

News Release
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ALTERNATIVE
CERTIFICATION
DEPARTMENT

Education Service Center Region 19 Launches Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP) to Address Teacher Shortage in El Paso, Texas

El Paso, Texas (October 18, 2023) — Education Service Center Region 19 (ESC 19) is thrilled to announce the official recognition of its Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP) by the U.S. Department of Labor. In collaboration with ESC 19's Teacher Preparation and Certification Program, RTAP provides a unique opportunity for aspiring teachers to gain practical experience, earn a wage, and receive classroom instruction, culminating in a nationally recognized credential upon successful completion.

ESC 19 recognizes the pressing need for qualified educators in the El Paso region and is dedicated to addressing the teacher shortage through innovative initiatives like RTAP. To introduce this groundbreaking program to the community, ESC 19 will host an informational event at the Starlight Event Center, 6650 Continental Drive, on Saturday, November 4, from 8 am to 12 pm. This event is open to all interested individuals who aspire to make a positive impact on the lives of students.

"Our goal is to create accessible pathways to teaching for anyone passionate about shaping the future of our youth," remarked Teresa Hinojos, ESC 19 Professional Development Consultant and apprenticeship sponsor. "RTAP not only offers valuable on-the-job learning but also provides essential support, including tuition assistance, making the journey to becoming a certified teacher more attainable."

Barbara O. Amaya, Director of District Administrative Support and Certification Programs, emphasized ESC 19's commitment to supporting Local Education Agencies (LEA's). "By establishing this apprenticeship, ESC 19 is not only filling crucial teacher shortages but also cultivating high-quality educators equipped to navigate the challenges and opportunities in today's classrooms."

RTAP is open to high school graduates or individuals holding a GED, and applicants with varying levels of college experience are encouraged to apply. The program duration varies based on the applicant's prior college education, ranging from one to five years.

To learn more about RTAP and the opportunities it offers, ESC 19 invites all interested parties to attend the community event on November 4. Staff members will be available to assist with the application process and answer any questions. To attend the event register on the ESC19 [Click & Learn](#) webpage.

For more information about the RTAP program and the event, please contact:
Teresa Hinojos Professional Development Consultant Email: thinojos@esc19.net Phone: 915-780-5338

To register for the event and access additional program details, please visit the [Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Webpage \(RTAP\)](#).

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