

Frequently Asked Questions About TEEAC

1. What is TEEAC?

TEEAC stands for the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee. Established by the 72nd Texas Legislature through Senate Bill 1340, TEEAC serves educators and informal science providers throughout the state. TEEAC continues to maintain a network of providers of environmental education professional development, including universities, local and state agencies, museums, and nature centers. These providers meet annually with Texas Education Agency staff for cross-disciplinary professional development related to environmental education. The TEEAC providers' network helps ensure that teacher professional development is educationally sound and consistent with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

2. What is a TEEAC Provider?

TEEAC maintains a list of continuing professional education (CPE) providers that offer professional development for educators and/or environmental experiences for students that incorporate the TEKS. These providers of environmental education and professional development include universities, state agencies, museums, nonprofits, and nature centers. TEEAC Providers certify that these experiences are educationally rigorous and aligned with the TEKS.

- Benefits:
 - Receive annual updates from TEA staff.
 - Help schools and teachers meet state standards.
 - Earn a certificate of attendance from the annual meeting.
 - Maintain an entry on the TEEAC Providers List on the [TEA website](#).
- Obligations:
 - Attend the annual meeting in-person or virtually, held in early January.
 - Offer professional development to educators and/or provide educational opportunities for Texas students based on the TEKS.
 - Respond to the annual request to complete the [Providers List Update form](#).

The difference between being a TEEAC Provider and a CPE Provider:

- TEEAC Providers:
 - Maintain a CPE# granted by [TEA](#).
 - Offer CPE or student experiences in environmental education.
 - Provide [approved](#) programs that count toward the TEEAC certificate of recognition.
- CPE Providers:
 - Offer CPE hours for professional development programs that align with a variety of subject areas and professional learning goals.
 - Provide hours required to renew a standard Texas teaching certificate.
 - Are certified by the [Continuing Professional Education](#) team.
 - Send a completed [CPE Provider Registration Application](#) through the [TEA Help Desk](#).

3. Do I have to attend the providers' meeting to become or remain a TEEAC Provider?

No, providers will not be removed from the Providers List for not attending the annual meeting. However, participation in person, virtually, or asynchronously is highly encouraged to maintain consistency and alignment with the current TEKS and statewide programs and initiatives. Providers that do not respond to the

annual update notification are removed from the published Providers List.

4. How do I become a TEEAC Provider?

To become a TEEAC Provider, complete a [Program Description form](#) for each topic or program offered to educators or students. New Program Description forms are also needed when new science TEKS are adopted or when an organization's programming changes significantly.

TEEAC Providers are listed on the [TEA website](#). To include your program or organization, complete a [Providers List Update form](#) once your Program Description form has been approved.

Questions regarding [Continuing Professional Education \(CPE\)](#) activities should be directed to the [CPE Help Desk](#), cpe@tea.texas.gov, or (512) 463-5280.

5. What is the TEEAC Certificate of Recognition?

After teachers have completed 45 hours of professional development from TEEAC-approved providers via workshops, courses, or seminars at a TEEAC-endorsed site or program, they may apply for an Environmental Education Certificate of Recognition. Teachers should complete the [Coursework Verification Form](#) to receive the Certificate of Recognition.

6. Is this a teaching endorsement?

No, Texas does not have a teaching endorsement in environmental education.

7. Do programs completed in other states count towards the certificate?

No, programs must be completed through a TEEAC-endorsed institution.

8. May I receive credit for the same program more than once?

No, the purpose of issuing the Certificate of Recognition is to encourage a broad awareness of various environmental issues. Teachers are encouraged to take courses from as many of the 10 core themes in environmental education as possible. The 10 core themes of environmental education designated by TEEAC are:

- Soil & Land Use
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Communities & Ecosystems, including Human Population
- Wildlife & Domestic Animals
- Plants, Food, & Fiber
- Aesthetics & the Built Environment
- Minerals, Energy, & Resource Recovery
- Hazards
- Society, Economics, Politics & Culture

9. I've attended excellent workshops at places not affiliated with TEEAC. Can I get credit for those workshops?

No, you may not unless the provider chooses to affiliate with TEEAC. Only TEEAC-endorsed programs provide credit toward the certificate. You can mention the TEEAC program to your workshop provider. If they affiliate with TEEAC, they may offer retroactive credit for workshops.

10. There are no TEEAC-endorsed programs near my town. How can I work toward a certificate?

If no TEEAC-endorsed programs are held near you can:

- Check with local nature centers, colleges, museums, and other workshop providers to see if they want to become a TEEAC-endorsed program,
- Travel to environmental education workshops, or
- Become a provider – your school district or organization could offer TEEAC-approved workshops.

11. Can I get TEEAC credit for the workshops I teach?

Yes, you may receive credit once for each workshop presented. The developer or presenter receives the same hours of credit as a participant in the workshop.

12. If I still have questions, who should I contact?

To contact someone about TEEAC, you may:

- send a message through the [Curriculum Help Desk](#)
- email Liz Baker, Secondary Science Specialist, at Liz.Baker@tea.texas.gov
- call (512) 463-9581