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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSPIRE TEXAS Receives Top Honors for Teacher Certification Programs

HOUSTON (May 1, 2018)—The National Council on Teacher Quality has announced its [2018 ratings](#) and named Region 4 Education Service Center's INSPIRE TEXAS teacher certification program among the nation's top programs for both elementary and secondary graduate and alternative certification programs. These rankings include both alternative certification routes as well as university graduate programs.

NCTQ, a nonprofit research and policy organization that offers guidance on improving teacher quality to educators and legislators, evaluated 285 elementary and 437 secondary educator certification programs from across the country on factors such as teacher content knowledge, instruction on classroom management skills, and the inclusion of high-quality practice opportunities.

"I am so proud of the INSPIRE TEXAS program and of the highly effective educators it produces," said Dr. Pam Wells, executive director of Region 4. "Region 4 is interested not only in developing confident teachers, but also in providing the resources each candidate needs to be successful in the classroom. INSPIRE TEXAS plays an important role in helping both our teachers and students reach new heights in the classroom."

With scores in the 99th percentile, the INSPIRE TEXAS programs received ratings based on their use of an evidence-based approach to instruction that includes classroom experience, frequent observations, and support and formal feedback from mentors. NCTQ noted only 5 percent of alternative and traditional graduate programs fulfilled these requirements.

"We're excited that INSPIRE TEXAS is being recognized as a nationally ranked, top-tier program," said Dr. Rene Ruiz, director of INSPIRE TEXAS. "INSPIRE TEXAS is committed to providing the highest quality education to our candidates, with the ultimate goal of excellence in service for children."

INSPIRE TEXAS is ranked nationally as a leading program in educator certification.

[National Top 10 Graduate and Alternative Route Elementary Programs](#)

- INSPIRE TEXAS | Educator Certification by Region 4 (99th percentile)
- YES Preparatory Public Schools Inc.: Teaching Excellence Program (99th percentile)
- Johns Hopkins University (99th percentile)
- Lipscomb University (98th percentile)
- Houston Independent School District: Effective Teacher Fellowship (98th percentile)
- CUNY—Hunter College: Childhood Education, Grades 1–6, M.Ed. (97th percentile)
- University of Houston (96th percentile)
- College of Saint Rose (96th percentile)



- COMPASS: Alternative Certification Teacher Academy of the Dallas Independent School District (96th percentile)
- University of New Mexico: MA Elementary Education, Alternative Route to K–8 Licensure (95th percentile)

National Top 10 Graduate and Alternative Route Secondary Programs

- CUNY—Hunter College (99th percentile)
- Richmond Teacher Residency (99th percentile)
- CUNY—Lehman College (99th percentile)
- Teach for America (District of Columbia Region) (99th percentile)
- Arizona State University: Masters and Arizona Certification Program, TFA Partnership (99th percentile)
- INSPIRE TEXAS | Educator Certification by Region 4 (99th percentile)
- University of California—Irvine (98th percentile)
- Memphis Teacher Residency (98th percentile)
- University of California—Santa Barbara (98th percentile)
- Aspire Teacher Residency (97th percentile)

INSPIRE TEXAS | Educator Certification by Region 4

INSPIRE TEXAS is an alternative certification program that prepares highly-qualified candidates to become teachers, school counselors, principals and superintendents across the state of Texas. Quality instruction, solid relationships with Texas school districts, and an unyielding commitment to developing young minds is why school district administrators recognize it as a premier alternative certification program. INSPIRE TEXAS has provided certification training to more than 18,000 educators since 1991, including two National Bilingual Teachers of the Year. For more information about INSPIRE TEXAS | Educator Certification by Region 4, call 713.744.6323 or e-mail info@inspiretexas.net. Further information on the certification programs can be found at www.InspireTexas.net.

About Region 4 Education Service Center

Region 4 Education Service Center (Region 4), located in Houston, is one of 20 service centers established by the Texas Legislature in 1967. The purposes of the service centers, as presented in legislation, are to assist school districts in improving student performance, to enable school districts to operate more efficiently and economically, and to implement initiatives assigned by the Legislature or Commissioner of Education. The core purpose of Region 4 is to provide excellence in service for children. Encompassing seven counties in the upper Texas Gulf Coast area, Region 4 serves 48 independent school districts and 34 open-enrollment charter schools. As the largest service center in Texas, Region 4 serves an education community of more than 1.2 million students, more than 95,000 professional educators, and 1,500 campuses.

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