

## Item 22:

# Discussion of Educator Testing Contract and Request for Proposal

### DISCUSSION

**SUMMARY:** This item provides an update to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) on activities completed by staff to date as relates to the request for proposal (RFP) for the next four-year educator testing contract.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:** At the December 9, 2016 SBEC meeting, the TEA provided the Board with an update on the educator certification testing program. ETS is the main testing vendor for the Texas certification program, and the most recent testing contract ended on August 31, 2016. The agency has been able to utilize both one-year contract extensions to maintain test administration activities and continue priority test development work through August 31, 2018, while also anticipating the award of the next four-year testing contract in spring of 2018.

Following issuance of the contract award, TEA staff will present a discussion item at the May 18, 2018 meeting to provide the Board with additional information and key activities planned over the next four years that align with the Board's certificate structure redesign framework and the agency's strategic priority to recruit, support, and retain teachers and principals.

The focus of those activities will center around:

- stronger educator preparation for candidates that aligns with SBEC-adopted educator standards,
- rigorous and relevant examinations that better prepare candidates for the first day in their roles, and
- proactive steps by agency staff, educator preparation programs, and local education agencies to support certification candidates throughout the process and align efforts to retain certified educators and administrators in their key roles.

Attachment I includes a timeline of activities completed to date as relates to the RFP for the next four-year educator testing contract. It should be noted that all dates except the completion date may vary slightly as conditions require. Attachment II provides a visual graphic of the roles and responsibilities of the SBEC, TEA staff, EPPs, the commissioner, and contracted vendor(s) in ensuring the educator certification testing program and all components critical to its success are established, executed, and evaluated in a timely manner.

#### **Staff Members Responsible:**

Marilyn Cook, Director, Educator Certification and Testing

Becky McCoy, Manager, Educator Testing

Jennifer Perez, Program Specialist, Educator Testing

#### **Attachments:**

- I. Timeline of Educator Testing RFP Activities
- II. Roles/Responsibilities Critical to Educator Testing Program

**Attachment I**  
**Timeline of Educator Testing RFP Activities**

Date	RFP Activity	Summary
September 18, 2017	RFP Publication	Publication of Request for Proposals in the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) at <a href="http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid+143818">http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid+143818</a> . RFP 701-19-001, Texas Educator Certification Examination Program was released to the public.
October 2, 2017	Proposer's Conference	We had 21 interested parties present representing 9 firms in addition to our key program staff. We have received and responded to approximately 44 questions. The attendee list and an overview of the conference are posted on the ESBD. The RFP, all associated documents, and the Q&As are currently posted on the ESBD for review.
October 6, 2017	Notice of Intent	Due in the TEA Purchasing, Contracts and Agency Services (PCAS) Division Office by the specified date and time.
October 25, 2017	RFP Questions	Last day to submit written questions about the RFP to PCAS Division no later than 5:00 PM, Central Time.
November 8, 2017	Q&As Published	Publication of final Questions and Answers document in the ESBD.
December 15, 2017	Proposals Due	Proposal is due in the TEA PCAS Division before 2:00 PM, Central Time.
December 18, 2017 – February 16, 2018	Proposal Evaluations	Evaluation process, oral presentations, and/or negotiations.
February 16 – March 2, 2018	Recommendation	Recommendation forwarded to an executive steering committee, comprised of TEA senior staff members, for review, and presented to the Commissioner of Education for approval and signature authority.
March 5, 2018	Selection of Proposer	Testing contract awarded.
March – August 2018	Contract Transition	Transition to the new contract.
September 1, 2018	Beginning Date of Contract	Commencement of work under new contract.
August 31, 2022	Ending Date of Contract	The work to begin the process for next contract period will be well underway in preparation of this date.

**Attachment II**  
**Roles/Responsibilities Critical to Educator Testing Program**

