

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 P.O. Box City State 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)

Priority Application Deadlines

May Intercession	Summer Session I	Summer Session II	Fall
Buff START App. DUE: April 1 st Univ. App. DUE: April 15 th	Buff START App. DUE: April 1 st Univ. App. DUE: April 15 th	Buff START App. DUE: June 1 st Univ. App. DUE: June 15 th	Buff START App. DUE: July 1 st Univ. App. DUE: July 15 th

Section 2. Professional Information

Name of ISD: _____ Name of School: _____

Principal's Info: _____
Name Email Phone

(Circle One)

Are you a certified Teacher's Aide currently employed with a school district according to TAC §230.51? YES NO

Have you been employed & served on a valid Teacher's Aide Certificate for at least two years? YES NO

Are you employed at least 4hrs/day in the area in which you are seeking certification assisting and supporting students in an instructional setting? YES NO

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

Have you signed a Teacher's Aide contract with this school district? (TAC §230.51) YES NO

Your upcoming schedule must meet a minimum of at least 4hrs/day in the area you are seeking certification according to TAC §230.51.

Please provide a copy of your Certified Aide Certificate, service/work record, and daily work schedule with your application.

Mentor Teacher Qualifications:

- Minimum of 3 years as a 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 eligible certified teachers you work with: (Refer to requirements above)

Name:

Area of Cert:

Contact Info:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Section 3. Area of Certification

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

The following certification areas below are offered fully online.* *Please note that 4hrs/day must be in the cert. area you are seeking.

** 14 months completion time is contingent upon having specific (core and content), appropriate coursework for the target cert. area.**

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

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EC – 6 CORE Subjects with STR (391; 239) | <input type="checkbox"/> ELAR 4 – 8 with STR (217; 293)
<input type="checkbox"/> ELAR/SS 4 – 8 with STR (113; 293) | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Ed EC – 12 (161) |
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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 Buff START program, which are as follows:
 - Having and maintaining a 2.75 GPA overall and in the content area of certification.
 - Completing the minimum number of SCH in the subject specific content area as required by TEA.
 - Passing the content exam, PRR exam, and STR exam (if applicable).
 - Providing false or misleading information will result in denial of admission or dismissal from the program.

Continued - Section 4. Acknowledgements and Authorizations

Criminal History Background:

- 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 the program. (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/preliminary-criminal-history-evaluation><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).

Texas Education Agency Notifications Exit Policy:

- It is the goal of the West Texas A&M University Educator Preparation Program (WTAMU EPP) to graduate and certify candidates who will become successful educators in the state of Texas. However, there may be circumstances in which the dismissal of a candidate becomes necessary. This policy outlines some of the reasons for dismissal, and the procedures used when the WTAMU EPP makes the decision that dismissal of a candidate is warranted.
 - [Additional Information.](#)

Educator Preparation Program Complaint Process:

- As defined by [Texas Administrative Code §228](#) a candidate or former candidate in an Educator Preparation Program (EPP), an applicant for candidacy in an EPP, an employee or former employee of an EPP, a cooperating teacher, a mentor, a site supervisor, or an administrator in a public or private school that serves as a site for clinical teaching, internship or practicum experiences may submit, in accordance with subsection (c)(1) of this section, a complaint about an EPP for investigation and resolution. The complaint process allows individuals to seek redress in areas where they feel that the program did not fulfill requirements for certification or for actions that the individual feels are wrong.
 - [Educator Preparation Program Complaint Process Documentation.](#)

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. ***Please note that admission into the University is required prior to submitting your application for the Buff START program.*** (Application to the University: <https://www.wtamu.edu/admissions/index.html>)

All applicants must submit these items:

- Printed and signed application.
- All college/university transcripts (Unofficial is acceptable, but you will need an official copy when you apply to the university. ***Program admission is contingent upon receipt of official transcripts and acceptance to the university.***)
- Signature from campus principal.
- Completed Screening Tools (On last page of application.)
- Copy of your work schedule with principal signature.
- List of eligible mentor teachers.

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 claim 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 acknowledgments and authorizations.

Applicant Signature

Date

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 (principal, or central office administrator) must recommend an applicant for the Buff START program and agree to provide support to the applicant throughout the journey.

By signing below, the campus principal and district representative recommends the above candidate for acceptance in the Buff START program based on their potential to continue in their current position as a para professional (instructional aide) while demonstrating potential to complete the **rigorous and accelerated** components of the Buff START program and all TEA certification requirements.

Required Agreements:

- Campus agrees to ensure the candidate is able to remain in their area of future certification for a minimum of 4 hours/day and is supported by an eligible mentor teacher.
- Campus agrees to provide appropriate support and communication to the candidate as needed.
- Campus 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.

Campus Principal Name

Signature

Date

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.)*
 - If financial support is available please designate the financial point of contact.

District Representative Name

Title

Signature

Date

Section 7. Application Submission

Please submit your completed application and supporting documents to the Office of Educator Preparation through one of the following:

Preferred Submission Methods:

- **Email:**
 - Email the application and supporting documents to teacherprep@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

Other Submission Methods:

- **Mail in Application:**
 - West Texas A&M University
Office of Educator Preparation
PO Box 60208
Canyon, TX 79016

For general questions please contact the Office of Educator Preparation through the main line listed below.

Office of Educator Preparation Contact Information

Main Line: (806) 651-2668

Dr. Robin Johnson Buff Start Advisor (806) 651-2610 rjohnson@wtamu.edu	Dr. Crystal Hughes Executive Director (806) 651-2562 chughes@wtamu.edu	Mr. Gilbert Antunez Asst. Director (806) 651-2908 Gantunez@wtamu.edu	Ms. Heidi Brooks Lead Advisor (806) 651-3625 hbrooks@wtamu.edu	Mr. Ray Rigoni Advisor (806) 651-2642 rrigoni@wtamu.edu	Office of Ed Prep (806) 651-2668 Teacherprep@wtamu.edu
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Section 8. Screening Tool

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Your final step is to complete a screening review. As per TAC §21.0441(b)(8), an applicant must meet screening requirements. For Buff 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)**. Campus?
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, in a MS Word document, or PDF.
 - b. The essay will be graded based on a standard rubric for the Buff 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.
3. **Add candidate slide & introduction video?**

Applicant Screening Tool	
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Please attach a well-developed personal essay addressing the following prompts:

1. Describe a times when you had to overcome an obstacle. What was the outcome?
2. What role do you believe technology plays in learning?
3. Discuss yourself as a life-long learner and why this is important to you as a future educator.
4.
 - a. In your class there are students that are above level and students that are severely behind. What are you next steps in reaching all students in your classroom?
 - b. Students come from diverse backgrounds and circumstances. What role does the teacher play in producing high levels of learning and student success for all students?

[illegible]


