**Texas Education Agency**

**Guidance on the Use and Reporting of Educator Certification Scores in Education Research Centers**

**October 30, 2014**

In November 2014, educator certification test results for years 1994 – 2014 will be added to the Texas Education Research Centers (ERCs) and the data will be made available to researchers with projects that have been approved by the ERC Advisory Board.

Educator certification test results are considered confidential, as outlined by TEC 21.048 (c-1):

(c-1) The results of an examination administered under this section are confidential and are not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, unless:

(1) the disclosure is regarding notification to a parent of the assignment of an uncertified teacher to a classroom as required by Section [21.057](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/GetStatute.aspx?Code=ED&Value=21.057&Date=6/28/2014); or

(2) the educator has failed the examination more than five times.

As a result, any research output should follow the rules outlined below:

* Any output datasets or reports created by researchers may not contain individual level certification results or scores;
* Aggregate results may be released only if individual educator results or scores cannot be inferred from the data;
* Individual level certification results or scores may be released only if they cannot be associated with names or other individually identifiable information;
* Datasets or reports may need to be masked for small numbers (<5) at the state, region, district, campus, classroom, and EPP levels;
* Masking may also need to be incorporated for small numbers of teachers by course, subject or subject area. For example, if Learning Elementary in Texas ISD has one Mathematics teacher, any reports displaying certification test data for Mathematics teachers at this campus must show a symbol or number like ‘-999’ in place of the actual test data.

Education Research Center staff who review researcher datasets and reports for legal compliance will be required to check the data for any violations related to TEC 21.048 (c-1) and TEC 39.030 (statute that prohibits the linking of student performance data to individual teacher’s names).