



## Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility and Criminal History

An individual who is enrolled in, or plans to enroll in, an Educator Preparation Program (EPP), or who plans to take a certification examination, may request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This evaluation provides an opinion regarding potential ineligibility for educator certification based on a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense. TEA's criminal history eligibility rules are addressed in 19 TAC §249.16. [Link to SBEC rules in 19 TAC 249.16](#)

### Important information

Before serving in a school setting, candidates must satisfy all required criminal background check requirements. A candidate must successfully clear a criminal background check before working in a school or beginning a clinical teaching assignment.

- Candidates seeking clinical teaching must follow the background check requirements of the school district in which placement is requested. Any costs associated with the district's background check may be the responsibility of the candidate.
- Candidates seeking an internship must complete all required fingerprinting and background check procedures before the start of employment.
- Candidates applying for an intern, probationary, or standard certificate must complete the fingerprinting process as part of the certification application requirements.

TEA provides a [Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation FAQs](#) and a [Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation form](#) for individuals who wish to request this review. The evaluation requires a non-refundable \$50 fee, and TEA states that it may take up to 90 calendar days to issue an evaluation letter by email.

Neither **Lone Star College** nor its employees can be held responsible for the outcome of a candidate's eligibility for certification as determined by TEA.