

**Summary of Recommendation for Accredited-Probation (Year Three) Status for
21st Century Leadership Principal Preparation Program**

On December 21, 2017, 21st Century Leadership Principal Preparation Program (21st Century), an educator preparation program (EPP), was provided written notice by Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff that the TEA would propose a recommendation that the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) assign 21st Century an accreditation status of Accredited-Probation (Year Three) in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(e)(1)(A), and continue the assignment of a monitor in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.5(b) at the March 2, 2018 SBEC meeting. Under 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(e)(1)(A), an EPP that fails to meet the performance standard for certification exam results for two consecutive years “shall be assigned Accredited-Probation status.” 21st Century failed to meet the 80% passing performance standard for both the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 academic years. 21st Century’s passing rate was 71% for the 2015-2016 academic year and 68% for the 2016-2017 academic year. 21st Century was provided with an opportunity to request an informal review of the proposed recommendation in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.5(f).

On January 17, 2018, TEA received a request for an informal review from 21st Century. In its request, 21st Century alleged that the pass rate calculations for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 academic school years were a result of an arbitrary or capricious abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion by TEA staff. 21st Century included four reasons for the informal review request. Each reason and the TEA response are provided as follows.

Issue 1

21st Century claimed that pass rate calculations were inconsistently applied as to which candidates are included.

TEA Response to Issue 1

TEA staff determined that the candidates who had been included in the pass rates were correct based on the candidates who 21st Century had reported as program completers. The legal authority of 21st Century affirmed the program completers to be accurate and final through signed affidavits. TEA staff determined that the pass rates had been consistently calculated as required by 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(1) for each academic year. Under 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(1), the pass rates for 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 only include a candidate's last attempt made on an exam by the end of the academic year in which the candidate finishes the coursework, training, and practicum requirements of an EPP. This calculation does not reflect any attempts made after the year of completion. Based on the review of this issue, TEA staff finds that the pass rate calculations were appropriately applied in accordance with SBEC rule.

Issue 2

21st Century claimed that candidates were incorrectly excluded in pass rate calculations.

TEA Response to Issue 2

TEA staff confirmed that 21st Century did not report one candidate as a program completer for the 2014-2015 academic year and 12 candidates as program completers for the 2016-2017 academic year. Because the EPP did not report these candidates, they were not included in the pass rates for the 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 academic years. TEA staff confirmed that the candidate who was not reported for the 2014-2015 academic year did not attempt the certification exam before the end of the academic year. As a result, the calculation for the 2014-2015 year was correct. Even if the program had reported the 12 completers correctly and had them included in the pass rate for the 2016-2017 academic year, TEA staff confirmed that the pass rate would have been 78% — a rate that was still below the 80% passing standard required by 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(1). Based on the review of this issue, TEA staff finds that the pass rate was calculated correctly based on the candidates reported by the program in accordance with SBEC rule.

Issue 3

21st Century claimed that the pass rate for the 2014-2015 academic year was calculated incorrectly.

TEA Response to Issue 3

The 2014-2015 “All Students” group did not meet standard because it was combined with 2013-2014 data when the small group exception rule was applied according to SBEC rule. The small group exception rule that was in effect at that time required group performance to be combined with the following year’s group performance if the preceding year’s “All Students” group contained 20 or fewer individuals. If the two-year cumulated “All Students” group contains more than 20 individuals, then the two-year cumulated “All Students” group performance is measured against the standards in that second year. 21st Century candidates passed 20 of the 26 exams during those two years, which resulted in a 77% passing rate— a rate that was below the 80% passing standard required by 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(1). Based on the review of this issue, TEA staff finds that the pass rate was calculated correctly in accordance with SBEC rule.

Issue 4

21st Century claimed that the accountability rules in 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4 apply to teacher preparation more than they apply to principal preparation.

TEA Response to Issue 4

The accountability rules in 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(1) apply to all EPPs because the results of certification exams are applicable to all EPPs. While the accountability rules in 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(2-5) are focused on teacher preparation, the rules that were applied for the proposed accreditation status for 21st Century were solely based on 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(a)(1). Based on the review of this issue, TEA staff finds that the accountability rules were appropriately applied to 21st Century in accordance with SBEC rule.

After evaluating the informal review request, TEA staff did not make any changes to the proposed recommendation that the SBEC assign 21st Century an accreditation status of Accredited-Probation (Year Three) and continue the assignment of a monitor.

If the SBEC assigns an accreditation status of Accredited-Probation (Year Three), 21st Century will have been assigned an Accredited-Probation status for three consecutive years. This designation will result in a proposed recommendation from TEA staff to assign a Not Accredited-Revoked status for the program as required by 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.4(f)(1) and Texas Education Code §21.0451(a)(3). 21st Century will be provided written notice of the proposed recommendation in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.5(f) and will have an opportunity for an informal review in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.7. If TEA staff proposes revocation in its final recommendation to the SBEC, 21st Century will have an opportunity for a hearing before an administrative law judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings before the SBEC takes action on the final recommendation, in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code §229.8.

If the SBEC assigns an accreditation status of Not Accredited-Revoked, 21st Century may not admit new candidates for educator certification but may complete the training of candidates already admitted by the EPP and recommend them for certification. If necessary, TEA staff and other EPPs shall cooperate to assist the previously admitted candidates of 21st Century to complete their training. A revocation of an EPP approval is effective for a period of two years, after which an EPP may reapply for approval as a new EPP.

Principal Certification Exam Results: Percent Passing (Number of Program Completers)

Status	Year	All Students	Female	Male	African American	Hispanic	Other	White
Probation (Proposed)	2016-2017	68%(25)	65%(23)	100%(2)	50%(16)	100%(4)	100%(1)	100%(4)
Probation	2015-2016	71%(41)	74%(35)	50%(6)	68%(25)	88%(8)	0%(2)	83%(6)
Probation	2014-2015	90%(10)	89%(9)	100%(1)	100%(4)	67%(3)	100%(1)	100%(2)
Warned	2013-2014	69%(16)	69%(13)	67%(3)	57%(7)	100%(2)	67%(3)	75%(4)
Warned	2012-2013	77%(30)	81%(21)	67%(9)	67%(9)	64%(11)	100%(1)	100%(9)

Accreditation Status Rule: 19 TAC §229.4(e)(1)(A) was applied in 2016-2017. An EPP shall be assigned Accredited-Probation status if the EPP fails to meet the performance standards set by the SBEC for the overall performance of all its candidates on the certification exam performance indicator for two consecutively measured years.

Small Group Exception (SGE) Rule: 19 TAC §229.4(g)(4) was not applied in 2016-2017. The SGE rule was not applied because there were more than 20 individuals in the All Students group.

Sanction Rule: 19 TAC §229.5(b)(3) was applied in 2016-2017. If an EPP has been assigned Accredited-Warned or Accredited-Probation status, the SBEC may appoint a monitor to participate in the activities of the EPP and report the activities to the TEA or SBEC.

2014-2015 Accreditation Status Note: The 2014-2015 “All Students” group did not meet standard because it was combined with 2013-2014 data when the SGE rule was applied. If the preceding year’s All Students group contained 20 or fewer individuals, that group performance is combined with the following year’s group performance. If the two-year cumulated group contains more than 20 individuals, then the two-year cumulated group performance is measured against the standards in that second year. 21st Century candidates passed 20 of the 26 exams during those two years, which resulted in a 77% passing rate.

2013-2014 Accreditation Status Note: The “All Students” group did not meet standard in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. 21st Century was assigned an Accredited-Warned status in 2013-2014 instead of an Accredited-Probation status because the SGE rule that was in effect at the time the accreditation status was determined did not combine pass rates if the previous year’s “All Students” group had more than 20 individuals. Because there were not more than 20 individuals in the 2013-2014 calculation, the accreditation status from the previous year was continued.