

TRINITY BASIN PREPARATORY

Certification Requirements

Teachers – General Requirements

All Trinity Basin Preparatory teachers must be certified by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification and may only teach in the grade levels and subject areas in which they hold an appropriate active certification. The certification requirements outlined in the 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 231, “Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments,” must be adhered to for all teaching positions.

In addition to these general requirements, teachers may be required to hold an English as a Second Language or special education certification as outlined below.

English as a Second Language

Pursuant to Texas Education Code § 29.061 (c), “A teacher assigned to an English as a second language program must be appropriately certified for English as a second language by the [State Board for Educator Certification].”

Students in grades PK through 5 who are counted for funding in the ESL education program must be served by ESL-certified staff.

Students in grades 6 through 8 must be served by at least one teacher who is certified in ESL for that grade level and is responsible for meeting the linguistic needs of the LEP students.

In order to comply with state law and Texas Education Agency guidelines and to meet the needs of Trinity Basin Preparatory students, ESL certifications are required as follows:

PK through 5th grade Core Subject; ESL Interventionist; Special Education Teacher; RtI Teacher
All PK through 5th grade teachers in core subjects, ESL Specialists, Special Education teachers, and RtI teachers must be ESL certified by December of their first year of employment with TBP. A teacher may be offered and begin a position in these areas without holding an ESL certification, if the following conditions are met:

1. The teacher must sign up and provide proof that they have scheduled an ESL test before September 1. Teachers who begin employment after August 15 must sign up and provide proof that they have scheduled an ESL test within 30 days of their first day of employment at TBP.
2. The teacher will sign up and participate in an ESL test preparation course or professional learning provided by an Education Service Center, a third-party vendor, or TBP’s professional learning group.
3. Students whose teacher has not yet received their ESL certification will be provided English Language Arts (ELAR) instruction by a teacher certified in ESL and ELAR through co-teaching or an additional ESL/ELAR class. This support will be provided by the campus ESL Specialist or support teacher or instructional coach who is appropriately certified.

If the teacher has not passed the ESL test and posted it to their certificate by December 31 of their first year, the Chief Academic Officer will determine the consequences on the teacher's employment, up to and potentially including termination.

6th through 8th grade Core Subject

All 6th through 8th grade teachers in core subjects must be ESL certified before they will be offered a teaching position at Trinity Basin Preparatory for a second year. However, at least one teacher per team must be ESL certified at all times. The campus principal is required to create teaching teams and make staffing decisions to ensure that the linguistic needs of LEP students are met and that Texas Education Agency guidelines are adhered to.

Specials (Physical Education, Fine Arts, Library, Technology)

All specials teachers are encouraged to obtain their ESL certification in order to supplement the English language learning of the district's students.

Science of Teaching Reading

House Bill 3, passed during the 86th Texas Legislative session, established the requirement that all teacher candidates who teach students in grades PK through 6th demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a new, standalone certification exam. The requirement is in effect for all teachers obtaining their teaching certificate after January 1, 2021 in the following certification fields:

- Early Childhood: EC – Grade 3
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4-8
- English Language Arts and Reading with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4-8
- English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4-8

Special Education

All special education teachers are required to hold one of the special education certificates outlined in 19 TAC Chapter 31. In addition, special education teachers are required to hold a content certification for the grade and subject matter for which they will be teaching.

Alternative Certification

An alternatively certified teacher will only be offered a position when they have a Statement of Eligibility that includes all of the necessary certifications for the assignment. If an alternatively certified teacher candidate is unable to obtain their ESL certification due to unforeseen circumstances, the teacher may follow the plan outlined in this document to work towards obtaining their ESL certification. The Chief Academic Officer will sign off on the plan developed for the individual teacher to obtain their ESL certification.

Instructional Aides – General Requirements

All instructional aides must hold an active Educational Aide II or Educational Aide III certification from the State Board for Educator Certification. An instructional aide may be offered a position without the certification, but must complete the required classes and obtain the certification within one month of beginning employment as an instructional aide.