**CAEP Accountability Measure 3**

**Candidate Competency at Program Completion**

**Advanced Level**

**Advanced Level: 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:** These tests are administered by the Pearson Testing Company.

**The point when the assessment is administered during the preparation program:** Advanced candidates take their content test part of program culmination.

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 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.

**How the evaluation is used to measure candidate progress:** 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 advanced candidates took 186 content exams and passed 180 of those attempts in 2020-2021. This resulted in an overall pass rate of 98%. Additionally, review of results indicated that when disaggregated by gender and ethnicity, the advanced programs met the required minimum score of 75% across each of these variables, with a ranges from 90%-100%, thus indicating sufficient content knowledge. Braille is one test required for the Visual Impairment add-on certification and had a content pass rate below 75% when disaggregated by race but this was with less than ten (N=3) test takers. The EPP will monitor to see if this resurfaces as a pattern in coming years.