

**Educator Certification Examination Retake Limit Change:
Important Update and Action Steps for Candidates, Educators, and Others
Who Took Certification Exams Before 9/1/2015
and Have Not Passed Those Exams**

[Texas Education Code §21.048](#) limits individuals to four attempts to retake any educator certification examination. This means that all testers are limited to a total of five attempts to pass a certification examination. The five attempts include the first attempt to pass the examination and four retakes. A subsection of the law, which currently counts all attempts of the same examination taken before September 1, 2015 as only one attempt, is set to expire. **Beginning September 1, 2018, all attempts of the same examination will count toward the five-attempt testing limit regardless of when the examination was first attempted.** This change applies to all testers regardless of testing route (e.g., certification by examination, PACT, charter, educator preparation program, out of state/country).

Note: Individuals who did not test before 09/01/2015 are not affected by the change since all attempts have always been included in the attempt count for these testers.

Here’s an example represented in the chart below.

- Candidate took the Science 7-12 (TExES 236) 3 times and did not pass before 09/01/2015.
- Candidate took the Science 7-12 (TExES 236) 2 times and did not pass on or after 09/01/2015.

Currently (i.e., through 08/31/18), this candidate’s test count is 3 attempts for the Science 7-12 test. (See Column A below.)

Effective 09/01/2018, this candidate’s test count will be 5 attempts for the Science 7-12 test. A test-limit waiver will be required if candidate wishes to retest. (See Column B below.)

Example				
Test		Test Date	Column A	Column B
			Attempt Count From 09/01/2015 – 08/31/2018	Attempt Count Beginning 09/01/2018
Before 09/01/15: The candidate took the Science 7-12 (TExES 236) 3 times before 09/01/2015.	236 Science 7-12	04/15/2015	1	1
	236 Science 7-12	06/15/2015	1	2
	236 Science 7-12	08/24/2015	1	3
On or After 09/01/15: The candidate took the Science 7-12 (TExES 236) 2 additional times on or after 09/01/2015.	236 Science 7-12	09/01/2016	2	4
	236 Science 7-12	06/12/2017	3	5
Explanation:			Candidate has 2 more attempts to retake the 236 Science 7-12 test until 08/31/2018.	Candidate has reached the test limit for 236 Science 7-12 and must apply for a waiver to retest.

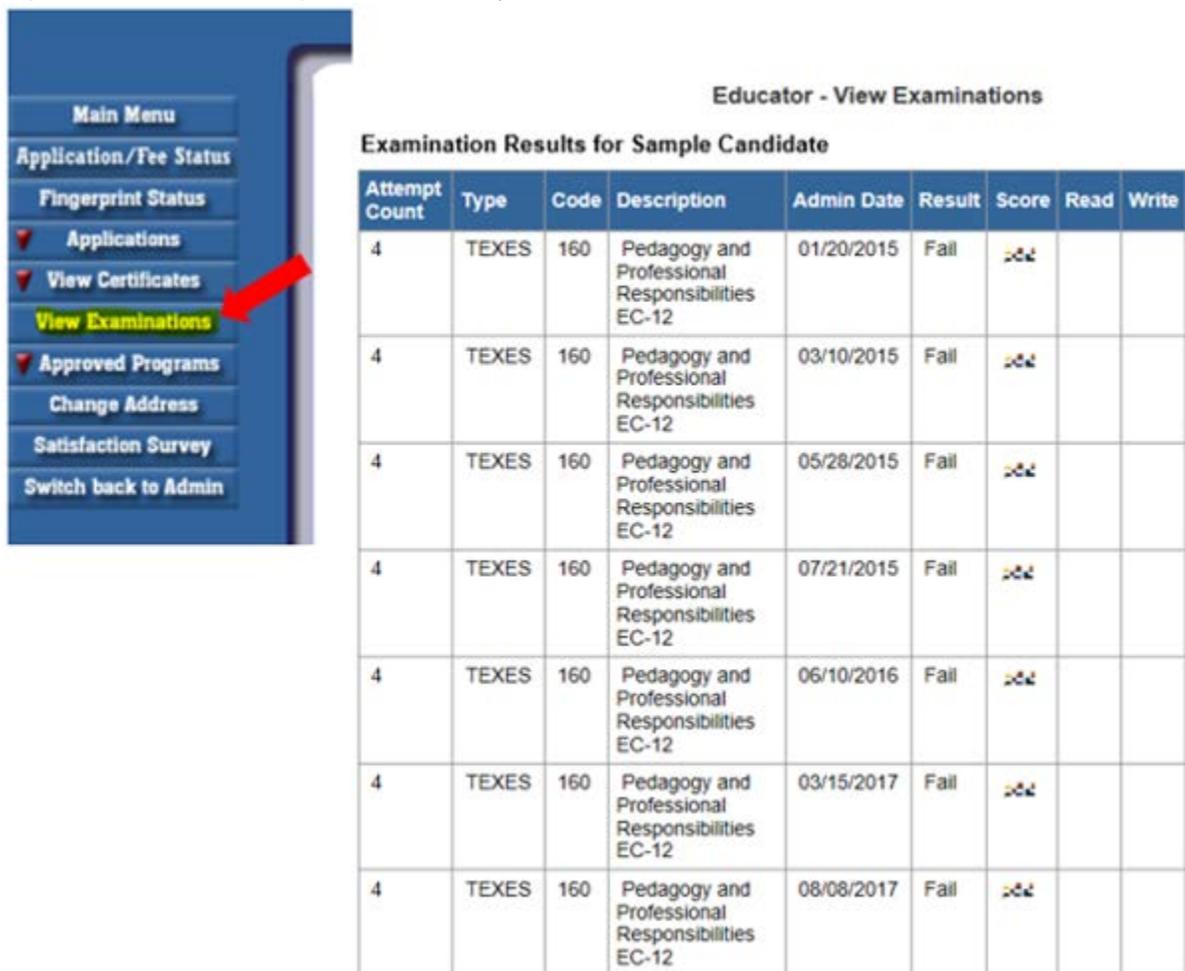
How do individuals apply for a test-limit waiver?

Individuals who reach the 5-time testing limit may apply for a test-limit waiver to attempt the examination again. Applicants must pay an application fee of \$164 and complete all required components, including analysis of prior test results and completion of educational activities directly related to the test for which the individual is applying, before test approval will be granted. Please see [Test Waiver Information](#) for additional information regarding this process. Applicants affiliated with an educator preparation program (EPP) must seek the approval of their EPP before submitting the waiver application.

How can candidates, educators, and other testers determine if they may be impacted by this change?

Individuals may view their test history in the TEA Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) by logging in at: <https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/>

Once logged in to ECOS, clicking on the “View Examinations” link in the left-side navigation pane will bring up an individual’s complete test history as shown below:



Attempt Count	Type	Code	Description	Admin Date	Result	Score	Read	Write
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	01/20/2015	Fail	000		
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	03/10/2015	Fail	000		
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	05/28/2015	Fail	000		
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	07/21/2015	Fail	000		
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	06/10/2016	Fail	000		
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	03/15/2017	Fail	000		
4	TEXES	160	Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12	08/08/2017	Fail	000		

Please note in the sample report above that although this candidate’s official test attempt count for the 160 Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) EC-12 test is currently 4 as of the most recent test date of 08/08/2017, the test attempt count will change to 7 on 09/01/2018. If the candidate does not pass the 160 PPR EC-12 test before 09/01/2018, this candidate will be required to apply for a waiver because the candidate will have exceeded the 5-attempt test limit on 09/01/2018.

Please note in the sample report below that although this candidate's official test attempt count for the 068 Principal test is currently 4 as of the most recent test date of 10/11/2017, the test attempt count will change to 6 on 09/01/2018. If the candidate does not pass the 068 Principal test before 09/01/2018, this candidate will be required to apply for a waiver because the candidate will have exceeded the 5-attempt test limit on 09/01/2018.

Attempt Count	Type	Code	Description	Admin Date	Result	Score	Read	Write
4	TEXES	068	Principal	08/02/2008	Fail	50%		
4	TEXES	068	Principal	01/09/2014	Fail	50%		
4	TEXES	068	Principal	09/30/2014	Fail	50%		
4	TEXES	068	Principal	09/16/2015	Fail	50%		
4	TEXES	068	Principal	11/02/2015	Fail	50%		
4	TEXES	068	Principal	10/11/2017	Fail	50%		

What should candidates, educators, and others do now?

1. Candidates, educators, and other testers should check in [ECOS](#) to see if they will be impacted by the change. Keep in mind that individuals who did not test before 09/01/2015 are not affected by the change since all attempts have always been included in the attempt count for these testers.
2. Candidates enrolled in an educator preparation program (EPP) should reach out to their EPP to seek assistance and request test approval, considering the candidate's readiness to test. Enrolled candidates must meet EPP requirements before they will be granted test approval.
3. Individuals who need to apply for testing accommodations should begin that process as soon as possible since documentation review can take up to 6 weeks to complete and other factors, such as the creation of special test forms, may delay testing. More information about testing accommodations may be found at: <http://cms.texas-ets.org/alternativetesting/>
4. Candidates, educators, and others who are in danger of reaching the 5-time testing limit are encouraged to register and take their test(s) well before 09/01/2018. **(Candidates enrolled in an EPP must continue to meet EPP testing requirements to gain test approval.)**
5. Testers should keep in mind the 45-day wait period between testing administrations, and EPP candidates should request test approvals in a timely manner from their EPP so that they may register in sufficient time to take full advantage of every testing opportunity, considering a candidate's readiness to test.

6. Individuals should devote adequate time and effort to prepare for each test administration. [Free test preparation resources are available on the ETS website](#), including preparation manuals, which include the competencies to be tested, sample test questions, and pertinent study resources.
7. Keep in mind that some tests are offered on a limited basis, so individuals should be aware of the various schedules and deadlines in the [Registration Bulletins](#). Please refer to <http://www.texas.ets.org/testdates> for registration deadlines. For most tests, individuals may register up to 48 hours in advance of a test administration, but a larger volume of test registrations may impact availability, so individuals are encouraged to register well in advance of published deadlines.
8. **Candidates, educators, and other testers must take their test(s) by August 31, 2018** if the new test attempt counting method will make them ineligible on September 1, 2018.
9. School districts should share this information with their employees, encourage any individuals impacted by the change to take advantage of all testing opportunities, and assist their employees with preparation efforts.

Who are the appropriate contacts for questions?

- Candidates enrolled in an educator preparation program (EPP) should seek assistance from their EPP. Candidates must seek the approval of their EPP before submitting the test-limit waiver application.
- The [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) posted on the TEA Educator Testing webpage should answer most questions about the test-limit waiver process. Additional questions about waivers may be submitted through a [HelpDesk ticket](#) to the TEA Educator Testing unit by indicating “Test-Limit Waiver” in the subject field.
- Other testing-related questions may be submitted through a [HelpDesk ticket](#) to the TEA Educator Testing unit or by calling 512-463-9039.
- Certification-related questions may be submitted through a [HelpDesk ticket](#) or by calling the TEA Division of Educator Certification and Testing at 512-936-8400, Option 2.
- Questions about test registration, testing locations, and testing schedules should be directed to ETS Customer Service at 1-800-205-2626 or texas-excet_inquiries@ets.org.