


BUFF START



Stampede Track for Accelerated Readiness for Teaching

Combined Application to WT's START and Educator Preparation Programs

Section 1. Personal Information

WT ID: _____ (if applicable) TEA ID: _____ D.O.B.: _____ Gender: _____

Name: _____
Last First MI Maiden

Address: _____
Street or P.O. Box City TX Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____ @buffs.wtamu.edu _____
Personal Buff Email (if applicable) Personal Email

Have you ever been charged with a felony or misdemeanor? YES NO
(If YES, additional information may be required)

Have you ever participated in another Educator Preparation Program? YES NO

If YES, what program? _____ When? _____
(If transferring from another University EPP, you must provide a Candidate Transfer Form from that program and a letter explaining why you are requesting a transfer.)

*** Application Deadlines ***

May Intercession 2024
START App. DUE: April 12th
Univ. App DUE: April 28th

Summer Session I 2024
START App. DUE: April 25th
Univ. App DUE: May 9th

Summer Session II 2024
START App. DUE: June 10th
Univ. App DUE: June 24th

Fall 2024
START App. DUE: July 18th
Univ. App DUE: Aug. 1st

Section 2. Professional Information

Name of School: _____ Principal's Name: _____

Are you a Certified Teacher's Aide according to TAC §230.51? YES NO

Are you employed at least 4 hrs / day in the area you are seeking certification? YES NO

*Please be sure to provide a copy of your daily work schedule with your application

Section 3. Area of Certification

Please indicate the certification you are pursuing (choose one area):

***Shaded areas are offered fully online**

Elementary, Grades EC-6	Secondary, Grades 6-12 or 7-12	All –Level, Grades EC-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Core EC-6 (391)	<input type="checkbox"/> Agri. Food and Nat. Res. 6-12 (272)	<input type="checkbox"/> Art EC-12 (178)
Middle School, Grades 4-8	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Science 7-12 (238)	<input type="checkbox"/> LOTE-Spanish EC-12 (613)
<input type="checkbox"/> Core 4-8 (211)	<input type="checkbox"/> ELAR 7-12 (231)	<input type="checkbox"/> Music EC-12 (177)
<input type="checkbox"/> ELAR 4-8 (117)	<input type="checkbox"/> History 7-12 (233)	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education EC-12 (158)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics 4-8 (115)	<input type="checkbox"/> Journalism 7-12 (233)	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Ed EC-12 (161)
<input type="checkbox"/> Science 4-8 (115)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics 7-12 (233)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater EC-12 (180)
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies 4-8 (118)	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science 6-12 (237)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ELAR / Soc Studies 4-8 (113)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science 7-12 (236)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Math / Science 4-8 (114)	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Science 7-12 (232)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech 7-12 (129)	

Section 4. Acknowledgements and Authorizations

By signing this application, you acknowledge the following:

- The contents of this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge.
- You must meet the admissions criteria of the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and START program, which are as follows:
 - Having and maintaining a 2.75 GPA overall and in the content area
 - Completing the minimum number of SCH in the subject-specific content area as required by TEA
 - Passing the content exam, PPR exam, and STR exam (if applicable).
 - Providing false or misleading information will result in denial of admission or dismissal from the program.

Criminal History Information:

- A criminal background check and fingerprinting will be performed by TEA before a candidate may certify. TAC 227.1(b)(1)(2). A candidate's criminal history report may render the candidate ineligible.
- Candidates may request a preliminary TEA background check for an evaluation of criminal history for a charge prior to starting a program <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/preliminary-criminal-history-evaluation-faqs>)

English Language Proficiency Requirement:

- An applicant for certification in Texas must be able to communicate, listen, read, write, and comprehend the English language sufficiently to use it easily and readily in daily communication and teaching (TAC §230.11).

Section 5. Applicant Checklist

Please collect required signatures and documents; then, send the completed application via email, mail, or in-person to the Office of Educator Preparation.

All applicants must submit these items:

- Printed and signed application
- All college / university transcripts (unofficial is acceptable, but you will need official when you apply to the university. *Admission is contingent upon receipt of official transcripts and acceptance to the university*)
- Signature from district representative
- Completed Screening Tool (Last page of this application)
- Copy of your work schedule w/ principal signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the investigation of statements given including a criminal background check. I authorize the Office of Educator Preparation and Advising to provide school districts and/or administrators with information and/or opinion regarding my fitness for employment, and I authorize the EPP to utilize and/or release any information contained in my student records as part of the response.

In full and complete consideration for the WTAMU Educator Preparation Program agreeing to respond on my behalf, I forever waive any possible claims of liability against and covenant not to sue the West Texas A&M University EPP, its officers or employees for any claim or cause of action which may arise as a result of the requested submission.

My signature indicates understanding and agreement with all of the above acknowledgements and authorizations.

Applicant Signature

Date

Section 6. School District Representative Agreements

The START program works in collaboration with school districts to help ensure the success of candidates. Therefore, a member of the school district (principal, or central office administrator) must recommend an applicant for the START program and agree to provide support to the applicant throughout the journey.

By signing below, the school district and district representative recommends the above candidate for acceptance in the START program based on their potential to continue in their current position while also demonstrating potential to complete the rigorous components of the START program and certification requirements.

Required Agreements:

- District agrees to ensure the candidate is able to remain in their area of future certification for a minimum of 4 hours per day.
- District agrees to provide appropriate support and communication to the candidate as needed.
- District recommends applicant for admission based on his/her potential to complete the program and verifies that the applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought.

Optional Support:

- District agrees to provide financial support to the candidate (please reach out to the Office of Educator Preparation for more information on sponsored billing.)

District Representative Name: _____ Title: _____

_____ **District Representative Signature**

_____ **Date**

Section 7. Application Submission

Please submit you completed Application and supporting documents to the Office of Educator Preparation. You may submit you application through any of the following:

Preferred Submission Methods:

- **Email:**
 - Email application and supporting documents to teacherprep@wtamu.edu
 - Please title the subject line as "START Application Firstname Lastname"
- **In-Person:**
 - Visit the Office of Educator Preparation located in Old Main Suite 415. We are open 8-5, M-F.
 - 2501 4th Ave. Canyon, TX

Other Submission Methods:

- **Mail in Application**
 - West Texas A&M University
Office of Educator Preparation
PO Box 60208
Canyon, TX 79105

Please note that admission into the University is also required. We highly recommend that you apply to the university at the same time you submit your application for the START program to expedite the application process.

- WTAMU Application to the University: <https://www.wtamu.edu/admissions/index.html>

Section 8. Screening Tool

Your final step is to complete a screening review. As per TAC §21.0441(b) (8), an applicant must meet screening requirements. For START candidates, the screening tool has been abbreviated due to your work as a certified teacher's aide and consists of two components:

1. Recommendation by School District Representative (signature on Section 6 of this application)
2. Written Essay demonstrating candidate's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude.
 - a. Essay may be completed on the back of this page, or submitted with the application typed, or in a MS Word document, or PDF.
 - b. The essay will be graded based on a standard rubric for the START program
 - c. In the event that the candidate does not pass the screening tool, another attempt may be made by contacting the Office of Educator Preparation.

Office of Educator Preparation Contact Information

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