

TEACHER PREPARATION IN THE 89TH SESSION

Senate Bill 2253



EDUCATE TEXAS
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

Teacher Preparation Matters

Texas must make bold, immediate investments in high-quality teacher preparation pathways. Senate Bill 2253 is a crucial step toward building a strong, skilled educator workforce — the foundation for long-term student success and teacher retention.

Last year, 56% of newly hired, first-time teachers in Texas entered the classroom uncertified — many without prior classroom experience. This reliance on underprepared educators leads to student learning loss and high teacher turnover. To address this, Senate Bill 2253 creates the **Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership Programs (PREP) Allotment**, providing targeted support for school districts, teacher candidates, and educator preparation programs to strengthen the teacher pipeline. The PREP Allotment provides funding per teacher candidate, including:

\$10k-\$21.5k

payment for traditional and
preservice alternative certification
attainment

\$24k-\$39.5k

payment for residency program
completion

\$1,000

per uncertified teacher who
successfully earns certification by
the 2025-2026 school year

Additionally, the proposed legislation requires higher compensation for certified new teachers compared to uncertified hires, promoting quality and retention:

+\$3,000

Suggested salary increase for
Standard Certificate teachers

+\$6,000

Suggested salary increase for
Residency Standard Certificate

SB 2253 Key Components:

1

Building a Stronger, High-Quality Teacher Pipeline: The new PREP Allotment funds hands-on teacher preparation through residencies, traditional programs, alternative certification, and grow-your-own pathways — ensuring more educators enter classrooms ready to support student success.

2

Rewarding and Expanding Rigorous Teacher Pathways: To attract and retain top candidates, the bills requires higher pay for certified new teachers over uncertified hires.

3

Empowering Districts and Educator Prep Programs for Success: The bill boosts funding for teacher mentorship by combining the Mentor Program Allotment into the new PREP Allotment. It also provides districts with technical assistance on staffing, compensation, and workforce planning to build a stronger teacher pipeline.

4

Streamlines Essential Literacy and Math Training: The bill incorporates reading and math academies into educator preparation programs, making this vital training in literacy and math instruction more efficient and less time-intensive than the previous standalone academy models.

A LOOK INTO THE DATA: TEACHER PREPARATION

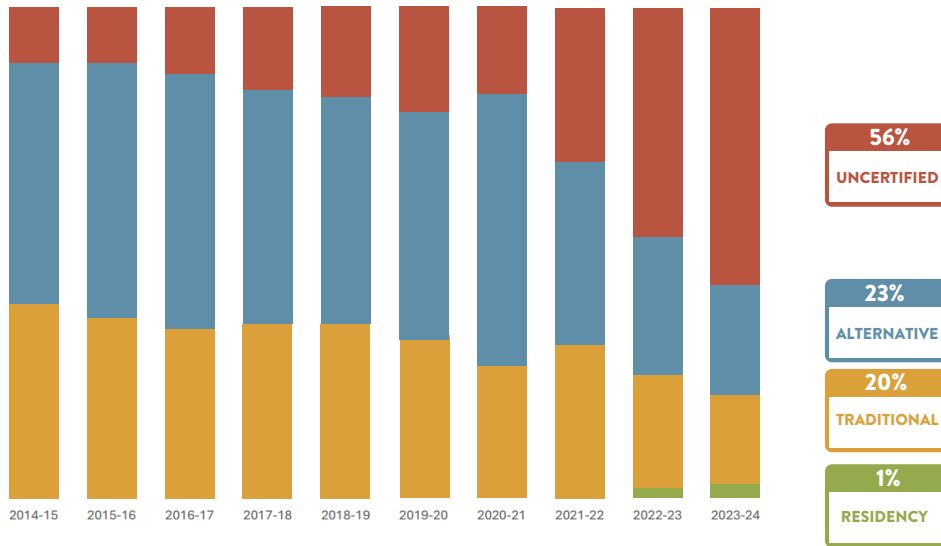
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Percent of New Teachers Hired who are New to Teaching



**The Greatest
Number of
Uncertified
Teachers in
Texas History**

were hired as
first-time
teachers last
school year

students taught by new,
UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS

face an average of:

**3 MONTHS OF
LEARNING LOSS**
in math.

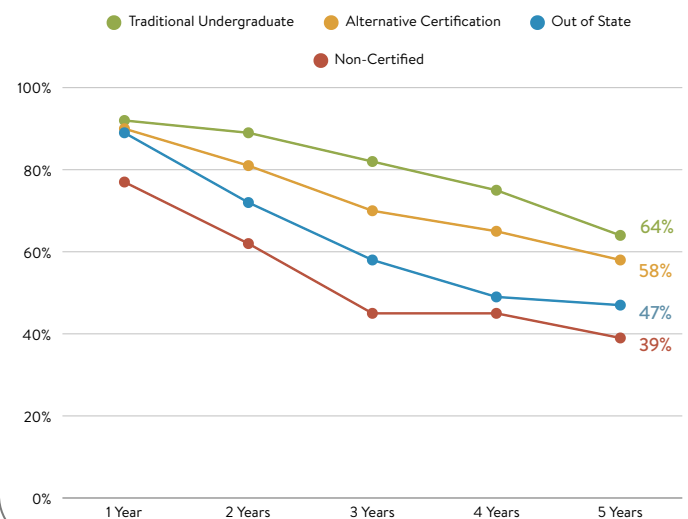
There are over 5,000 full-time, uncertified
math teachers in Texas schools.

**4 MONTHS OF
LEARNING LOSS**
in reading.

There are over 6,000 full-time, uncertified
language arts teachers in Texas schools.

Statewide data show teachers prepared via traditional
and residency route had strong retention rates

Percent of Teachers Retained in the Public Education
Workforce (in percentages)



Sources: Texas Education Agency, The Certification Pathway of an Employed New Hire, 2011-12 through 2022-23

Texas Education Agency, Uncertified Teachers for SY 2023-24 by Grade Level and Subject Area

Kirksey, Ph.D., Texas Tech University, Policy Brief, 2024; Amid Rising Number of Uncertified Teachers, Previous Classroom Experience Proves Vital in Texas

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