**CAEP Accountability Measure 3**

**Candidate Competency at Program Completion—Initial Level**

**State Required TExES Content Examination**

**Purpose of Assessment:**

Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) is not an individual test but refers to all of the content tests offered by the state of Texas. Texas Administrative Code §230.21(a) requires every person seeking educator certification in Texas to perform satisfactorily on comprehensive examinations. The purpose of these examinations is to ensure that each educator has the prerequisite content and professional knowledge necessary for an entry-level position in Texas public schools. The TExES program serves this purpose. The authority for implementing this assessment program resides with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). All tests contain multiple choice questions, and some have open ended or oral responses. Content test refers to the specific test required for a certification area. Every teacher certification seeking candidate must pass the content test to demonstrate they understand the content in which they wish to teach.

Each program receives a report from the PCOE Office of Assessment and Accountability that includes scores from candidates that took the TExES test. These results are made available to support-evidence based program improvement.

**Details of Assessment Administration:**

**The point when the assessment is administered during the preparation programs for each program follows:**

**Field Experience**

**TExES Content Test Administered:**

* EC6 –Field Experience II
* MLG (Grades 4-8) – Field Experience II
* Secondary and All-Level – Field Experience (semester prior to clinical teaching)

Test takers are limited to 5 attempts on any certification test under [Texas Education Code §21.048(a-1)](https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm#21.048). The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) has defined the waiver application process in [Chapter 230, Subchapter C of the Texas Administrative Code](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/sbecrules/tac/chapter230/ch230c.html) and authorized TEA staff to administer the waiver process. <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/test-limit-waiver-information>

If a candidate is not successful on any certification exam, Stephen F. Austin State University supports candidates in requesting the waiver indicated below.

Request for Waiver of the 5-time Testing Limitation of Certification Examination

The Texas Education Code Section 21.048 (a-1) specifies that a person may not retake an examination more than four times unless the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) waives the limitation for good cause. The SBEC has adopted waiver rules under 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 230, Subchapter C, specifying good cause and the application process.

You cannot submit your waiver request until the following timelines have been satisfied:

1. First-Time Waiver Applicants: Applications must not be postmarked sooner than 45 calendar days after the last unsuccessful examination attempt.

2.Applicants Applying After Denial of Initial Waiver Request: Applications must not be postmarked sooner than 90 calendar days after the date of the most recent denied waiver request.

3. Applicants Previously Granted Waiver Approval Who Were Unsuccessful on Waiver Exam Attempt: Applications must not be postmarked sooner than 180 calendar days after the date of the most recent unsuccessful examination attempt.

The SBEC has authorized TEA staff to administratively approve waiver applications that meet all requirements. The evaluation process will take several weeks after all required documentation has been received. Processing will be delayed if an application is incomplete or includes educational activities from non-approved providers. In fairness to other applicants, applications needing corrections are pulled and placed at the end of the queue.

The application can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/Test%20Limit%20Waiver%20Application%20May%202019.pdf>.

**Evaluation/Assessment Measure:** A passing score on a TExES exam is 240. The Core Subjects EC-6 and Core Subjects 4-8 exams are divided into sections. A score of 240 is required for each section.

**How the evaluation is used to measure candidate progress:** All candidates must pass the appropriate TExES exam for their certification area in order to move into clinical teaching. If a candidate has not passed their content exam prior to clinical teaching, there is an appeal process with the Office of Assessment and Accountability. A candidate must have attempted the test once prior to the beginning of clinical teaching and be able to test again prior to the 12th SFA class day. If a candidate is unsuccessful on the test again, they are required to drop their clinical teaching classes and their placement with the school district is cancelled.

In addition, all candidates must achieve a passing score of 240 or higher in order to be recommended by the SFA EPP to the Texas Education Agency for licensure.

**Analysis and Interpretation:**

SFA teacher candidates took 766 content exams and passed 683 of those attempts in 2021-2022. This resulted in an overall pass rate of 89%. Additionally, review of results indicated that when disaggregated by gender and ethnicity, the EPP met the state required minimum score of 75% across each of these variables for all programs with more than 10 tests except Core Subjects 4-8. The EPP will monitor to see if this resurfaces as a pattern in coming years. Additionally, the EPP has adopted edTPA as a unit assessment to gather more detailed data on teacher candidate performance and areas for possible support. These data are being used to support continuous improvement.