

BUFF START

Stampede Track for Accelerated Readiness for Teaching

WTAMU Buff START Program Recommendation Form

Section 1. Personal Information of the Paraprofessional being Recommended

Name: _____
Last First MI Maiden

Buff ID: _____ (if applicable) TEA ID: _____ D.O.B: _____ Gender : M F

Section 2. Professional Information

Name of ISD: _____ Name of School: _____

Campus Administrator: _____
Name Email Phone
(Circle One)

Is the certified Educator Aide currently employed with a school district according to TAC §230.51? YES NO

Have they been employed and served on a valid Educational Aide Certificate for at least four months? YES NO

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

Are they assisting and supporting students in an instructional setting? YES NO

**Their daily schedule must meet a minimum of at least 4hrs/day of instructional delivery/support to students in the area they are seeking certification according to TAC §228.67.*

**Please provide a copy of their Educational Aide Certificate, service/work record, and daily work schedule with your recommendation.*

Mentor/Cooperating Teacher Qualifications:

- Minimum of 3 years as a certified teacher.
- Rated proficient or above in teacher evaluations for the past 3 years.

- Demonstrated positive impact on student learning outcomes, supported by growth or achievement data.
- Recognized as an accomplished educator by their campus principal.
- Demonstrates professional dispositions aligned with the goals and values of the Buff START program.

**List of potential certified mentor teachers who are eligible to serve as the Mentor/Cooperating Teacher
(Refer to requirements above)**

Name:

Certification Area:

Contact Email:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Section 3. Area of Certification

Please indicate the certification area the individual will be pursuing (choose one area):

**The following certification areas below are offered fully online.*

**Please note that 4hrs./day must be in the cert. area they are seeking.*

**14 months completion time is contingent upon having previously earned credit.*

**Special Ed EC – 12 rotations will require approximately 18 months completion time.*

Elementary, Grades EC - 6	Middle School, Grades 4 - 8	All-Levels, Grades EC - 12
☐ EC – 6 CORE Subjects with STR	☐ ELAR 4 – 8 with STR	☐ Special Ed. Specialist EC – 12
	☐ ELAR/SS 4 – 8 with STR	
	☐ Social Studies 4 – 8	

Section 4. Acknowledgements and Authorizations

By signing this program recommendation, you acknowledge the following:

- The contents of this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge.
- The potential candidate must meet the following admission criteria of the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and the Buff START Program:
 - Having and maintaining a 2.75 GPA overall and in the content area of certification.
 - Completing the minimum number of SCH (12) in the subject specific content area as required by TEA.

Please collect required signatures and documents (see below); then, send this completed program recommendation form via email, mail, or in-person to the Office of Educator Preparation.

If the recommended Educational Aide is accepted into the Buff START program:

- 1. They must apply and be accepted to West Texas A&M University prior to starting the Buff START program.***
(Application to the University: <https://www.wtamu.edu/admissions/index.html>)
- 2. They must meet with the Buff START advisor to schedule courses.***
- 3. If they have 45 completed SCH, they may be eligible to apply for entrance into the WTAMU Educator Preparation Program (EPP).***

Section 5. School District Recommendation Checklist

School district must submit these items:

- This completed and signed program recommendation form
- Copies of all the paraprofessional's college/university transcripts (Unofficial is acceptable, but they will need an official copy when they apply to the university. ***Program admission is contingent upon receipt of official transcripts and acceptance to the university.***)
- Copy of the paraprofessional's work schedule with the campus administrator's signature.
- List of eligible mentor teachers.

Field Supervisor Recommendation:

- If outside of a 50-mile radius of Canyon, TX, we would appreciate your recommendation for potential field supervisors who would be eligible to be hired by WTAMU as a part-time employee to provide supervision for this recommended individual.

Please contact Mr. Gilbert Antunez at West Texas A&M University: gantunez@wtamu.edu; (806) 651-2908.

Section 6. Campus and District Representative Agreements

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

By signing below, the administrator recommends the candidate for acceptance into the WTAMU Buff START program based on their potential to continue in their current position as a paraprofessional (educational aide) while demonstrating the ability to complete the **rigorous and accelerated** components of the Buff START program and all TEA certification requirements.

Required Agreements:

- Campus and District Administration agrees to ensure the candidate is able to remain in their area of certification for a minimum of 4 hours/day of instructional delivery/support to students and is supported by a high-quality eligible mentor teacher.
- Campus and District Administration agrees to provide appropriate support and communication to the candidate as needed.
- Campus and District Administration recommends applicant for admission based on their potential to complete the program and verifies that the applicant's knowledge, experience, skills, and aptitude are appropriate for the certification sought.

Signature of Administrator

Role

Date

Optional Support:

- District agrees to provide financial support to the candidate. *(Please reach out to the WTAMU Business Office for more information on sponsored billing: <https://www.wtamu.edu/business-finance/business-office/tuition-fees-deadlines/sponsored-billing.html>)*
 - Business Office contact information: bo@wtamu.edu; (806) 651-2080
 - If financial support is available please designate the financial point of contact.

District Administrator Name

Title

Signature

Date

Section 7. Buff START Recommendation

Please submit this completed and signed program recommendation and supporting documents to the Office of Educator Preparation through one of the following methods:

Preferred Submission Methods:

- **Email:**
 - Email the recommendation form and supporting documents to aham@wtamu.edu
 - Please title the subject line, "Buff START Application First-Name Last-Name".
- **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 79016

- **Mail in Application:**
 - West Texas A&M University
Office of Educator Preparation
PO Box 60208
Canyon, TX 79016
- **Contact information – (806) 651-2668;**
Mrs. Aubrye Ham: aham@wtamu.edu