

Ector County Independent School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECISD takes historic step to develop teachers locally

In an ongoing effort to ensure every student has a highly-qualified, highly-effective teacher in the classroom, Ector County ISD took a historic step forward this morning when the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) unanimously approved ECISD's educator prep program, Odessa Pathway to Teaching (OPT). Ector County ISD becomes just the third school district in Texas to have a teacher preparation and certification program.

"We are thrilled with this unanimous approval," said ECISD Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri. "Having the ability to certify our own teachers is another tremendous step forward in growing and developing our own outstanding teachers."

When ECISD implemented OPT it operated under the umbrella of TNTP, The New Teacher Project. Beginning on September 1, OPT is fully ECISD's teacher training and certification program. It is coordinated by the District's Talent Development Department and is centered around hands-on, in-person training with experienced ECISD educators. It is open to candidates who already have a bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming a teacher. ECISD teachers and instructional leaders, with years of classroom experience, have designed this specialized training program, focusing on the most important skills effective educators bring to their classroom.

"The Talent Development department is deeply committed to preparing teaching candidates to be highly effective teachers," said ECISD Executive Director of Talent Development Ashley Osborne. "The Odessa Pathway to Teaching Program allows our district to cultivate talent pipelines and ensure high quality teachers are working with our students every day. Candidates in the Odessa Pathway to Teaching program are supported throughout their experience, from selection and preparation through their internship year and beyond."

Applications for Odessa Pathway to Teaching will be accepted this Fall (2021). Anyone interested in joining ECISD's Odessa Pathway to Teaching can contact the Talent Development team at 432-456-0089.

For more information about this release contact ECISD Communications at 432-456-9019.