

Item 11:

**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Agreed Order to
Close 21st Century Leadership Principal Preparation Program**

The agreed order to close 21st Century Leadership Principal
Preparation Program is attached

IN THE MATTER

OF

21ST CENTURY LEADERSHIP

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BEFORE THE STATE BOARD

FOR

EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

AGREED FINAL ORDER

On the _____ day of _____, 2018, the State Board for Educator Certification (“SBEC”) considered the matter of the accreditation of 21st Century Leadership (“21st Century”).

This Agreed Order is executed pursuant to the authority of the Administrative Procedure Act, Tex. Gov’t. Code §2001.056 which authorizes the informal disposition of contested cases. In a desire to conclude this matter without further delay and expense, the SBEC and 21st Century agree to resolve this matter by this Agreed Final Order.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- (1) On April 15, 2016, the SBEC assigned 21st Century Leadership an accreditation status of Accredited—Probation for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- (2) On March 3, 2017, the SBEC assigned 21st Century Leadership an accreditation status of Accredited—Probation for the 2015-2016 academic year and appointed a monitor.
- (3) On March 2, 2018, the SBEC assigned 21st Century Leadership an accreditation status of Accredited—Probation for the 2016-2017 academic year and appointed a monitor.
- (4) Texas Education Code §21.0451 and 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(f)(1) require revocation of the SBEC approval of any educator preparation program that is rated Accredited—Probation for three consecutive academic years.
- (5) On March 7, 2018, Texas Education Agency staff on behalf of the SBEC (“Staff”) notified 21st Century that Staff intended to recommend an accreditation status of Not Accredited—Revoked.
- (6) 21st Century declined the opportunity for an informal review under 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.7.
- (7) The Parties agree that 21st Century will cease admitting new candidates on May 18, 2018.
- (8) The Parties agree that 21st Century will close on March 31, 2019.
- (9) The Parties agree that 21st Century is no longer required to have a monitor effective August 31, 2018.

- (10) 21st Century agrees to notify in writing by June 30, 2018 all currently enrolled candidates and candidates who have completed the program but who have not been recommended for a standard principal certificate. The notification must include the steps the individual must take to complete the 21st Century program and/or meet all other eligibility requirements for a standard principal certificate. The notification must also include a February 28, 2019 deadline for an individual who has met all requirements to apply for certification and an March 31, 2019 deadline for 21st Century to recommend candidates for certification. 21st Century agrees to maintain evidence of the attempts to notify each candidate.
- (11) 21st Century agrees to identify and keep current a representative's name, electronic mail address, and telephone number that will be valid until March 31, 2024 to provide access to candidate records and responses to former candidate's questions and/or issues.
- (12) 21st Century agrees to complete actions required by the SBEC or Staff such as required submissions of information, surveys, and other accountability data; removal of security accesses; and reconciliation of certification recommendations.
- (13) The Parties agree that the following individuals are not eligible to be recommended to the SBEC for approval as an educator preparation program: 21st Century chief operating officer, Jesse McNeil; 21st Century legal authority, Jesse McNeil; and the members of the 21st Century governing body, Julia Ballenger, Yolanda Cruz-Wilder, Naomi Green, Kay Hunter, Kriss Kemp-Graham, Verna Mitchell, Debra Peek-Haynes, Alfred Roberts, Rosie Sorrells, Nate Templeton, and Darnell Walker.
- (14) 21st Century agrees that the SBEC's assignment of Accredited—Probation for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years are final and not appealable.
- (15) 21st Century agrees to waive its right to a contested case hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
- (16) 21st Century further agrees that:
 - a. the SBEC may, in its sole discretion, determine whether 21st Century's performance under this agreement is acceptable; and
 - b. the SBEC shall assign an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked if the SBEC determines that 21st Century has failed to comply with the terms of this agreement.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- (1) 21st Century is subject to the jurisdiction of the SBEC and is required to comply with 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapters 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 234, 241, and 247 and Texas Education Code §§21.044, 21.0441, 21.0443, 21.045, 21.0451, 21.0452, 21.0454, 21.0455, 21.046, 21.048, and 21.049.
- (2) The Board is authorized, pursuant to 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 229 and Texas Education Code §21.0451 to issue an accreditation status for 21st Century and to revoke

approval of any educator preparation program that is rated Accredited—Probation for three consecutive academic years.

- (3) The SBEC and 21st Century agree to the actions set forth herein in lieu of formal revocation proceedings.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

- (1) 21st Century will cease admitting new candidates on May 18, 2018.
- (2) 21st Century will close on March 31, 2019.
- (3) 21st Century is no longer required to have a monitor effective August 31, 2018.
- (4) 21st Century agrees to notify in writing by June 30, 2018 all currently enrolled candidates and candidates who have completed the program but who have not been recommended for a standard principal certificate. The notification must include the steps the individual must take to complete the 21st Century program and/or meet all other eligibility requirements for a standard principal certificate. The notification must also include a February 28, 2019 deadline for an individual who has met all requirements to apply for certification and an March 31, 2019 deadline for 21st Century to recommend candidates for certification. 21st Century agrees to maintain evidence of the attempts to notify each candidate.
- (5) 21st Century shall identify and keep current a representative's name, electronic mail address, and telephone number that will be valid until March 31, 2024 to provide access to candidate records and responses to former candidate's questions and/or issues.
- (6) 21st Century shall complete actions required by the SBEC or Staff such as required submissions of information, surveys, and other accountability data; removal of security accesses; and reconciliation of certification recommendations.
- (7) The following individuals are not eligible to be recommended to the SBEC for approval as an educator preparation program: 21st Century chief operating officer, Jesse McNeil; 21st Century legal authority, Jesse McNeil; and the members of the 21st Century governing body, Julia Ballenger, Yolanda Cruz-Wilder, Naomi Green, Kay Hunter, Kriss Kemp-Graham, Verna Mitchell, Debra Peek-Haynes, Alfred Roberts, Rosie Sorrells, Nate Templeton, and Darnell Walker.
- (8) The SBEC's assignment of Accredited—Probation for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years are final and not appealable.
- (9) The SBEC shall determine whether 21st Century's performance under this agreement is acceptable, and shall assign an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked if the SBEC determines that 21st Century has failed to comply with the terms of this agreement.
- (10) 21st Century waives its rights to a contested case hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, any right to seek removal or modification of the accreditation

statuses noted herein, any right to seek removal or modification of the terms of this order, and any right to seek judicial review of this order.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, 2018

Jesse McNeil
Chief Operating Officer and Legal Authority
21st Century Leadership

On behalf of the State Board for Educator Certification:

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, 2018

JILL DRUESEDOW
Board President
State Board for Educator Certification