

Text of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC

Chapter 234. Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans

§234.5. Certification of Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans.

- (a) The application for certification of a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse, including an application based upon certification by a jurisdiction other than Texas that has certification requirements substantially similar to the Texas certification requirements, shall be processed as soon as practicable.
- (b) As soon as practicable after the issuance of a one-year certificate, Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff shall notify, in writing or by email, a military spouse of the requirements for obtaining a standard Texas certificate.
- (c) A military spouse who has been issued a one-year certificate prior to September 1, 2017, under the provisions of this chapter, is eligible for two additional years from the date of issuance, not to exceed a total of three years maximum, to align with provisions for a military spouse referenced in subsection (d) of this section.
- (d) Effective September 1, 2017, a military spouse shall be issued a three-year temporary certificate upon completion of the review of credentials.
- (e) Effective December 1, 2019, prior to beginning employment, a military spouse must declare his or her intent to teach in Texas with a license issued by another state department of education, by submitting an application and required documents for a review of credentials to the TEA and completing the criminal background check. TEA staff must provide approval for the military spouse to teach in Texas a maximum of three years with credentials issued by another state. [The standard Texas certificate of a military service member, military spouse, or military veteran may be renewed if that certificate has expired within five years preceding the Texas application date.]
- (f) A military service member or a military veteran shall be entitled to credit verified military service, training, or education toward the training, education, work experience, or related requirements (other than certification examinations) for educator certification. TEA staff and educator preparation programs (EPPs) shall use information from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other reliable sources to assist in crediting applicable military service, training, or education to certification requirements.
- (g) A military service member pursuing certification in career and technical education must meet requirements for the certificate, but for career and technical education certificate areas requiring experience and licensure, the military service member shall be entitled to substitute military experience in the trade for the required license or professional credential for the specific trade.
- (h) A military service member, military spouse, and military veteran shall complete educator examination requirements for certificate issuance as outlined in Texas Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, and rules in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 7, or qualify for an exemption from required Texas examinations through provisions in §152.1001 of this title (relating to Exceptions to Examination Requirements for Individuals Certified Outside the State .
- (i) Military service members and military veterans are exempt from certification application fees that are paid to the state that lead to initial certification. These members of the military community are exempt from paying the portion of the examination registration fee that is paid to the TEA.
- (j) Military service members and military veterans are exempt from certification application fees that are paid to the state that lead to initial certification resulting from a review of credentials, one-year certificate, or out-of-state standard certificate. These members of the military community are exempt from paying the portion of the examination registration fee that is paid to the TEA.
- (k) Military spouses are exempt from certification application fees that are paid to the state that lead to initial certification resulting from a review of credentials, three-year temporary certificate, or out-of-state standard certificate. These members of the military community are exempt from paying the portion of the examination registration fee that is paid to the TEA.

§234.6. Review of Credentials and Issuance of Licensure to Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans.

- (a) To complete a review of credentials leading to issuance of licensure in Texas, military service members, military veterans, or military spouses must submit an application for review of credentials, copies of standard certificates issued in the other state(s), and official transcripts showing degree(s) conferred and date(s).
- (b) Upon completion of the review, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will notify each military service member, military veteran, or military spouse, as specified in paragraphs (1)-(3) of this subsection, to provide results of the licensure review and information on next steps in the licensure process as follows.
 - (1) Military service members will receive written results of the credentials review and be issued the Texas standard certificate that aligns with certificate areas issued in other states.
 - (2) Military spouses will receive written results of the credentials review and have the following three options to teach in Texas with:
 - (A) the license issued by another state department of education, confirmed by TEA to be in good standing;
 - (B) the Texas temporary three-year certificate already available under provisions in §234.5(d) of this title (relating to Certification of Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans); and
 - (C) the Texas standard certificate eligible for issuance immediately following a successful review of credentials by TEA and completion of a criminal background check.
 - (3) Military veterans will receive written results of the credentials review and be issued the Texas standard certificate that aligns with certificate areas issued in other states.

§234.7. Renewal and Continuing Education Requirements for Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans.

- (a) Military service members, military spouses, and military veterans who hold a standard certificate(s) are responsible for certificate renewal and continuing professional education requirements pursuant to Chapter 232 of this title (relating to General Certification Provisions), except where specified in this chapter.
- (b) A military service member shall be exempted from any fee or penalty for failing to timely renew his or her Texas educator certificate if the delay occurred because the educator was serving as a military service member.
- (c) A military service member is entitled to two years of additional time to complete all continuing education requirements and any other requirements relating to the renewal of his or her Texas educator certificate.
- (d) The standard Texas certificate of a military service member, military spouse, or military veteran may be renewed if that certificate has expired within five years preceding the Texas application date.