

Webinar FAQ: Recommending a Probationary Certificate Under the Governor's Waiver

General

Q: Please confirm that the WPRO is good for 365 days - not just until 12/31

Response: Correct, the WPRO certificate is valid for one full calendar year from the effective date on the certificate.

Q: Would students on the WPRO certificate be required to take the STR exam if they do not complete testing & standard certification by 12/31/20?

Response: Yes, the Science of Teaching Reading (STR) exam is statutorily required for issuance of the Core Subjects EC-6, Core Subjects 4-8, ELAR 4-8, and ELAR/Social Studies 4-8 certificates starting 1/1/2021. Candidates who have not completed certification testing and received their standard certificate in one of these certification fields prior to 1/1/2021 will be required to take and pass the STR exam for issuance of their standard certificate. EPPs are encouraged to communicate this information to

Q: Is Finisher Confirmation on the Rec Report EPPs saying they are Finishers or when Finisher status is uploaded through ASEP?

Response: Finisher status must be updated in ASEP by the EPP. Candidates must be listed with a status of "Finisher" on the Finisher Records List to qualify for the WPRO certificate. Candidates who have not yet met requirements to be a program "Finisher" would not qualify for the WPRO.

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Q: Under Summary of Key Points, bullet 3 states, "If a candidate holds a valid intern or Probationary certificate already he/she will not qualify for the WPRO." The majority of the hired candidates are on an Intern certificate at this time - are they not eligible for the WPRO?

Response: The purpose of the WPRO is for candidates completing their internship this spring to get certified if they have completed their EPP requirements but have not yet had the opportunity to test. Your interns completing this spring are the population of candidates that are being served with this option. The distinction we were trying to make was for folks who started their internship mid-year last year. For example, if a candidate started their internship 11/15/2019, they would not be eligible for the WPRO, because their internship is not complete and they have an existing valid certificate to qualify them in that role through the end of the internship.

Candidate Application

Q: Is the waiver probationary the actual type they are applying for? Or just the normal probationary?

Response: The candidate will apply for the normal probationary certificate. We use the word "waiver" in front of the word "probationary" to designate it as a certificate that has been allowed to issue without passing scores on one or more required tests per the Governor's waiver. Note that the term "WPRO" is an internal reference for TEA and EPPs, used for communication purposes. The actual certificate that is issued using the IPS test bypass option will appear in the candidate's record as a Probationary certificate and not as a "WPRO" certificate.

Q: Is there any flexibility in the May 15 deadline for candidates to apply? I have some people testing in the next two weeks. I'd hate to have them apply and not need the special prob cert. Likewise, how flexible is the 7/1 recommendation date?

Response: Candidates may apply at any time. The Priority Recommendation Window is the window of time from May 15-July 1 in which the EPP may make the recommendation using the automated test bypass process in ECOS. If a candidate has applied for the WPRO certificate, and the EPP has not recommended, then the EPP may remove the application if/when the candidate passes the remaining test(s). The candidate would then apply for the standard certificate and contact TEA to have fees rolled over to the new application. Candidates testing through early June should have time to get scores returned before the Priority Recommendation Window closes.

Q:

EPP Recommendation

Q: When will the spreadsheet be sent out?

Q: Will the spreadsheet be posted in the COVID section on the website?

Q: Where do we find the spreadsheet?

Q: Is the WPRO spreadsheet on the TEA website or will it be sent to us?

Q: Is the spreadsheet for reporting on the COVID webpage or will TEA be sending it to us?

Q: Where can EPP's find/access the spreadsheet? When will this be available?

Q: The presenter made reference to a recommendation report we were going to be expected to complete, however, I don't recall having received this template. I checked in the COVID-19 Support page, however, I don't see anything there either.

Response: The spreadsheet is posted in the COVID-19 Related Forms and Documents section at the bottom of the [Program Provider Resources](#) page on the TEA website. EPPs should submit one completed copy of the spreadsheet to TEA via the ocean blue tile called "Educator Testing and Preparation Programs" in the Help Desk. Open a ticket directed to the Preparation Programs group. The spreadsheet document should be sent securely via the Help Desk and should not be emailed.

Q: Many districts may follow recent TEA calendar guidance and adopt an Aug. 1 - late July school calendar, thus may a tee

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