



Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD
P-16 INITIATIVES

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MEMORANDUM

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DATE: July 8, 2008

TO: Deans of Education

FROM: Dr. Judith Loredo *JL*

SUBJECT: Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist certificate

By action of the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC), the Early Childhood – Grade 6 Generalist teaching certificate was recently established to better serve the needs of elementary students in Texas. In addition to program approval by SBEC, public institutions of higher education (IHEs) submit certificate programs for approval to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) under its authority in Texas Education Code, Chapter 61.051(g). This letter announces the THECB approval procedure applicable only to the Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist certificate. Questions about the SBEC process for the Early Childhood – Grade 6 Generalist program approval should be addressed to the Division of Educator Standards at the Texas Education Agency.

After careful consideration of options for processing these IHE program approval requests, THECB has determined that it is possible to avoid unnecessary administrative barriers and expedite the approval process without loss of program integrity. With this notice, publicly-funded IHEs with a THECB-approved Early Childhood-Grade 4 Generalist program are automatically approved by the THECB to add the Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist program. Applicable state law and THECB rule and policy still apply to these programs. A copy of this letter will be placed in the institution's file at the THECB for documentation. In addition, this letter serves as notice to SBEC of the approved status of these programs. The approval of the additional Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist program does not affect the institution's ability to continue offering its currently approved Early Childhood-Grade 4 Generalist program to those students already enrolled in that program. SBEC has established deadlines related to the Early Childhood-Grade 4 Generalist program and information regarding those deadlines is posted on the SBEC website.

IHEs without a THECB-approved Early Childhood-Grade 4 Generalist program may request approval for a new Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist program by submitting a completed form, Proposed Undergraduate Degree Program, found under the section titled Guidelines for Educator Preparation Programs found at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/AAR/EDPrep/>.

IHEs that have submitted but not yet received approval of a proposal for the Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist certificate may wish to withdraw that proposal at this time. In that situation, contact Dr. David Linkletter (David.Linkletter@thecb.state.tx.us) to begin that process.

Some IHEs have already received approval from the THECB for their Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist programs and are not impacted by this notice.

After standards are approved by SBEC for other Early Childhood-Grade 6 programs, i.e., bilingual, the THECB will establish its program approval procedures based on the nature and scope of the changes in the standards for a specific program.

Again, the goal will be given to avoid administrative barriers while maintaining program integrity.

If you have questions about this process, please contact Dr. Susan Barnes, Senior Director for Education Quality at (512/427-6563) or via email at susan.barnes@theccb.state.tx.us.

cc: Raymund Paredes, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Laurie Bricker, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
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