

ATTACHMENT I
Text of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC

Chapter 232. General Certification Provisions

Subchapter A. Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements

§232.7. Requirements for Certificate Renewal.

- (a) The Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall develop procedures to:
- (1) notify educators at least six months prior to the expiration of the renewal period to the email address as specified in §230.91 of this title (relating to Procedures in General);
 - (2) confirm compliance with all renewal requirements pursuant to this subchapter;
 - (3) notify educators who are not renewed due to noncompliance with this section; and
 - (4) verify that educators applying for reactivation of certificate(s) under §232.9 of this title (relating to Inactive Status and Late Renewal) are in compliance with subsection (c) of this section.
- (b) The TEA staff shall administratively approve each hardship exemption request that meets the criteria specified in paragraphs (1)-(4) [~~(1)-(3)~~] of this subsection.
- (1) A hardship exemption must be due to one of the following circumstances that prevented the educator's completion of renewal requirements:
 - (A) catastrophic illness or injury of the educator;
 - (B) catastrophic illness or injury of an immediate family member; or
 - (C) military service of the educator.
 - (2) The request for a hardship exemption must include documentation from a licensed physician or verified military records.
 - (3) The request for the amount of time allowed for renewal is equal to:
 - (A) the amount of time that a licensed physician determined that the educator was not able to complete renewal requirements due to the educator's catastrophic illness or injury; or
 - (B) the amount of time that a licensed physician determined that the educator was not able to complete renewal requirements due to the catastrophic illness or injury of an immediate family member; or
 - (C) two years of additional time for a military service member, in accordance with the Texas Occupations Code, §55.003.
 - (4) A hardship exemption may be approved for a local education agency on behalf of an educator who has an invalid certificate due to lack of earning the required continuing professional education (CPE) hours as prescribed in §232.11 of this title (relating to Number of Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours). The hardship exemption is valid for the academic year of the application and may be renewed up to one additional academic year, provided that the superintendent or designee of the local education agency requests the extension.
 - (5) [~~(4)~~] If a hardship exemption request is approved, the educator must pay the appropriate renewal fee, pursuant to §230.101 of this title (relating to Schedule of Fees for Certification Services).
- (c) To be eligible for renewal, an educator must:
- (1) subject to §232.16(c) of this title (relating to Verification of Renewal Requirements), satisfy CPE [~~continuing professional education~~] requirements, pursuant to §232.11 of this title [~~(relating to Number and Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours)~~];

- (2) hold a valid standard certificate that is not currently suspended and has not been surrendered in lieu of revocation or revoked by lawful authority;
 - (3) not be a respondent in a disciplinary proceeding under Chapter 249 of this title (relating to Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases);
 - (4) successfully resolve any reported criminal history, as defined by §249.3 of this title (relating to Definitions);
 - (5) not be in arrears of child support, pursuant to the Texas Family Code, Chapter 232;
 - (6) pay the renewal fee, provided in §230.101 of this title, which shall be a single fee regardless of the number of certificates being renewed; and
 - (7) submit fingerprints in accordance with §232.35(c) of this title (relating to Submission of Required Information) and the Texas Education Code [TEC] , §22.0831.
- (d) The TEA staff shall renew the certificate(s) of an educator who meets all requirements of this subchapter.

§232.11. Number and Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours.

- (a) The appropriate number of clock-hours of continuing professional education (CPE) must be completed during each five-year renewal period.
- (b) One semester credit hour earned at an accredited institution of higher education is equivalent to 15 CPE clock-hours.
- (c) Required Content. ~~[Other than hours earned to comply with subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (k) of this section, professional development activities shall be related to the certificate(s) being renewed and focus on the standards required for issuance of the certificate(s), including:]~~
 - (1) All educators must receive CPE training regarding educating students with disabilities. This training must include information particular to educating students with dyslexia.
 - (2) Other than hours earned to comply with subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (k) of this section, professional development activities shall be related to the certificate(s) being renewed and focus on the standards required for issuance of the certificate(s), including:
 - (A) ~~[(1)]~~ content area knowledge and skills; and
 - (B) ~~[(2)]~~ professional ethics and standards of conduct.
- (d) Classroom Teacher.
 - (1) Classroom teacher certificate holders shall complete 150 clock-hours.
 - (2) A classroom teacher who renews a certificate prior to September 1, 2023, must attain some [at least 37.5] hours of CPE that includes training directly related to each of the following topics and may include two or more listed topics combined:
 - (A) collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;
 - (B) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;
 - (C) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into classroom instruction;
 - (D) educating diverse student populations, including:
 - ~~[(i) — students who are eligible to participate in special education programs under Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 29, Subchapter A;]~~
 - ~~[(ii) — students who are eligible to receive educational services required under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (29 United States Code (USC), Section 794);]~~
 - ~~[(iii) — students with mental health conditions or who engage in substance abuse;]~~

~~[(iv) — students with intellectual or developmental disabilities;]~~

~~(i) [(v)] students who are educationally disadvantaged; and~~

~~[(vi) — students of limited English proficiency; and]~~

~~(ii) [(vii)] students at risk of dropping out of school; and~~

(E) understanding appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students . ~~[; and]~~

~~[(F) — 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. The instruction must:]~~

~~[(i) — comply with the training required by TEC, §38.036(e)(1); and]~~

~~[(ii) — be approved by the commissioner of education.]~~

~~(3) For a classroom teacher who renews a certificate on or after September 1, 2023, not more than 37.5 hours of CPE training shall include instruction in, and must be directly related to, each of the following topics and may include two or more listed topics combined:~~

~~(A) collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;~~

~~(B) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;~~

~~(C) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into classroom instruction;~~

~~(D) educating diverse student populations, including:~~

~~(i) students who are educationally disadvantaged; and~~

~~(ii) students at risk of dropping out of school; and~~

~~(E) understanding appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students.~~

(e) Principal and Principal as Instructional Leader.

(1) Principal and Principal as Instructional Leader certificate holders shall complete 200 clock-hours.

(2) A principal and principal as instructional leader who renews a certificate prior to September 1, 2023, must attain some ~~[at least 50]~~ hours of CPE that include training directly related to each of the following topics:

(A) effective and efficient management, including:

(i) collecting and analyzing information;

(ii) making decisions and managing time; and

(iii) supervising student discipline and managing behavior;

(B) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

(C) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into campus curriculum and instruction;

(D) effective implementation of the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs under TEC, §33.005;

(E) mental health programs addressing a mental health condition;

(F) educating diverse student populations, including:

~~[(i) — students who are eligible to participate in special education programs under TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A;]~~

~~[(ii) — students with intellectual or developmental disabilities;]~~

~~[(iii) — students who are eligible to receive educational services required under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (29 USC, Section 794);]~~

~~[(iv) — students with mental health conditions or who engage in substance abuse;]~~

~~(i) [(v)]~~ students who are educationally disadvantaged;

~~(ii) [(vi)]~~ emergent bilingual students ~~[of limited English proficiency]~~; and

~~(iii) [(vii)]~~ students at risk of dropping out of school; and

(G) preventing, recognizing, and reporting any sexual conduct between an educator and student that is prohibited under Texas Penal Code, §21.12, or for which reporting is required under TEC, §21.006; and

~~[(H) — 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. The instruction must be:~~

~~[(i) — based on relevant best practice-based programs and research-based practices; and]~~

~~[(ii) — approved by the commissioner, in consultation with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission;]~~

(3) For a principal and principal as instructional leader who renews a certificate on or after September 1, 2023, not more than 50 hours of CPE training shall include instruction in, and must be directly related to, each of the following topics and may include two or more listed topics combined:

(A) effective and efficient management, including:

(i) collecting and analyzing information;

(ii) making decisions and managing time; and

(iii) supervising student discipline and managing behavior;

(B) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

(C) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into campus curriculum and instruction;

(D) effective implementation of the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs under TEC, §33.005;

(E) mental health programs addressing a mental health condition;

(F) educating diverse student populations, including:

(i) students who are educationally disadvantaged;

(ii) emergent bilingual students; and

(iii) students at risk of dropping out of school; and

(G) preventing, recognizing, and reporting any sexual conduct between an educator and student that is prohibited under Texas Penal Code, §21.12, or for which reporting is required under TEC, §21.006.

- (f) School Counselor.
- (1) School Counselor certificate holders shall complete 200 clock-hours.
 - (2) A school counselor who renews a certificate prior to September 1, 2024, must attain some [at least 50] hours of CPE that include training directly related to each of the following topics:
 - (A) assisting students in developing high school graduation plans;
 - (B) implementing dropout prevention strategies;
 - (C) informing students concerning:
 - (i) college admissions, including college financial aid resources and application procedures; and
 - (ii) career opportunities;
 - (D) 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
 - (E) effective implementation of the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs under TEC, §33.005.
 - (3) For a school counselor who renews a certificate on or after September 1, 2024, not more than 50 hours of CPE training shall include instruction in, and must be directly related to, each of the following topics and may include two or more listed topics combined:
 - (A) assisting students in developing high school graduation plans;
 - (B) implementing dropout prevention strategies;
 - (C) informing students concerning:
 - (i) college admissions, including college financial aid resources and application procedures; and
 - (ii) career opportunities;
 - (D) 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
 - (E) effective implementation of the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs under TEC, §33.005.
- (g) Superintendent.
- (1) Superintendent certificate holders shall complete 200 clock-hours.
 - (2) An individual who holds a superintendent certificate that is renewed on or after January 1, 2021, must complete at least 2.5 hours of training every five years on identifying and reporting potential victims of sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, in accordance with TEC, §21.054(h). For purposes of this subsection, "other maltreatment" has the meaning assigned by Human Resources Code, §42.002.
- (h) School Librarian and Learning Resources Specialist certificate holders shall complete 200 clock-hours.
- (i) Educational Diagnostician certificate holders shall complete 200 clock-hours.
- (j) Reading Specialist certificate holders shall complete 200 clock-hours.
- (k) The required CPE for educators who teach students with dyslexia must include training regarding new research and practices in educating students with dyslexia. The required training may be satisfied through an online course approved by Texas Education Agency staff.
- (l) Professional development activities may include:

- (1) an evidence-based mental health first aid training program or an evidence-based grief-informed and trauma-informed care program that is offered through a classroom instruction format that requires in-person attendance. A person receiving this training will receive twice the number of hours of instruction provided under that program, not to exceed 16 hours;
 - (2) suicide prevention training that meets the guidelines for suicide prevention training approved under the TEC, §21.451;
 - (3) an instructional course on the use of an automated external defibrillator [~~(AED)~~] in accordance with the guidelines established by the device's manufacturer and approved by the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, other nationally recognized associations, or the medical director of a local emergency medical services provider [~~that meets the guidelines for AED training approved under Texas Health and Safety Code, §779.002~~] , in accordance with the TEC, §21.0541; [~~and~~]
 - (4) education courses that:
 - (A) use technology to increase the educator's digital literacy; and
 - (B) assist the educator in the use of digital technology in learning activities that improve teaching, assessment, and instructional practices ; [~~z~~]
 - (5) educating students with mental health conditions, including how 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;
 - (6) for classroom teachers, educating emergent bilingual students; and
 - (7) educating students who engage in substance abuse.
- (m) An educator holding multiple classes of certificates shall complete the higher number of required CPE clock-hours in the classes held during each five-year renewal period unless otherwise specified in applicable State Board for Educator Certification rules codified in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 7.
- (n) An educator eligible to renew multiple classes of certificates issued during the same renewal period may satisfy the requirements for any class of certificate issued for less than the full five-year period by completing a prorated number of the required CPE clock-hours. Educators must complete a minimum of one-fifth of the additional CPE clock-hours for each full calendar year that the additional class of certificate is valid.