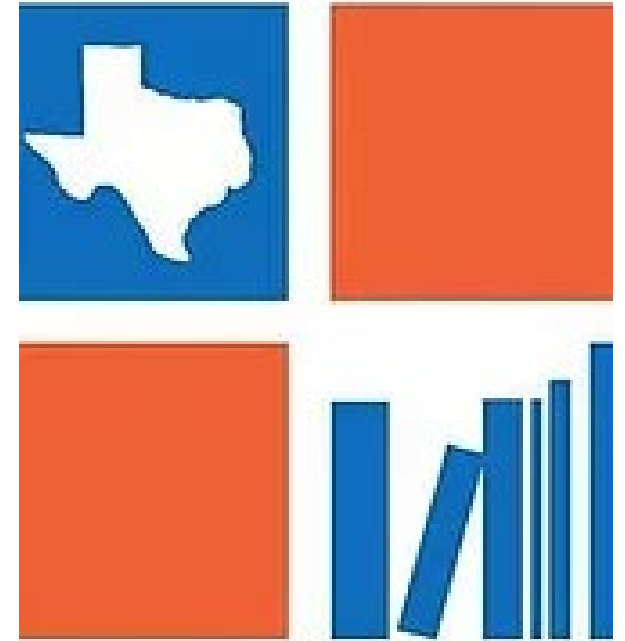


A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, is sitting at a desk. He is looking at a laptop screen with a smile, resting his chin on his hand. The background is blurred, showing a window and some books.

Science of Teaching Reading Exam Update

CSOTTE General Session
October 19, 2020

- House Bill 3 Science of Teaching Reading (STR) exam requirement
- Requirements, timelines, and resources for candidates impacted by the STR exam
- STR exam content and resources
- Impact of the STR exam on other content pedagogy exams
- Resources and opportunities for communication related to the STR exam



House Bill 3, 86th Legislature

Science of Teaching Reading Exam Mandate



To earn a certificate to teach Pre-K to grade 6, a candidate must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a new, standalone certification examination, starting January 1, 2021.

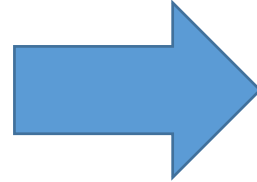


In Statute

TEC Sec 21.048 (a-2): The State Board for Educator Certification “shall adopt rules that provide that in order to teach any grade level from prekindergarten through grade six a person must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification for each class of certificate issued by the board after January 1, 2021.”

Science of Teaching Reading Exam Requirement*

Science of Teaching
Reading exam
requirement starting
1/1/2021 for Intern,
Probationary and
Standard
Certifications



Early Childhood: EC – Grade 3

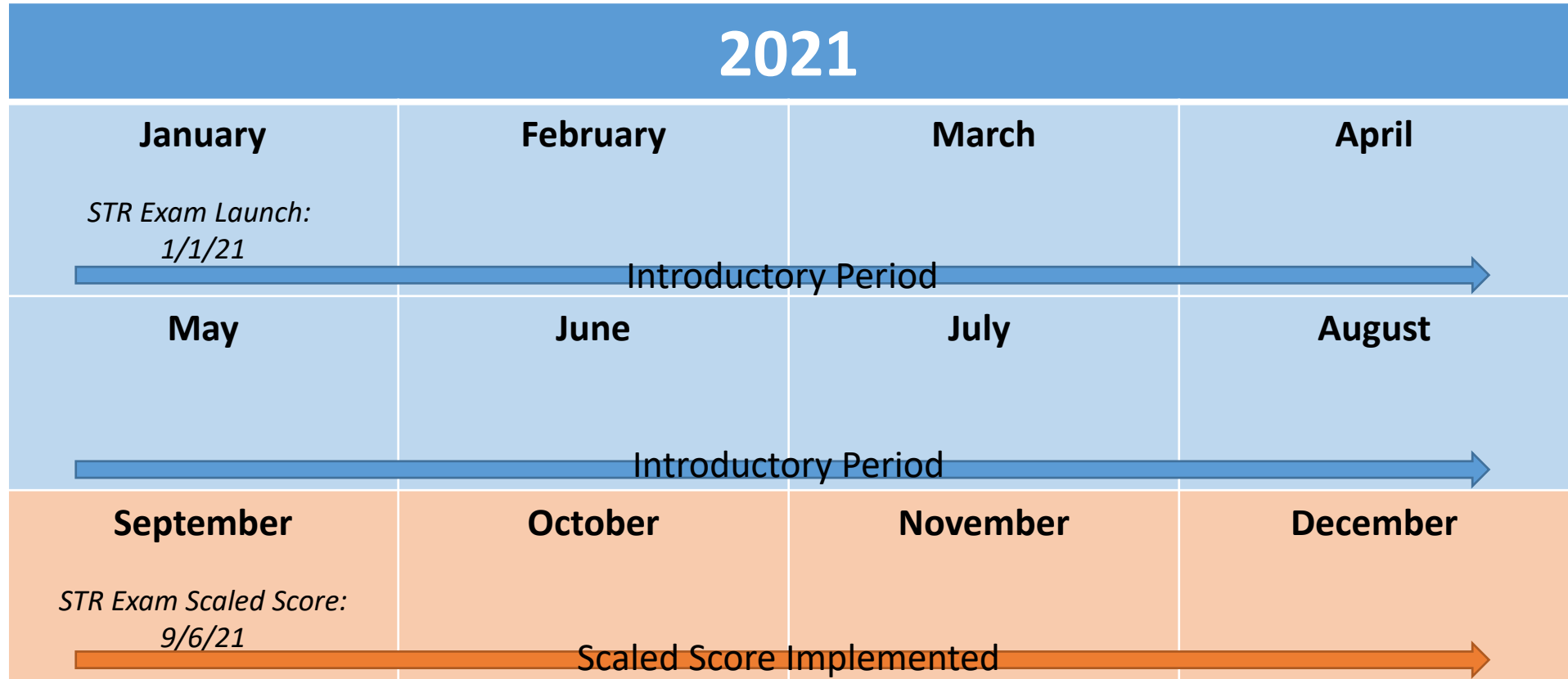
Core Subjects with Science of Teaching
Reading: Early Childhood–Grade 6

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 Launch Timeline: Introductory Period





STR Exam Administration

Registration for 293
Science of Teaching
Reading TExES is now
open.

Scores for this exam are reported within 28 days of testing. The **earliest date** that you could receive your score report is noted in the following schedule. Score reports are posted to candidate accounts at 10:00 p.m. Central time on these dates.

Exam Dates	Score Report Date
1/1/2021–1/24/2021	2/5/2021
1/25/2021–2/7/2021	2/19/2021
2/8/2021–2/21/2021	3/5/2021
2/22/2021–3/7/2021	3/19/2021
3/8/2021–3/21/2021	4/2/2021
3/22/2021–4/4/2021	4/16/2021
4/5/2021–4/18/2021	4/30/2021
4/19/2021–5/2/2021	5/14/2021



Candidates Impacted by the STR Exam Requirement

Candidates who may be issued a standard certificate in an HB3-impacted field by December 31, 2020

- December Finishers
- Teachers serving on a probationary certificate issued under the Governor's waiver of certification exam requirements in Spring 2020
- Previous Finishers



Pre-STR Implementation: Candidates who may be issued a standard certificate in an HB3-impacted field prior to 12/31/2020

IHE Traditional



Clinical Teaching

December 31, 2020

Content
Pedagogy Test

PPR or
edTPA

Standard Certification

Alternative Certification



Internship

December 31, 2020

Content
Pedagogy Test

PPR or
edTPA

Standard Certification

All EPPs



EPP requirements met
Test Complete
Fingerprint & Fees

December 31, 2020

Program Recommends in
ECOS

Standard Certification

Critical information for these candidates

December Finishers

I will have finished my educator preparation program by December 2020 and received my standard teaching certificate. Am I impacted?

No. Teacher candidates who have finished their educator preparation program AND have been **issued their standard certification prior to December 31, 2020** will not be required to take the STR certification exam.

If the teacher candidate's standard certificate has not been issued before December 31, 2020, the teacher candidate WILL be required to take the STR exam for issuance of their standard certificate.

How do I ensure that my standard certificate is issued prior to December 31, 2020?

Teacher candidates who complete educator preparation programs in Fall 2020 will need to take the following steps to ensure that their standard certificate is issued before the December 31, 2020 deadline:

- Pass all required certification exams
- Complete fingerprinting
- Pay all certification fees
- Apply for their standard certificate, and
- Obtain a recommendation from their EPP for a standard certification in ECOS*

*Note: Teacher candidates should actively communicate with their EPP to notify them that they have applied for their standard certification to ensure that they obtain the necessary EPP recommendation.

As soon as a standard certification has been issued, it will be visible on a teacher's SBEC Virtual Certificate at the link below:

Waiver Probationary Cert Holders

I completed my educator preparation program in Spring/Summer 2020 and got a one-year probationary certificate instead of my standard because of COVID-19. Does the STR exam requirement impact me?

It will, unless you act before December 31. Teachers on a one-year probationary certificate **who have completed all certification exam requirements and been issued a standard teaching certificate prior to December 31, 2020** will not be required to take the STR certification exam. While the one-year probationary certificate is valid up to one year after issuance, teachers on the one-year probationary certificate are strongly encouraged to complete all steps for standard certification issuance prior to December 31, 2020, in order to not be required to take the STR exam.

If the one-year probationary certificate holder has not been issued a standard certificate before December 31, 2020, they WILL be required to take the STR exam for issuance of their standard certificate.

How do I ensure that my standard certificate is issued prior to December 31, 2020?

Teachers on a one-year probationary certificate under the Governor's waiver will need to take the following steps, in collaboration with their educator preparation program, to ensure that their standard certificate is issued before the December 31, 2020 deadline:

- Pass all required certification exams,
- Apply for standard certification,
- Pay all certification fees, and
- Obtain a recommendation from their EPP for a standard certification in ECOS*

*Note: Teachers should actively communicate with their EPP to notify them that they have applied for their standard certification to ensure that they obtain the necessary EPP recommendation.

All teacher candidates pursuing intern, probationary, or standard certification in one of the following fields:

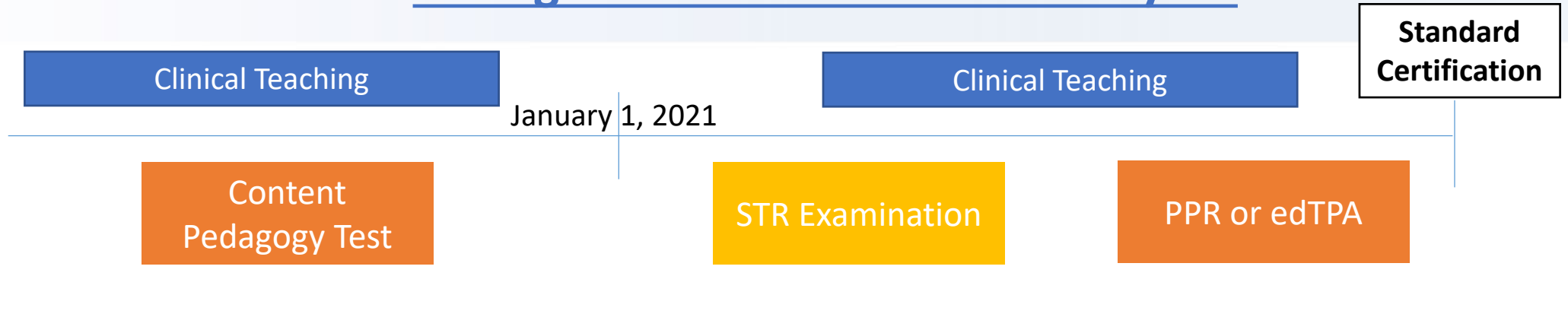
- Early Childhood: EC – Grade 3
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood–Grade 6
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8
- English Language Arts and Reading with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8
- English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8

Teachers seeking certification by examination in one of the fields above.



Post-STR Implementation: Candidate requirements for issuance of a standard certificate during the 2020-2021 academic year

IHE Traditional



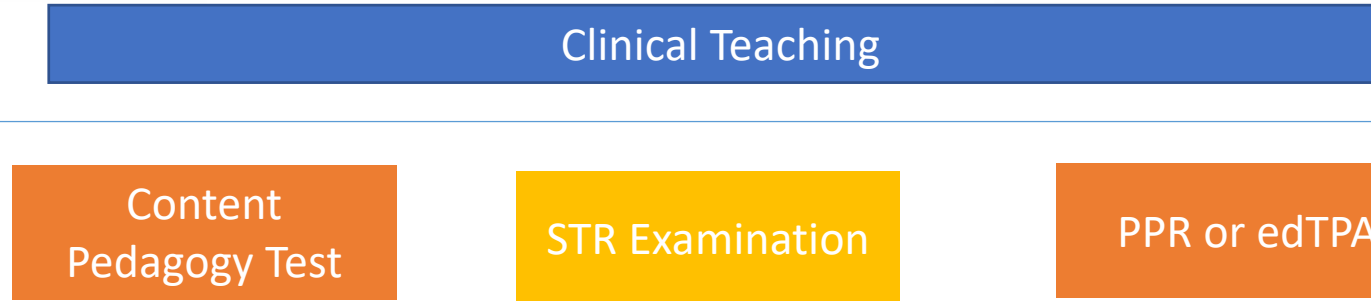
Alternative Certification



*Candidates on the WINT Certificate will not be required to take content pedagogy test for intern certification

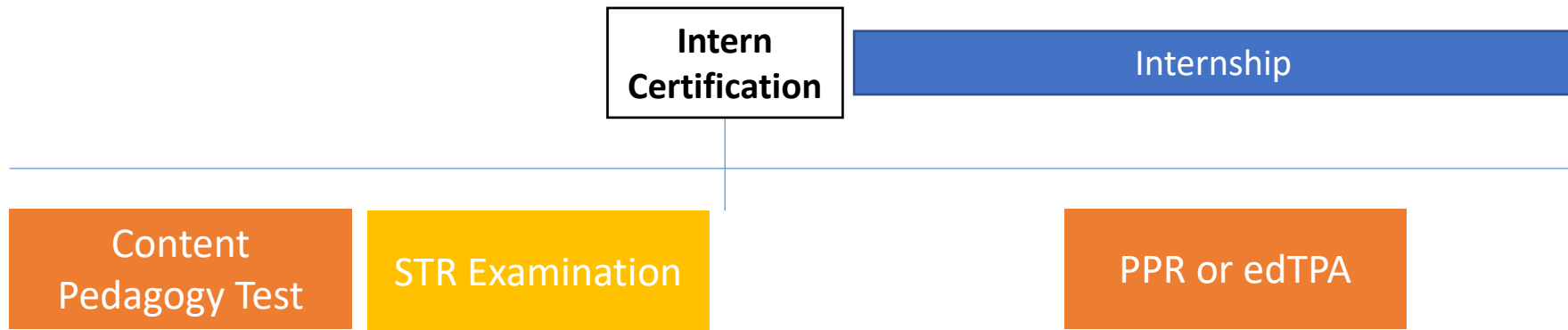
Post-STR Implementation: Candidate requirements for issuance of an intern, probationary, and standard certificate after January 1, 2021

**IHE
Traditional**



**Standard
Certification**

**Alternative
Certification**

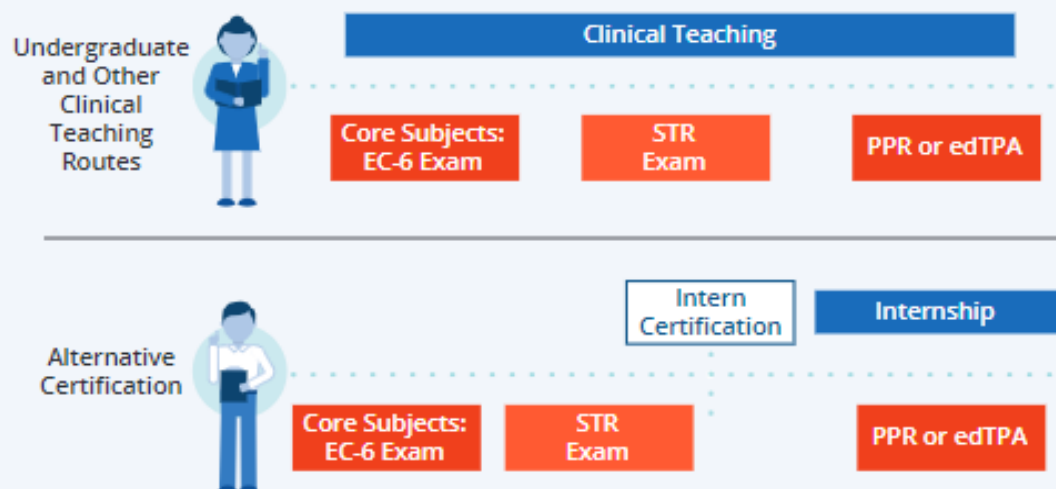


Critical information for these candidates (Core Subjects with STR: EC-6 example)

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)



Standard

How do I prepare for the STR exam?

Educator preparation programs have updated their curriculum to prepare their candidates for the STR exam prior to granting test approval.

The 293 Science of Teaching Reading TExES Preparation Manual is a useful tool to support candidates in their preparation for the STR exam. The preparation manual includes the STR exam framework along with sample assessment questions. The preparation manual can be accessed at the following link:

bit.ly/TEXESPrepManual

Where can I access additional information about the STR exam requirement?

Please visit the link below for additional information about the STR exam timelines, requirements, and content, including additional information on the STR exam's impact on the Core Subjects: EC-6 exam.

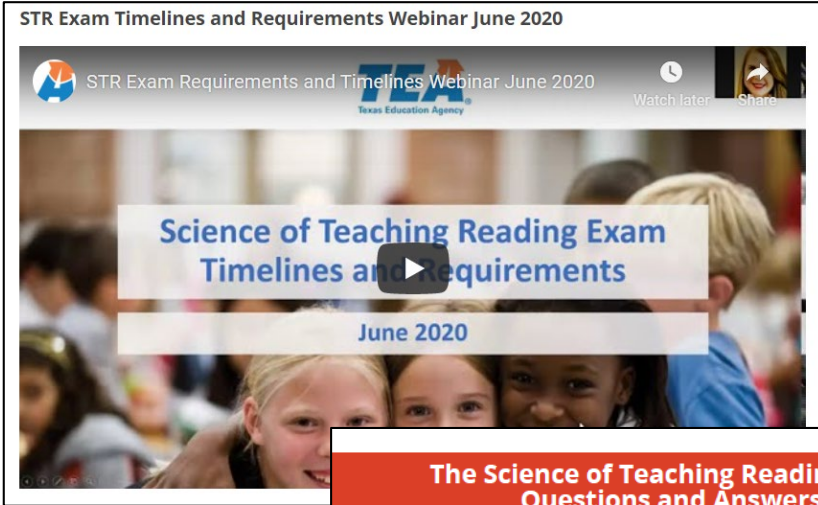
tea.texas.gov/str

By statutory mandate, the STR exam is required for the certificate to ISSUE, beginning Jan. 1, 2021

Beginning 1/1/2021, all candidates will be required to take the STR exam for issuance of an intern, probationary, and standard certificate. This includes:

- Currently enrolled candidates pursuing certification in an HB3 impacted certification field who are not issued a standard certificate by 12/31/20.
- Future candidates pursuing certification in an HB3 impacted certification field
- Candidates who may have previously completed a preparation program who have not been issued a standard certificate by 12/31/20.
- Candidates issued the Waiver Probationary Certificate who have not completed all testing requirements and have not been issued a standard certificate by 12/31/20.
- Teachers seeking certification by exam for an HB3 impacted certificate field after 1/1/21.

Webinar



The Science of Teaching Reading (293) Questions and Answers

FAQ Table of Contents

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

• General	2
• Pilot Testing	2
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• Scoring, Reporting, and Retakes	4
• Preparation Manual Content	5
• Constructed Response	5
• Preparation	7
• Relationship to Other Exams	7
• Get Involved	9

STR Exam FAQ

The Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam

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

House Bill 3, 86th 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 **Subjects with the Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood – Grade 6** certificate.

What is the Science of Teaching Reading?

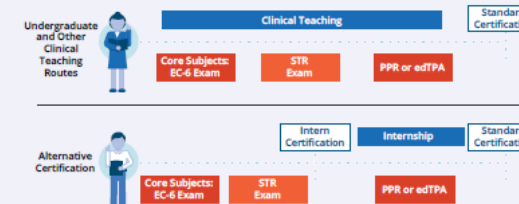
In 2017, the State Board for Educator Certification adopted the Science of Teaching Reading Standards. The STR Standards address the discipline and practice of teaching early reading. For more information about the science of teaching reading, please visit the link below:

tea.texas.gov/str

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 ST 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)



tea.texas.gov

TEA

Informational One-Pagers

The Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam

Important information for teachers with one-year probationary certificates issued under the Governor's waiver of certification exam requirements in Spring 2020 due to COVID-19

House Bill 3, 86th 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 the following certification fields 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.

- Core Subjects: Early Childhood – Grade 6
- Core Subjects: Grades 4-8
- English Language Arts and Reading: Grades 4-8
- English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies: Grades 4-8

I completed my educator preparation program in Spring/Summer 2020 and got a one-year probationary certificate instead of my standard because of COVID-19. Does the STR exam requirement impact me?

It will, unless you act before December 31. Teachers on a one-year probationary certificate who have completed all certification exam requirements and been issued a standard teaching certificate prior to December 31, 2020 will not be required to take the STR certification exam. While the one-year probationary certificate is valid up to one year after issuance, teachers on the one-year probationary certificate are strongly encouraged to complete all steps for standard certification issuance prior to December 31, 2020, in order to not be required to take the STR exam.

If the one-year probationary certificate holder has not been issued a standard certificate before December 31, 2020, they WILL be required to take the STR exam for issuance of their standard certificate.

How do I ensure that my standard certificate is issued prior to December 31, 2020?

Teachers on a one-year probationary certificate under the Governor's waiver will need to take the following steps, in collaboration with their educator preparation program, to ensure that their standard certificate is issued before the December 31, 2020 deadline:

- Pass all required certification exams,
- Apply for standard certification,
- Pay all certification fees, and
- Obtain a recommendation from their EPP for a standard certification in ECOS*

*Note: Teachers should actively communicate with their EPP to notify them that they have applied for their standard certification to ensure that they obtain the necessary EPP recommendation.

tea.texas.gov

TEA

Best Practices from the Field: Communicating the STR Exam Requirement to Candidates



Posts to social media platforms

Direct email communication to current and former candidates

Signature of acknowledgement at the start of a semester or internship

Text messages (Remind)

Posting information to virtual learning platforms

Integrating information into coursework

STR Exam Requirement Communication

It is the EPP's responsibility to communicate early and consistently with teacher candidates regarding the upcoming STR transitions to ensure that they are well aware and take the necessary actions to achieve their certification.

TEA staff aim to provide as many supports and resources as possible to support EPPs in this communication.



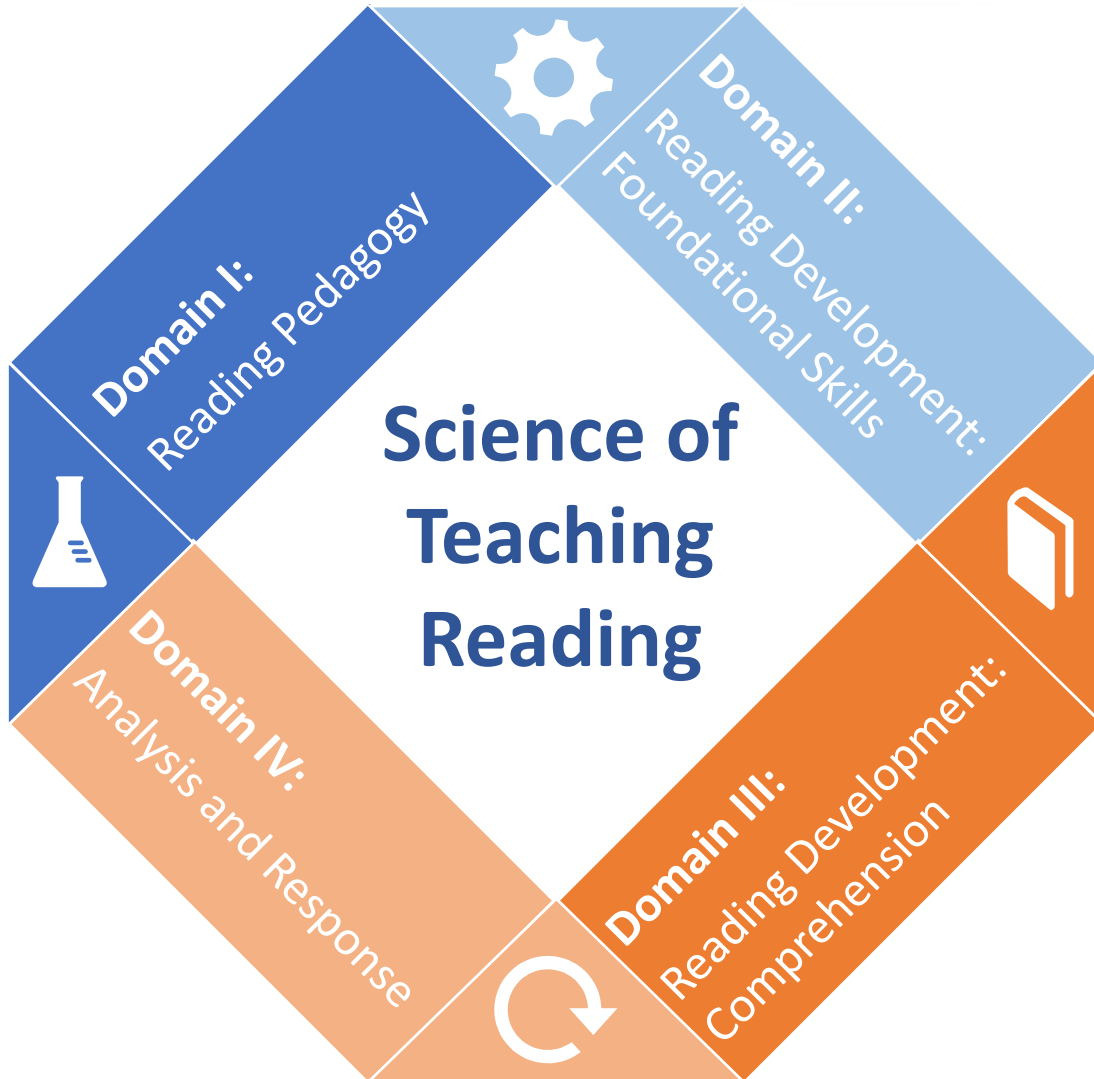


STR Exam Content

Path to STR Exam Implementation

Date	Relevant Action
March 2018	Science of Teaching Reading Standards are adopted by the SBEC.
June 2019	House Bill 3, 86 th Legislature, requires that all educators who teach students in grades PK-6 demonstrate proficiency on a science of teaching reading certification exam beginning Jan. 1, 2021.
November 2019	STR Test Framework is available after stakeholder review, public comment period, and content validation processes.
November 2019 – February 2020	Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training offered free of charge to all educator preparation programs to inform the development of STR-aligned curriculum.
February - July 2020	SBEC adopted updates that would organize the STR Standards to ensure clarity that they apply to candidates who teach students in grades PK-6.
September 2020	STR Preparation Manual available.
November 2020	Reading Academy training offered free of charge to educator preparation programs to support the alignment of pre-service and in-service teacher STR development.
January 1, 2021	Assessment launch

The STR Exam Competencies



Overview of Competencies

- **Competency 001:** Foundations of the Science of Teaching Reading
 - **Competency 002:** Foundations of Reading Assessment
- **Competency 003:** Oral Language Foundations of Reading Development
 - **Competency 004:** Phonological and Phonemic Awareness
 - **Competency 005:** Print Concepts and Alphabet Knowledge
 - **Competency 006:** Phonics and Other Word Identification Skills
 - **Competency 007:** Syllabication and Morphemic Analysis Skills
 - **Competency 008:** Reading Fluency
- **Competency 009:** Vocabulary Development
 - **Competency 010:** Comprehension Development
 - **Competency 011:** Comprehension of Literary Texts
 - **Competency 012:** Comprehension of Informational Texts
- **Competency 013: Analysis and Response**

Required Action: STR Letter of Attestation

- EPPs are required to indicate their ability and readiness to successfully prepare candidates for certification in the HB3 impacted certification fields through the STR Exam Letter of Attestation.
- **The Letter of Attestation must be signed by the program's legal authority indicating the program's intent to modify its curriculum by January 1, 2021**
- **Deadline: December 1, 2020**
- If programs do not submit the Letter of Attestation by the deadline, they have indicated that they choose not to prepare candidates in these fields and will be removed from the ability to certify candidates in these areas.
- Note: A template Letter of Attestation is included on the [Program Provider Resources website](#).

Assessment
Resources
for STR

- STR Standards
- STR Test Framework
- STR Prep Manual
- STR Representative Exam and Interactive Practice (Spring 2021)

- Accessible on the Texas Program Page
- 50 selected-response questions (including cluster sets), with 25 with thorough rationale and an answer key for all
- Constructed-response question including stimulus, rubric, two sample responses with rationale for their score points
- Resource list with underlying research used in the development of the STR exam

[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.

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



- **Reading Pedagogy and Constructed Response Deep Dive (November)**
- **Text Comprehension and Analysis Deep Dive (December)**
- **Oral and Written Communication Deep Dive (January)**



STR Exam Requirement vs. Reading Academy Requirement

House Bill 3, 86th Legislature

Science of Teaching Reading Exam Mandate



To earn a certificate to teach Pre-K to grade 6, a candidate must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a new, standalone certification examination, starting January 1, 2021.



In Statute

TEC Sec 21.048 (a-2): The State Board for Educator Certification “shall adopt rules that provide that in order to teach any grade level from prekindergarten through grade six a person must demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification for each class of certificate issued by the board after January 1, 2021.”

House Bill 3, 86th Legislature

Texas Reading Academies HB 3 Mandate



HB3 amend statute to include multiple reading initiatives:

- Requires all Kindergarten through third-grade teachers and principals must begin the Texas Reading Academies training before the 2022-2023 school year
- Requires districts and charters to provide phonics curriculum using systematic direct instruction in grades K-3
- Requires districts to certify to the TEA that the district:
 - Prioritizes placing highly-effective teachers in K-2 and
 - Has integrated reading instruments to support Pre-K to grade 3 students



In Statute

TEC Sec 28.0062 READING STANDARDS FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE (a)(1)(2)(3)

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 86th 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 the following certification fields:
 - Early Childhood: EC – Grade 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
- Completion of the Reading Academies is a mandated requirement for all in-service teachers and administrators who teach students in grades Kindergarten to 3rd.
- Teachers who take and pass the STR exam will still be required to take the Reading Academies once hired by a Texas LEA.

Frequently Asked Questions about Reading Academies and the STR Exam

If a candidate passes the STR exam, are they required to take Reading Academies?

Yes, the STR exam and Reading Academies are separate requirements.

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

Yes, all teacher candidates seeking certification in an HB3-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.



Certification Exams Impacted by STR Exam Implementation

Content Pedagogy Exam Transition:

Core Subjects: EC-6 291-391 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 (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

Transition Period:

- Both exams will be operational from Jan 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021 (one-year overlap)
- Recommended that first-time test takers take 391 after Jan. 1, 2021
- Yearlong overlap in operational periods to support candidates who are still needing to pass specific 291 subtests

Certification Issuance:

- A passing score on 291 can be used for issuance of the Core Subjects with STR: EC-6 no later than Dec. 31, 2022.

Resource Availability:

- Preparation Manual and Representative Test: Fall 2020 (Texas Program Website)

Updates to HB3 Impacted Exams

New 391 Core Subjects: EC-6 TExES

- Requires test approval
- Registration currently open
- First admin date: 1/1/21, First score report date: 2/5/21
- After first admin window score reports within 7 days
- Preparation Manual currently available on the Texas Program Page
- New Representative Exam available for purchase (late Oct.)

Current 291 Core Subjects: EC-6 TExES

- No changes in framework, test design, or content
- Current Preparation Manual, Representative Exam, and Practice Tests remain valid

Updates to HB3 Impacted Exams

117 ELAR: 4-8 TExES & 113 ELAR/SS: 4-8 TExES

- No change to exam framework or exam test design
- Updated Representative Exam available for replacement (late Oct.)

211 Core Subjects: 4-8 TExES

- No change to exam framework or exam test design
- No updates to Representative Exam



STR Exam Continued Communication

- **TEA Website:**
 - Dedicated STR exam webpage with up-to-date resources including: one-pagers, webinar links, and FAQ documents
- **Pearson Bi-Monthly Newsletter**
- **EPP Weekly Newsletter:**
 - Notification of updated resources and upcoming trainings, action items, and deadlines
 - EPP faculty and staff should register to receive the newsletter at [Educator Preparation Program Listserv Registration](#)

Questions?

Thank you!