

Library Science MLS

Master Texas Educator Standards For School Librarians

Goal Description:

Candidate knowledge and skills to meet Texas Educator Standards -----

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS
RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Candidate Knowledge, Skills, And Dispositions

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and dispositions by successfully completing the TExES School Librarian (150) test that is designed to assess examinees according to the prescribed domains that include the following: Domain I - Teaching, Learning, and the School Library Environment; Domain II - Program Management, Leadership, and Connections to the Community; and Domain III - Librarianship, Information Science, and Technology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

TExES

Indicator Description:

All candidates seeking school librarian certification must take the TExES (Texas Examination of Educator Standards) for school librarians. This exam directly corresponds to the state content competencies that are designed to measure the candidates' level of mastery as it relates to the field. Results of candidate scores on the TExES test for school librarians determine the pass rate for each testing period.

Criterion Description:

Candidates will pass the TExES Exam for School Librarian, and 80% of candidates will succeed upon their first effort. A scaled score of 240 is required for passing. The overall pass rate, with those who have to retake the exam, will exceed 90% of candidates.

Findings Description:

Library Science candidates who completed the program during the 2015-2016 academic year contributed to the following findings:

77% of the candidates were successful in passing the TExES certification exam on their first attempt. This is below the criterion of 80%. This is up from 69% in the previous academic year. The 80% criterion will remain for 2016-2017.

81% of the candidates were successful in passing the TExES certification exam. This is greater than the previous academic year of 74%. This year's score remains below the criterion of 90% for overall pass rate. The 90% criterion will remain for 2016-2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions Action

Action Description:

The program requires that candidates complete scenarios during their coursework. These scenarios are similar to those encountered on the pretest that candidates must complete prior to being released to take the State's certification examination. The scenarios were an additional support added. It is unclear as to whether these added scenarios made a positive impact on candidate success on the certification examination results.

Faculty members will continue to use the preparation materials for the certification examination that are in place. Additional practice test questions are being developed to provide more opportunities for candidates to experience the format of the certification examination. These questions will be incorporated into an online practice test that candidates will be required to complete before taking the pretest.

Remedial support has been and will be offered to candidates who are unsuccessful in their attempts to pass the certification examination. Note: The State of Texas has recently reduced the number of attempts on the certification examination to five.

Portfolio Demonstrating Mastery Of Standards

Goal Description:

Library science candidates prepare a final assessment portfolio for the MLS to demonstrate mastery and competence standards adopted by the field.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS - - - - -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Candidate Preparedness

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will demonstrate mastery of their knowledge, skills, and dispositions gained in the Library Science program on the final assessment of portfolio. The portfolio is governed by the *ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation of School Librarians (2010)*. The five standards include: Standard 1 - Teaching for Learning; Standard 2 - Literacy and Reading; Standard 3 - Information and Knowledge; Standard 4 - Advocacy and Leadership; and Standard 5 - Program Management and Administration.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Final Assessment Portfolio

Indicator Description:

Every graduate program requires a final product for its course of study. The Department of Library Science has determined that the electronic portfolio is currently the best method of providing evidence that the candidate is prepared for the world of school librarianship. The electronic portfolio is designed for candidates to demonstrate through artifacts and reflection their completion and mastery of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standards.

The candidate must meet acceptable or target evaluations of their final assessment portfolio. Professors review the portfolios using rubrics developed by faculty for this purpose.

Criterion Description:

All candidates will obtain an assessment of either acceptable or target as indicated by department rubrics on the final portfolio. Since candidates met the desired ratio of 30% Acceptable and 70% Target, the new percentages will be 20% Acceptable and 80% Target.

Findings Description:

For 2015-2016 academic year, the percentage of candidates who scored Target was 55%, which was lower than the criterion of 80% and the previous academic year's percentage of 70%. The remainder 36% of candidates scored at the Acceptable level and 8% failed.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Portfolio Demonstrating Mastery of Standards Action

Action Description:

The percentage of candidates who scored Target was 55%, which was lower than the criterion of 80% and the previous academic year's percentage of 70%. The remainder 36% of candidates scored at the Acceptable level and 8% failed.

To improved candidates' successful performance on the portfolio, faculty members created a video to answer frequently asked questions and identify common mistakes made by candidates on their portfolios. The video was available the last half of 2015-2016 academic year.

This next academic year of 2016-2017, faculty members will review course curriculum, benchmark assignments, and state and national standards. Coursework will be revised to better prepare candidates for program completion and expectations in the professional field. These revisions may require revisions to the portfolio requirements. If revisions to the portfolio are needed, they will be made prior to the 2017-2018 academic year.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

For mastery of Texas Educator Standards for School Librarians, faculty members will continue to use the preparation materials for the pretest that were in place prior to the addition of the discussion during 2014-2015. In addition, the use of scenarios that have been embedded within the content will continue to be included in the courses. These scenarios are practice test questions to help candidates prepare for the certification exam. For candidates who are in need of remedial support, a faculty member will work with them until the candidates experience success in passing the certification examination.

In addition, for mastery of the Texas Educator Standards for School Librarians, the program faculty members will conduct a curriculum crosswalk of the state’s standards and the ALA/AASL Standards for the Initial Preparation of School Librarians (2010) for a review to identify gaps that need to be filled in the curriculum. Also, assessments in the curriculum will need to be reviewed for categorical concurrence, depth-of-knowledge consistency, range-of-knowledge correspondence, and balance of representation. Necessary adjustments should be made.

For Portfolio Demonstrating Mastery of Standards, a review of the Anecdotal Resume and other supports will be revisited and revised as deemed

necessary by the program faculty members to help candidates as they complete Portfolio in the future. Other optional support measures will be explored. The criterion for the next academic year will remain the same.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

For mastery of Texas Educator Standards for School Librarians, faculty members will continue to use the preparation materials and scenarios that were put into place for the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition, the faculty members are in the process of developing additional scenarios for the preparation of candidates prior to taking the pretest. Candidates are being encouraged to take the TExES certification examination within one year of program completion. Remediation efforts for those who fail the pretest or the certification examination now include the development of a study plan as part of their remediation.

For portfolio, upcoming curriculum review and revision may result in revision to the requirements for portfolio. Aligning curriculum requirements with the portfolio requirements may benefit candidates as they complete the program. The criterion for the next academic year will be lowered to 70% Target and 30% Acceptable pass rates.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

For mastery of Texas Educator Standards for School Librarians, faculty members will administer the preparation and pretest sessions. A practice test has been added as a benchmark for students mid-way through the library science program to help candidates prepare for the certification examination.

In addition, faculty members will monitor coursework, benchmark performance, and curriculum in support of candidate learning. New rubrics for the benchmarks were scheduled to be implemented in Spring 2017 to more closely align with national accreditation standards that changed when NCATE became a subsidiary of CAEP.