

No Child Left Behind-Highly Qualified Status Fact Sheet

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, a federal mandate regarding Highly Qualified status under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) will affect **new Texas teachers** who hold 4th-8th grade certifications in core academic subjects. The Texas Education Agency, in working with the US Department of Education, has released the final details to comply with the NCLB Highly Qualified policy. **New** Texas teachers who are assigned to teach in grades EC-6 are now required to pass any one of the available TExES Generalist exams (EC-4, EC-6, or 4-8) in order to demonstrate subject area competency under No Child Left Behind. Those teaching grades 7 and 8 are not affected by the mandate.

Certifications Affected:

4-8 Mathematics
4-8 Science
4-8 English Language Arts and Reading
4-8 Social Studies

Note: Certifications not listed and those teaching in grades 7-12 are not affected by the mandate.

Generalist Exams Available:

You may take one of the following Generalist exams to meet the requirements for the mandate.

Generalist EC-4 (last administration-August 2010)
Generalist EC-6 (recommended)
Generalist 4-8

Approval/Registering for a Generalist Exam:

The College of Education will provide state approval for current students affected by the NCLB Highly Qualified policy to take one of the Generalist exams. Students must be admitted to Teacher Education, be currently enrolled at UNT, and complete an online application form to receive approval for a Generalist exam. Students who receive approval from the COE to take a Generalist exam must do so before graduation. Once a student completes the program and graduates, COE will remove approval for the Generalist exam, at which time students would take the Generalist exam individually (exam only) once they receive initial certification. Those who have graduated may access the Generalist exam on their own once they receive their initial certification (i.e. 4-8 Math) by registering for the exam through their ETS account at www.texas.ets.org.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act states that teachers must show competency in all subject areas by passing a rigorous state exam if employed in an elementary school (EC-6th grade) in order to be highly qualified. In Texas any Generalist exam fulfills this mandate. UNT will not recommend 4-8 students for the Generalist certificate. Students may choose to apply for the Generalist certificate individually as "Cert by Exam Only" once they receive their initial certification.

The TExES Advising Office will offer Generalist practice exams to students affected by this mandate at the regularly scheduled practice exam sessions. Students must be admitted to Teacher Education and be currently enrolled at UNT to be eligible for practice exams. Visit the TExES Advising Office website, www.coe.unt.edu/texas, for practice exam dates and to register. Free study guides for all Generalist exams are available through ETS at www.texas.ets.org.

For more information on this mandate and to access the online application form, please contact the TExES Advising Office in person at Matthews Hall 103, by phone at 940-369-8601, or by email at coe-tao@unt.edu.

We encourage you to visit the TExES Advising Office, Student Advising Office, State Board for Educator Certification and the Texas Education Agency No Child Left Behind Division websites regularly for updates on the new mandate.

TExES Advising Office - www.coe.unt.edu/texas

Student Advising Office - www.coe.unt.edu/sao

State Board for Educator Certification - www.sbec.state.tx.us

Texas Education Agency-No Child Left Behind Division - http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4261&menu_id=798