

## TEA Testing Waiver Memorandum

PACE Candidates and Potential Candidates:

June 10, 2020

Governor Abbott has provided flexibility for issuing the Intern Certificate to first-year interns by removing the requirement of passing the TExES content exam.

Candidates who are admitted to WTAMU's PACE program but have not passed a content exam will be eligible for the one-year Intern Certificate after completing the required training (Module 1) and observation hours.

Under this waiver, teacher candidates will be eligible to teach on an intern certificate and able to complete their full year internship. Districts will be able to hire eligible candidates, and programs will be able to prepare interns and support them throughout their internship although they have not passed the TExES content exam.

The flexibility provided by Governor Abbott's waiver also creates the ability for candidates completing an internship, clinical teaching, or a practicum in the 2020-2021 academic year to do so in a virtual, hybrid, and/or face to face setting. Districts are able to employ teachers in a virtual setting while allowing programs to prepare and support teachers. The Office of Teacher Preparation has been in regular contact with TEA and local districts to be advised of any possible changes. At this time, districts are preparing to begin the year in a face to face setting, and that is the format that internships and Clinical Teaching will take; however, if changes must be made at any point, we have the Governor's waiver to ensure continuation of placements, internships, and certifications in alternative settings as needed.

This waiver is extended through October 1, 2020 for the Intern Certificate. The candidate must have their completed application, fingerprinting, paid the TEA fee, and be recommended by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to be eligible for this certificate. No certificates will be issued after October 1, 2020. Interns must have accepted a teaching position to be eligible for this certificate. Intern certificates issued after October 1, 2020 will require a passing score on the TExES content exam. This allowance is to provide some flexibility while testing centers are re-opening.

To assist in meeting your needs, Jerry Schaeffer will host a weekly test prep study session during the Fall and Spring semesters. Additionally, WTAMU will offer the 240 Tutoring program free until July 31, 2020. To request this service, email Dr. Garcia with your Buff email. Candidates accepting an intern position under this waiver without their TExES content exam passed will be required to check in monthly and show progress of study for the content exam with Mrs. Denham, the Testing Coordinator.

For those candidates interested in this Intern certificate, you will be required to take and pass a proctored practice content exam with a 70% or above score before the EPP will recommend you for this certificate. Finally, it is imperative that you and your hiring district understand that if you do not take



—Department of Education—

and successfully pass the required TExES content exam within 1 year, you will not be eligible for any certificate for the 2021-2022 academic year. As a first-year teacher, it is easy to push testing and other requirements off due to the day to day requirements of teaching and your students' needs; however, it is very important that you devote time each week to preparation and study for the content exam.

For questions concerning PACE or an SOE specific to this Intern certificate, contact Pyxa Sovilay at [psovilay@wtamu.edu](mailto:psovilay@wtamu.edu)

For assistance with testing, studying, and remediation, contact Jennifer Denham at [jdenham@wtamu.edu](mailto:jdenham@wtamu.edu)

For questions concerning the Governor's Waiver, certification, or TEA requirements contact Beth Garcia at [Elizabeth.garcia@wtamu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.garcia@wtamu.edu)

Sincerely,

*Dr. Beth Garcia*

Director of Educator Preparation and Certification  
Assistant Professor of ESL/Bilingual Education  
West Texas A&M University

## Acknowledgement Page

Please initial by each statement that is required for the Waiver Intern Certificate

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that to be eligible for the Waiver Intern Certificate without a TExES content exam passed that I must take and pass a proctored practice exam with WTAMU/PACE with a 70% or above score.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that I must study every week until I successfully pass the required TExES content exam and will make monthly appointments with WTAMU's Testing Coordinator for progress checks.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that if I do not make sufficient monthly progress, WTAMU/PACE may require me to attend mandatory study sessions to remain in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that if I am unsuccessful in passing the required TExES content exam within one calendar year that I will not be eligible for any form of certification with TEA for the 2021-2022 academic year.

### Signatures of Agreed Representatives:

Candidate Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TEA ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Teacher Preparation Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hiring District Representative: By signing this document, you acknowledge that

\_\_\_\_\_ ISD will support the above listed candidate and encourage him/her in completing testing within the 2020-2021 academic year. Furthermore, you understand that if the candidate does not complete required TExES content testing that s/he will be ineligible for a certificate or extension for the 2021-2022 academic year.

District Representative:

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_