

# Teacher Certification Overview

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*Texas Education Agency*

*February 17, 2021*

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# Your Presenter

Shaun Craig, Education Specialist, Texas Education Agency

I am a native New Orleanian but have proudly called Texas home for over 20 years.

I have worked for the state of Texas for 16+ years; working 7 of those years with the Texas Education Agency in Educator Certification.

I am very passionate about my service to the state of Texas and all Texans.



# Discussion Topics

Certification Process

Science of Teaching Reading

Permits, Waivers, and Districts of Innovation

State Board for Educator Certification Information

# Certification Process

*For In State and Out of State Applicants*



# Classes of Certifications

**Classroom Teacher**

**Educational Aide**

**Educational Diagnostician**

**Principal**

**Reading Specialist**

**School Counselor**

**School Librarian**

**Superintendent**

# Types of Certifications

**Provisional/Professional – Full certificate issued prior to 09-01-1999, valid for the life of the holder**

**Standard – Full certificate issued upon completion of all requirements, valid for approximately 5 years**

**Intern/Probationary – Certificate issued to a participant in a Texas educator preparation program to complete a paid internship in a Texas school, valid for one calendar year**

**One-Year – Certificate issued to a qualified out-of-state or out-of-country certified educator, valid for one calendar year**

**Emergency Permit – Credential requested by a school district for a person who is not certified or is not appropriately certified, valid for one school year**

**Visiting International Teacher – Participating in an approved TEA exchange program. Valid for three years; may extend for two additional years**

# Routes to Certification

**Texas Educator Preparation Program (EPP) – A Texas college, university, or alternative certification program is approved by SBEC to prepare an educator for certification. The program provides training, supervision, and test approval**

**A list of approved educator preparation programs can be found on our TEA website**

# Routes to Certification (continued)

**Out-of-State/Out-of-Country Certified – Educators who hold acceptable credentials from another state or country are reviewed by TEA staff and take tests**

**The process for individuals certified outside the state can be found on the TEA website**



# Routes to Certification (continued)

**Additional Certification by Examination – Degreed certified classroom teachers may add other classroom certificates by taking an approved test(s)**

**Additional certification by examination information is located on the TEA website**

# Credential Review for educators certified outside of Texas

## Out of State

- Online application and \$164 nonrefundable fee
- Copies of all out-of-state certificates (even expired ones)
- Official transcripts showing degree(s) conferred and date(s)

## Out of Country

- Online application and \$164 nonrefundable fee
- Original Foreign Credential Evaluation (course-by-course information on preparation for licensure)
- Original letter of professional standing from country that issued licensure
- Satisfy English language proficiency (prior to issuance of certificate)

# Test Exemption

**Individuals certified outside the state that have a successful review of credentials may qualify for test exemptions if the following requirements are met:**

## **Verification of tests completed by the licensing agency in the other state or country**

- Tests taken must align with certificates presented for review of credentials
- Verification of teaching experience

**Classroom teachers: 1 academic year of verifiable, wage-earning, full-time experience as a classroom teacher. Experience earned while holding a valid, Texas one-year certificate can count towards the one-year experience**

**Administrator and student services certificate holders: 2 academic years of verifiable, wage-earning, full-time experience in the certification area**

**Test exemption information can be found on the TEA website**

# Military Community Update

**Senate Bill 1200 –amendments adopted at the SBEC meeting on October 4, 2019**

**Effective December 1, 2019**

**Military spouses may teach in Texas for up to three years with credentials from another state**

**Recent legislation allows eligible military members to be issued a Standard Certificate with a successful Review of Credentials and a passing score for the Science of Teaching Reading test.**

**Please note: A valid Texas certificate is required to earn service for salary increment purposes in a Texas public school district**

# Military Community

**Military service member – active duty**

**Military spouse – married to a military service member (active duty)**

**Military veteran – served active duty and discharged or released from service**

**Request exemption, send documents before applying or testing**

**Military fee exemption information can be found the TEA website**

# Educator Testing

**Required Texas  
Certification  
Test**

**Test  
Registration and  
Preparation**

**Test Limit and  
Test Waiver  
Information**

**Testing  
Announcements  
and Updates**

**Educator Testing Information can be found on the TEA website**

# Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam Requirement and Reading Academy Requirements

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# Science of Teaching Reading

**As of 1/1/2021, the Science of Teaching Reading exam required for Intern, Probationary, and Standard Certifications**

**Cost \$136**

**Early Childhood EC-3**

**Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6**

**Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4-8**

**English Language Arts and Reading with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4-8**

**English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4-8**



# STR Exam Resources

[tea.texas.gov/STR](https://tea.texas.gov/STR)

[www.tx.nesinc.com](https://www.tx.nesinc.com)

## The Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam

A new requirement for  
**Core Subjects: Early Childhood – Grade 6** initial teacher certification.

House Bill 3, 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature established a mandate that all teachers pursuing certification in grades prekindergarten through Grade 6 demonstrate their proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a new standalone certification exam beginning January 1, 2021.

Teacher candidates pursuing certification in Core Subjects: Early Childhood – Grade 6 will be required to take the new Science of Teaching Reading certification exam for issuance of their intern, probationary or standard certificate, beginning January 1, 2021.

Beginning January 1, 2021, teacher candidates who complete all certification requirements in this field will be issued the **Core Subjects with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood – Grade 6** certificate.

### What is the Science of Teaching Reading?

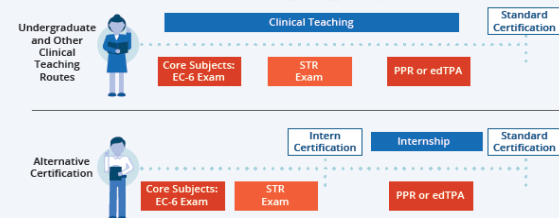
In 2017, the State Board for Educator Certification adopted the Science of Teaching Reading Standards. The STR Standards address the discipline and practice of teaching early reading. For more information about the science of teaching reading, please visit the link below:

[tea.texas.gov/str](https://tea.texas.gov/str)

### What certification exams do I need to take to earn my Core Subjects: Early Childhood – Grade 6 certificate beginning January 1, 2021?

Candidates will be required to take the 291 Core Subjects: EC-6 TExES or the 391 Core Subjects: EC-6 TExES, the 293 STR TExES, and the 160 PPR TExES or the edTPA for standard certification.

### Core Subjects with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood-Grade 6 Certification Exam Requirements (Beginning January 1, 2021)



## STR Frequently Asked Questions for Local Education Agencies

### FAQ Table of Contents

Click on the section titles below to go directly to that section of the FAQ.

• <a href="#">STR Overview</a> .....	2
• <a href="#">HB 3 Mandates</a> .....	2
• <a href="#">Additional Resources</a> .....	4

[Home](#) / [Exams](#) / [Science of Teaching Reading](#) / [Preparation Materials](#)

## Science of Teaching Reading (293) Preparation Materials

Registration for the new Science of Teaching Reading (STR) examination is now open for testing beginning January 1, 2021.



For additional information about the STR exam, including related certificate requirements, content of the exam, and webinars and other support resources, visit the Texas Education Agency website at [www.tea.texas.gov/str](https://www.tea.texas.gov/str).

### Planning Your Study

- [Developing a Study Plan](#)
- [Student Profile Worksheet](#)

### Test Content and Sample Questions

1. [About the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards \(TExES\)](#)
2. [How to Prepare for the Exams](#)
3. [Overview and Exam Framework](#)
4. [Sample Selected-Response Questions](#)
5. [Sample Constructed-Response Question](#)
6. [Preparation Resources](#)

[Access printable version for offline use](#)

### Test Experience Tutorials

- [Pearson Professional Center Tour](#)
- [What to Expect When Testing with Pearson VUE](#)
- [Test Taker Tips](#)
- [CAT tutorial](#)  
*A downloadable, interactive tutorial of the CAT experience*

# Frequently Asked Questions about Reading Academies and the STR Exam

## What is the difference between the STR exam requirement and the Reading Academies requirement?

- Although the STR examination and the Reading Academies are both requirements of HB 3 from the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2019, they are different mandates.
- The STR examination is a mandated requirement for the issuance of a teaching certification. The STR examination is required for teacher candidates seeking certification in one of the five HB 3 impacted certification fields.
- Completion of the Reading Academies is a mandated requirement for all in-service teachers and administrators who teach students in grades Kindergarten to 3rd.

# Frequently Asked Questions about Reading Academies and the STR Exam (continued)

**Does taking the STR exam waive the HB 3 Reading Academies training requirement for incoming or current teachers?**

- **No, teachers who take and pass the STR exam for issuance of a teaching certification will still be required to complete the Reading Academies once hired by a Texas LEA.**

**If a teacher on an intern certificate participates in and completes the Reading Academies training, are they required to take the STR exam?**

- **Yes, all teacher candidates seeking certification in an HB 3 impacted field will be required to take and pass the STR exam for issuance of an intern, probationary, or standard certificate after 1/1/21.**
- **Beginning 1/1/21, all teachers issued an intern certificate will have successfully completed the STR exam.**

# Update on Teacher Certification Redesign

Launch Date	January 1, 2021	September 1, 2021	January 1, 2022	September 1, 2023	TBD
Exams	Early Childhood through Grade 3 Content (292) - new exam	School Counselor (252)	English Language Arts and Reading 4-8 (217)	English Language Arts and Reading 7-12 (331)	ESL Supplemental
	Science of Teaching Reading (293) - new exam	Trade and Industrial Workforce Training Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities 6-12 (370)			Bilingual Spanish
	Early Childhood-Grade 6 Core Subjects (391) - updated exam				Special Education and related assessments
	Educational Diagnostician (253)				Health (258)
					Physical Education (257)

# 291-391 Core Subjects: EC-6 TExES Transition Period

Core Subjects: EC-6	Core Subjects with STR: EC-6	
2020	2021	2022
	293 Science of Teaching Reading (starting 1/1/2021)	
291 Core Subjects EC-6 TExES (last exam operational date 12/31/2021)		
	391 Core Subjects EC-6 TExES EC-6 (starting 1/1/2021)	

- Development of 391:
- Updated ELAR subtest to remove duplicative content
- Reduction and redistribution of content across remaining subtests, increasing available time per item

# 29I-39I Core Subjects: EC-6 TExES Transition Period (continued)

## Transition Period:

- Both exams will be operational from Jan 2, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021 (one-year overlap)
- Recommended that first-time test takers take 39I after Jan. 1, 2021
- Yearlong overlap in operational periods to support candidates who are still needing to pass specific 29I subtests

## Certification Issuance:

- A passing score on 29I can be used for issuance of the Core Subjects with STR: EC-6 no later than Dec. 31, 2022.

# Permits, Waivers, and Districts of Innovation

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# Emergency Permits

**Requested by employing school district for vacant position that cannot be filled with an appropriately certified person**

**Persons in assignments for 30 instructional days should be on permit- permit request should be submitted by the district within 45 instructional days**

**The individual must meet minimum requirements for the grade level and type of assignment and hold minimum of a bachelors' degree for most areas**

**\$57 paid online at the time of submission**

**Valid for one school year and cannot be renewed except for JROTC and Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments**



# Permits (continued)

**Submission of permits begin July 1st for the next school year**

## **Certification Plan**

**The plan should also indicate what the candidate is lacking for intern, probationary or standard certificate**

**Cannot be combined with an intern or probationary certificate if area is available through the EPP**

**An individual may not serve for more than three 12-month periods without obtaining standard certification**

# Temporary Classroom Assignment Permit (TCAP)

**Certified at the secondary grade level 7-12 and teaching outside the certification area (not an intern or probationary certificate)**

- Must have 12 semester hours in the subject taught
- 15 semester hours for math and science

**Limited to four class periods – if more, request a hardship**

**Could hold all-level certificate or elementary/4-8 certificate for middle school assignments in grades 7-8**

**Assigned to a subject not covered by the current certificate in grades 7-12 – one class period or more – cannot teach even one class period without a permit or certificate, unless the person meets assignment rules**

# School District Teaching Permits (SDTP)

**Allows school district to issue to someone who does not hold a teaching certificate**

**The local school district board of trustees determines issuance of SDTPs for noncore academic career and technical education courses**

**All other teaching assignments remain subject to approval by the commissioner of education**

## SDTPs (continued)

**Valid for classroom teaching assignments only and is not available for any other assignment, including:**

- School Counselor
- School Librarian
- Administrator
- Any other professional assignment outside of classroom teacher; or special education or bilingual education

**School District Teaching Permit Information can be found on the TEA Website**

# Waivers

**Certification Teacher Waiver**

**Certification for Superintendent Waiver**

- **Both waiver applications initiated by districts through the TEA Login (TEAL) system**

**Email: [waivers@tea.texas.gov](mailto:waivers@tea.texas.gov)**

**Waiver information can be found on the TEA website**

# Districts of Innovation

**There are 913 Districts of Innovation**

**No exemptions for Bilingual, English as a Second Language (ESL), or Special Education**

**For questions regarding district of innovation plans, contact Accreditation & School Improvement:**

- **Districts of Innovation information can be found on the TEA website**
- **Email: [Accred@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Accred@tea.texas.gov)**
- **Phone: (512) 463-5899**

# Certification Assignment Flexibility

**The Certification Assignment Flexibility Letter is located on the TEA website**

- Provides options available for school districts for the 2020-2021 school year
- All rules still apply for options referenced in the document
  - Temporary Classroom Assignment Permit
  - Emergency Permit
  - School District Teaching Permit
  - Teacher Certification Waiver
- No flexibility for special education, bilingual education, or English as a second language assignments

# State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)

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# 2020-2021 SBEC Meeting Dates

## ■ 2021 Meeting Dates

- February 12, 2021
- April 30, 2021
- July 22, 2021 Work Session
- July 23, 2021
- October 1, 2021
- December 10, 2021

- [SBEC agendas](#) are posted at least one week before each meeting
- There are options to [register for public comment](#) (oral and/or written)
- Meetings are [streamed live and archived](#)
- Meetings begin at 8:30 am

# Contact Educator Certification

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# Contact us by phone

Telephone – 512-936-8400

- **Option 2 – Educator Certification – Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm**
- Option 3 – Fingerprinting Support
- Option 5 – Educator Preparation Programs
- Option 6 – Investigations
- Option 8 – General Information

# Contact us through the Help Desk



## Welcome to the TEA Help Desk!

Click on an icon below to look up information or submit your question to TEA staff. If you are unsure of which area to submit your request, please call 512-463-9734 and we will do our best to route your request to the right place.

For a quick orientation to the redesigned TEA Help Desk see the short [training video](#) or [quick reference guide](#).

### TEAL Access



Need access to your TEAL account?

### Educator Certification and CPE



Do you have educator related questions?

### Educator Testing and Preparation Programs



Have questions about educator testing or preparation programs?

### Fingerprinting and Do Not Hire Registry



Fingerprinting and Do Not Hire Registry

# Have an Educator Certification question? Send a Help Desk ticket

Name change requests

Fee Transfers

Update Social Security number

Out-of-State Certified Educators

Out-of-Country Certified Educators

Military – Fee Exemption

Virtual Certificate Information

Additional Certification by Exam

Certification Renewals

Educational Aide Certification

Emergency Permits

Accessing your TEA ID



# QUESTIONS

# THANK YOU!

