TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
1701 North Congress Ave. • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • www.tea.state.tx.us

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of explanation regarding the three routes for obtaining a Texas educator certificate.

Option 1: Obtain a credential from another state or country and apply for an out-of-state or out-of-country review of credentials.

Option 2: Obtain a certificate by completing an approved educator preparation program. A list of approved programs is found on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website.

Option 3: A teacher who holds a valid Texas classroom teaching certificate and a bachelor's degree may add classroom certification areas by successfully completing the appropriate certification examination(s) for the area(s) sought.

An educator may complete a traditional approved undergraduate program or complete an approved alternative certification program. The alternative educator preparation program is recognized and approved by the state legislature and the State Board for Educator Certification.

Persons selected for the Alternative Certification Program hold a bachelor's degree and a minimum overall grade point average as established by the individual program prior to admission. The program typically features a supervised teaching internship of at least one school year and intensive workshops, a supervised twelve week clinical teaching assignment, coursework, or training designed for the particular certification area sought. During the one-year internship, the individual works as a full-time teacher under the guidance of a trained mentor. The student contact hours during this intensive teacher training program usually exceed that of the one-semester student teaching experience found in traditional undergraduate programs. The clinical teaching assignment is equivalent to the student teaching experience found in traditional undergraduate programs.

Upon completion of all requirements, the individual is recommended for a Texas teacher certificate by the program director, in agreement with the campus principal and mentor. The Standard Certificate is the regular, full certification issued in Texas, renewable upon completion of continuing professional education.

An individual's certificate may be found on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website. The information presented on this secure website is the official record of the educator's certification status and TEA no longer provides a printed certificate to an educator. First and last names must be entered to locate an educator's certification. The name must match what is in the TEA database. An educator has been given access to their certificate through the secure website. A copy may be printed by the educator.

Sincerely,

Janice Lopez, Ph.D.
Director Educator Standards, Certification & Fingerprinting