

TEXAS EDUCATION CODE  
TITLE 2. PUBLIC EDUCATION  
SUBTITLE D. EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS  
CHAPTER 21. EDUCATORS  
SUBCHAPTER B. CERTIFICATION OF EDUCATORS

**TEC, §21.052. CERTIFICATION OF EDUCATORS FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE.**

- (a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who applies for a certificate and:
  - (1) holds:
    - (A) a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board; or
    - (B) a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described by Paragraph (A);
  - (2) holds an appropriate certificate or other credential issued by another state or country; and
  - (3) performs satisfactorily on:
    - (A) the examination prescribed under Section [21.048](#); or
    - (B) if the educator holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state or country, an examination similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.
- (a-1) The commissioner may adopt rules establishing exceptions to the examination requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(3) for an educator from outside the state, including military service members, military spouses, and military veterans, to obtain a certificate in this state.
- (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(2), a person is considered to hold a certificate or other credential if the credential is not valid solely because it has expired.
- (b-1) The board shall propose rules in accordance with Chapter [55](#), Occupations Code, to establish procedures to expedite the processing of an application for a certificate under this section submitted by an educator who is a military veteran or military spouse, including rules for providing a permanent change of station order for purposes of establishing residency and for providing a military identification card.
- (c) The board may issue a temporary certificate under this section to an educator who holds a degree required by Subsection (a)(1) and a certificate or other credential required by Subsection (a)(2) but who has not satisfied the requirements prescribed by Subsection (a)(3). Subject to Subsections (d) and (d-1), the board may specify the term of a temporary certificate issued under this subsection.
- (d) A temporary certificate issued under Subsection (c) to an educator employed by a school district that has constructed or expanded at least one instructional facility as a result of increased student enrollment due to actions taken under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. Section 2687) may not expire before the first anniversary of the date on which the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section [21.048](#) on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

- (d-1) A temporary certificate issued under Subsection (c) to an educator who is the spouse of a person who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States may not expire before the third anniversary of the date on which the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section [21.048](#) on which the educator must perform satisfactorily to receive a standard certificate.
- (e) An educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a temporary certificate as provided by Subsection (c) must perform satisfactorily on the examination prescribed under Section [21.048](#) not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the educator's credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section [21.048](#) on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.
- (f) The board shall post on the board's Internet website the procedures for obtaining a certificate under Subsection (a) and the notice required under Section [55.010](#), Occupations Code.
- (g) Repealed by Acts 2017, 85th Leg., R.S., Ch. 757 (S.B. [1839](#)), Sec. 12(2), eff. June 12, 2017.
- (h) This subsection applies only to an applicant who holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state in mathematics, science, special education, or bilingual education, or another subject area that the commissioner determines has a shortage of teachers. In any state fiscal year, the board shall accept or reject, not later than the 14th day after the date the board receives the completed application, at least 90 percent of the applications the board receives for a certificate under this subsection, and shall accept or reject all completed applications the board receives under this subsection not later than the 30th day after the date the board receives the completed application. An applicant under this subsection must submit:
  - (1) a letter of good standing from the state in which the teacher is certified on a form determined by the board;
  - (2) information necessary to complete a national criminal history record information review; and
  - (3) an application fee as required by the board.
    - (i) In this section:
      - (1) "Active duty" means current full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States or active duty military service as a member of the Texas military forces, as defined by Section [437.001](#), Government Code, or similar military service of another state.
      - (2) "Armed forces of the United States" means the army, navy, air force, space force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States or a reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed forces.
      - (3) "Military service member" means a person who is on active duty.
      - (4) "Military spouse" means a person who is married to a military service member.
      - (5) "Military veteran" means a person who has served on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.