete requirements for in-person clinical experiences and observations for the upcoming school year.

To manage the impact of the public health crisis on educator certification and preparation programs, Governor Abbott has suspended certain requirements to provide flexibility for candidates, districts, and educator preparation programs for the 2020-21 school year.

Intern Certification:

- The requirement that a candidate must pass the appropriate content pedagogy exam(s) for the issuance of an Intern certificate has been suspended for Intern certificates issued prior to October 1, 2020.

Questions from EPPs

1. **Who is eligible for the new Waiver Intern (WINT) certificate?** [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Candidates who meet all other requirements for Intern certification in TAC 230.36, other than the content pedagogy testing requirement. This includes holding a bachelor's degree, being admitted to an EPP, and actively completing an internship.

As noted in 19 TAC 230.36(b)(1), a bachelor's degree is not required for certain career and technical education certificates based on skill and experience. Such candidates would not be required to hold a bachelor's degree for the issuance of the WINT. Please see 19 TAC 233.14 for these certificates and the additional related requirements.

2. Does the waived test requirement extend to the PPR exam as well? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Traditionally, intern certificates require only the relevant non-PPR exams to be completed. The waiver allows for the issuance of the intern certificate without candidates meeting that requirement. Since the PPR is not required for the issuance of intern certificates, it is not involved with this waiver. Teacher candidates will need to complete all exams, including the PPR or edTPA, for standard certification.

3. What support is required from EPPs for candidates on the WINT certificate? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

EPPs must provide all supports for internships completed under the WINT as any other internship. This includes a minimum of five formal observations.

4. Do late-hire provisions apply to WINT certificates? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

The Governor's waiver does not impact the late-hire provisions. Per TAC 228.2(26), if a candidate is hired within 45 days of the first day of school, late-hire provisions apply.

5. What content area should we approve for the WINT certificate? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

EPPs should approve the content area(s) for which the candidate is being prepared and has a placement. The requirements for content area placements and EPP support are not impacted by the waiver.

6. How do these waivers impact admission requirements? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

These waivers do not impact admission requirements.

7. What are the EPP reporting requirements for the WINT certificates? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

EPPs will need to complete the Intern Certificates Recommended under Governor Waiver reporting spreadsheet. This form will be made available to EPPs on the Preparation Program Resources webpage.

8. Will candidates who have already worked for three years under intern or probationary certifications be eligible for the WINT? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

No. The waiver did not impact 19 TAC 230.36(c)(4). Candidates who have already worked for three 12-month periods on a combination of intern, probationary, and one-year certificates or emergency permits are not eligible for this certificate.

9. Is there something special that EPPs will need to do to recommend these WINT certificates? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Yes. EPPs will need to select the override option when recommending these certificates. Please see the Guidance for EPPs document for step-by-step instructions.

10. Are candidates who are hired after the October 1, 2020 deadline for issuance eligible for this certificate? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

No.

11. Is the WINT certificate available for clinical teacher candidates? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

No. Candidates need to be completing an internship to hold this certificate.

12. Is the WINT available for non-teacher candidates? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Yes. However, non-teacher candidates also need to be completing an internship and meet all other requirements to be eligible for the intern certificate.

13. Are candidates who have not passed their supplemental exam eligible to obtain an intern certificate for the supplemental area? For example, can a candidate who has passed Core Subjects EC-6 but not yet passed the ESL Supplemental be issued a WINT for just the ESL Supplemental? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Candidates who will be completing an internship towards certification that requires a supplemental exam are eligible for the WINT. Candidates should apply for and EPPs should recommend the certificate using the WINT procedure.

14. Is the Science of Teaching Reading exam also waived for issuance of the WINT? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

The Science of Teaching Reading exam is not a requirement for certification until after 12/30/2020. Since all WINT certificates must be issued before October 1, 2020, the STR requirement is not relevant to the WINT.

15. Are the 150 hours of training and 30 hours of Field-Based Experiences still required for the WINT? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Yes. The only requirement for the Intern certificate that was waived was the testing requirement. All other requirements and provisions remain in place.

Questions from Candidates

1. What constitutes a complete candidate application? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

A complete candidate application is the correct online application (in this case, Intern Certificate Texas Program) submitted by the candidate with the required \$78 fee; verification of fingerprint complete status; and an EPP online recommendation for issuance of the certificate.

2. What steps do I take to apply for this intern certificate? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Follow the step-by-step instructions in the forthcoming guidance to submit your online application and payment to TEA.

3. What is an intern certificate good for? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

An intern certificate issued in the appropriate teacher or non-teacher certification area allows a candidate to complete an internship as part of an educator preparation program and to be appropriately certified to serve in that role during the one-year validity period of the credential.

4. How long is an intern certificate valid for? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

An intern certificate is valid for one year. To hold an intern certificate, the candidate must be completing an internship as part of an educator preparation program.

5. What happens once I take and pass my certification exams after being issued the intern certificate? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Candidates who complete their certification exams still need to complete the full one-year internship and any other requirements of their program prior to being eligible for a standard certificate.

6. Will there be any leeway for fingerprinting of teacher candidates who will not be able to go in for digital fingerprinting at this time? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

In the interest of student safety, TEA is not planning to modify fingerprinting requirements for certificate applicants, non-certified employees, or any other individuals required to fingerprint for TEA or the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC).

Internships, Clinical Teaching, Practicums, and Field-Based Experiences:

UPDATED
9/10/2020

- The requirement that internships, clinical teaching experiences, and practicums must occur in actual school settings rather than virtual school settings has been suspended.
- The requirement that observations of teacher candidates must occur in a face-to-face setting has been suspended.
- The field-based experience requirement that only 15 of the 30 required hours may occur in a virtual school setting has been suspended.

Questions from EPPs

1. What constitutes a virtual school setting? Does this mean that clinical teaching can be completed using simulations? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

School settings require actual teachers and students. Clinical teaching requirements include working with a cooperating teacher and demonstrating proficiency in each of the educator standards for the assignment.

2. Does this impact the number of days that are required for clinical teaching? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

No.

3. Does the field supervisor need to be physically present with the candidate when the observation occurs? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

No. Observations can be conducted with the field supervisor present virtually in the virtual space. EPPs, candidates, field supervisors, and districts may need to collaborate to obtain the necessary access for field supervisors.

4. Does this impact the overall hours required for field-based experiences? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

No. The requirement of 30 hours of field-based experiences remains. The waiver allows for all hours to be conducted in a virtual setting.

5. If the Governor's waiver expires and my candidates have not completed their clinical teaching experience or internship that they started while the waiver was in place, and the setting remains virtual, will the setting become out of compliance? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

The SBEC is considering rulemaking on an accelerated timeline to adjust TAC to allow for clinical teaching, internships, and practicums to occur in virtual settings for the duration of the 2020-2021 academic year.

6. How do field supervisors conduct virtual observations? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

EPPs, candidates, and their LEA partners currently collaborate to identify the logistics for in-person field observations. Similarly, this collaboration will extend to identify the logistics for conducting observations in a virtual setting.

7. For candidates beginning their clinical teaching, internship, or practicum in Fall 2020, does the optional 20% reduction in duration apply if the Governor's Disaster Declaration is in place at the beginning of the appointment?

Yes, so long as the disaster declaration is in place at the beginning of the assignment. Per 19 TAC §228.1(d), if the clinical teaching, internship, or practicum occurs during the declared disaster, the total required duration may be decreased by up to 20%.

Questions from Candidates Entering Clinical Teaching

1. My program says that I need to pass the content pedagogy exam before I can do my clinical teaching. Does this waiver remove that requirement? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

The content pedagogy exam is not a requirement for clinical teaching from the SBEC. We encourage EPPs and candidates to collaborate to identify appropriate standards at this time.

Emergency Permits:

- For individuals with emergency permits that were effective for the 2019-2020 school year, the requirements prohibiting the renewal of the one-year emergency permit have been suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.

Questions from Districts

1. Can an emergency permit be reissued for the 2020-2021 school year? [Posted June 9, 2020](#)

Yes, the governor has suspended SBEC rules specific to emergency permit renewal. This will allow the employing districts to submit an online application and \$57 fee to re-issue the emergency permit valid for one additional year during the 2020-2021 school year.

This is not an automatic renewal of the emergency permit. Employing districts must initiate this process by submitting the emergency permit application for those certified educators that served on a permit during the 2019-2020 school year, that they intend to employ in the same assignment for the 2020-2021 school year.