

Program Updates

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Texas Educator Certification Examination Program

TCTCT

CSOTTE (Virtual)

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www.tx.nesinc.com



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The background is a solid teal color with a repeating pattern of white molecular and chemical motifs. These motifs include stylized atoms (small circles) connected by lines to form molecules, and various curved lines representing chemical bonds or pathways.

Test Center Capacity

Testing Capacity

- Where local guidance permits, the Texas-based Pearson VUE-owned test centers (PPCs) have reopened for Texas Educator Certification Examination Program testing. Test centers are open, and seats are available throughout the State of Texas.
- Social distancing requirements continually factored into capacity
- Pearson technical assistance support for partner centers
- Addition of new partner centers, reopening of previously closed centers, and extension of hours/days of operation at centers

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New and Redeveloped Exam Timelines

Exam Development (current targets subject to change)

Early Childhood: PK-3*

*First administration window opens 1/25/21

Educational Diagnostician*

Science of Teaching Reading

Core Subjects: EC-6 (391)

ELAR 4-8

1/1/21

1/1/22

1/27/20

9/1/21

TBD

**Pre-Admission
Content Tests
(PACT)**

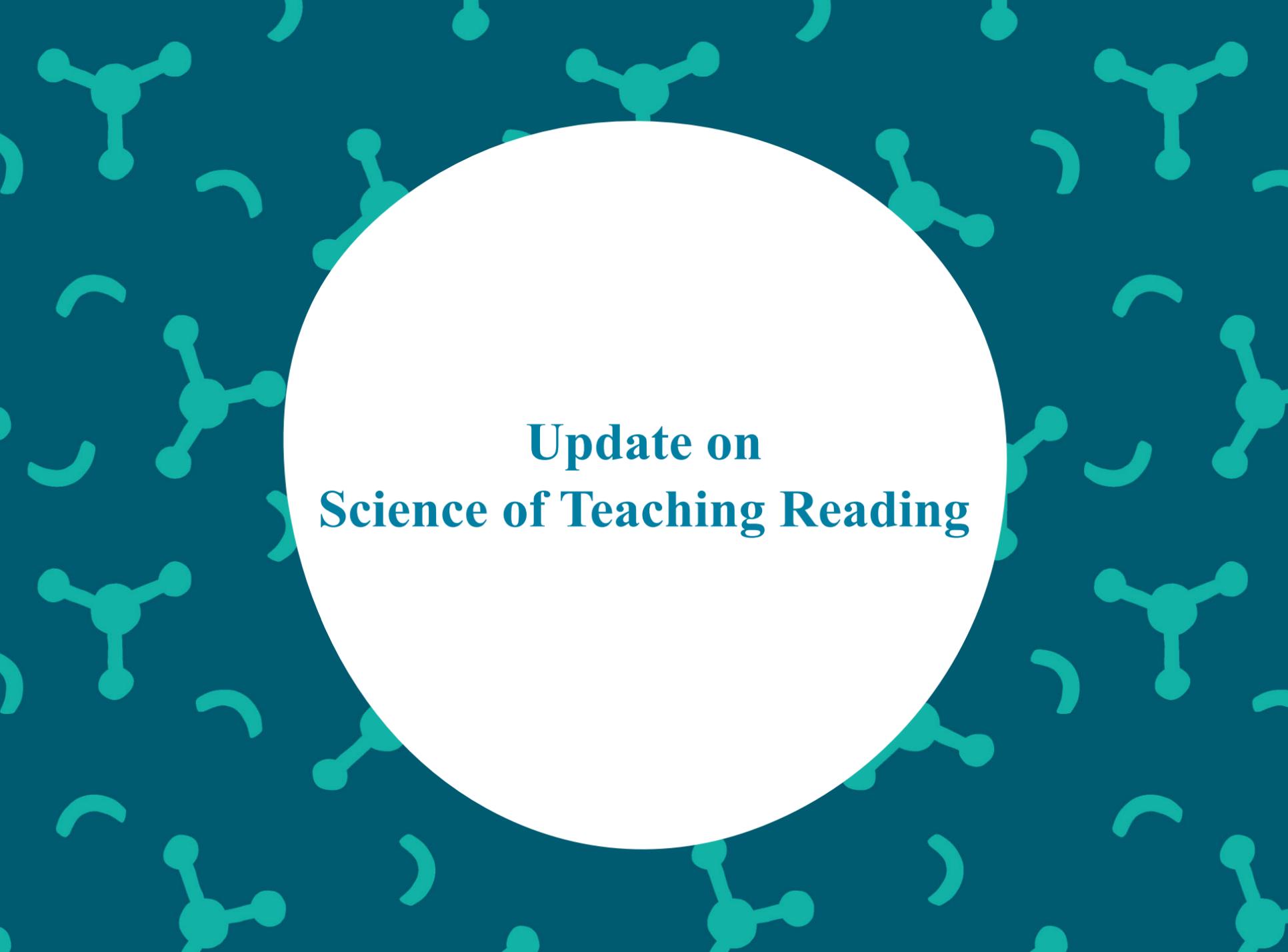
**School Counselor
Trade & Industrial PPR 6-12**

**8+
exams**

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Exam Development: Looking Ahead

- Health EC-12
- Physical Education EC-12
- English Language Arts and Reading 7– 12
- BTLPT–Spanish
- Bilingual Spanish
- DeafBlind
- Special Education EC-6 and 6-12
- ESL Supplemental



**Update on
Science of Teaching Reading**

Science of Teaching Reading (293)

- House Bill (HB) 3, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, requires that all educators that teach any grade level from prekindergarten through grade six demonstrate proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification examination beginning January 1, 2021.

Major Milestones

- **October 2018:** Educator review of draft framework
- **February 2020:** Educator review of draft items
- **September-October 2020:** Pilot test
- **October 6, 2020:** Registration open for operational exam
- **January 1, 2021:** Operational launch
- **February 2020:** Standard setting
- **September 6, 2021:** Implementation of scaled cut score

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Exam Development

Crucial, integral role of Texas educators and stakeholder engagement at multiple stages:

Educator Standards	Direct development and review
Exam Frameworks	Equity assurance and content advisory committees
Item Review	Equity assurance and content advisory committees
Standard Setting	Establishment of passing standard and cutscores

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Exam Design

- 90 selected-response
- 1 constructed-response
- 5 hour seat time (4:45 testing time)
- Like all TExES exams, STR may contain questions that do not count toward the score. The final scaled score will be based only on scored questions.
- Individual and cluster items are spread throughout the exam.
- Selected-response items (SRIs) are followed by the constructed-response items (CRI), but candidates can navigate freely throughout the exam at all times. Candidates can respond to the CRI first if they choose.

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Exam Framework & Weighting

		Approximate % of Test Form
Dom 1	Reading Pedagogy	13%
001	Foundations of the Science of Teaching Reading	
002	Foundations of Reading Assessment	
Dom 2	Reading Development: Foundational Skills	43%
003	Oral Language Foundations of Reading Development	
004	Phonological and Phonemic Awareness	
005	Print Concepts and Alphabet Knowledge	
006	Phonics and Other Word Identification Skills	
007	Syllabication and Morphemic Analysis Skills	
008	Reading Fluency	
Dom 3	Reading Development: Comprehension	24%
009	Vocabulary Development	
010	Comprehension Development	
011	Comprehension of Literary Texts	
012	Comprehension of Informational Texts	
Dom 4	Analysis and Response	20%
013	Analysis and Response (written assignment)	
Total		100%

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Preparation Materials

- Exam framework – available now on TEA’s web site
- Preparation manual – available now on the program web site
 - www.tx.nesinc.com
 - Includes the exam framework
- Representative exam – Spring 2021
- Interactive practice exam – Spring 2021

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Preparation Manual

- Includes:
 - Examination framework
 - Approaches to answering different question types
 - Sample selected-response questions
 - In-depth rationales for correct and incorrect responses
 - Sample constructed response question, including the video exhibit
 - Sample strong and weak responses and rationales
 - A list of preparation resources

Preparation Manual

- Web-based design allows easy navigation within and between sections.
- User can quickly focus on and return to specific areas of interest.
- Responsive design allows for optimized viewing on multiple devices.
- In addition, a PDF version of the manual that includes the exam framework and sample exam questions will be available for download.

Additional Support

- Pearson and TEA conducted a webinar on July 16, 2020, focused on the STR exam structure, content, and scoring.
 - To request a copy of the presentation, send an email to texas.support@pearson.com.
- A dedicated webpage with resources for Science of Teaching Reading is available on the TEA website at <https://tea.texas.gov/str>.

Total Scaled Score

- Passing Score
 - Recommendation from Standard Setting Committee
 - Final approval from Texas Commissioner of Education
- Raw score to scaled score conversion
- Combine scaled scores for each section to get total test score (80% SRI; 20% CRI)

Total Scaled Score

- Beginning 9/1/21, overall performance will be reported as a total scaled score on a scale between 100-300.
 - Passing score = 240
- Note 1/1 – 8/31/21 is an introductory period.
 - Candidates will receive P/F status, not scaled score.
 - Score reports will include raw scores at the competency level during this period.



Introductory Period

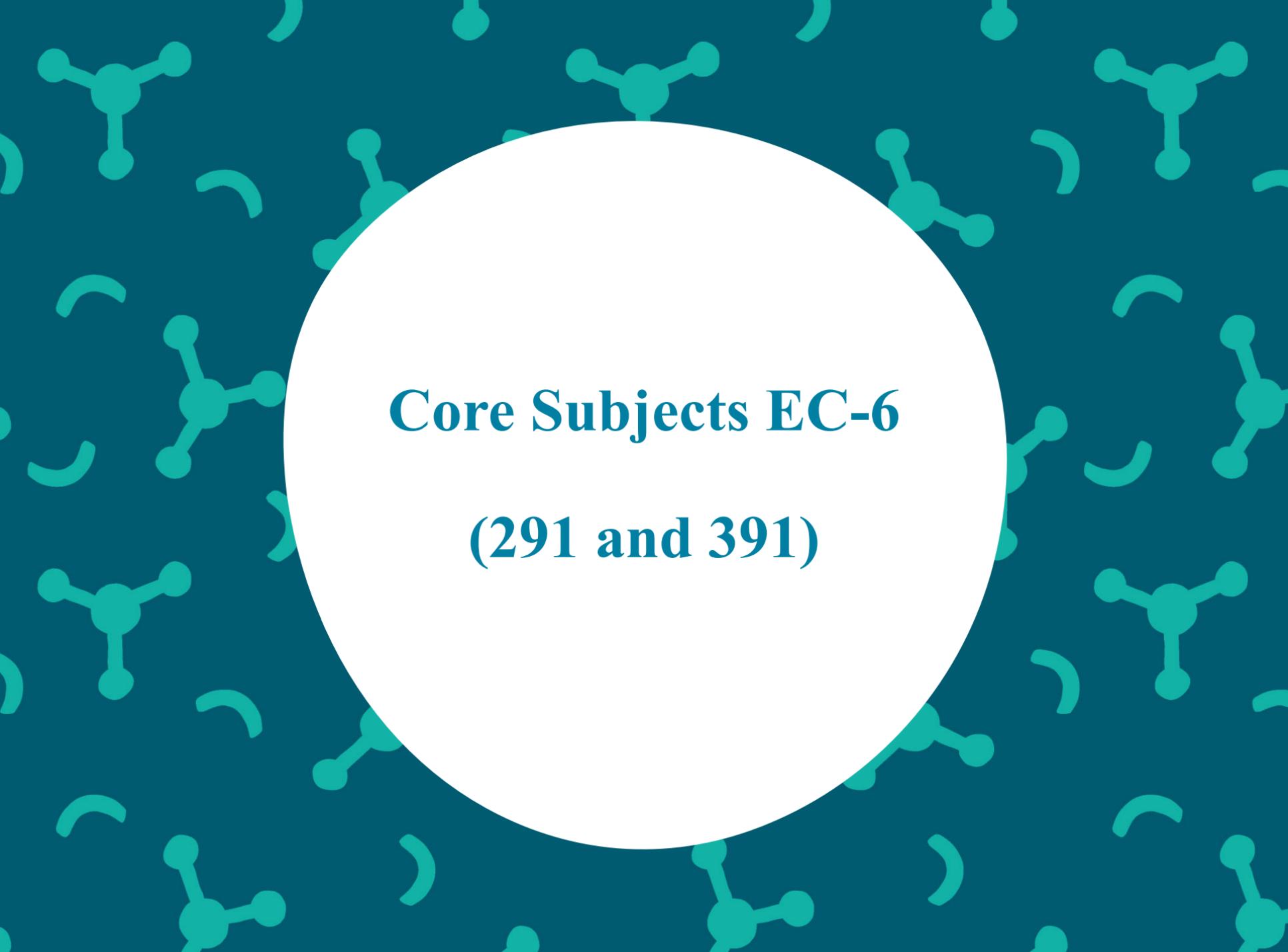
1/1/21 – 9/5/21

Introductory Period: 1/1/21 – 9/5/21

- As a means of phasing in the following 3 exams in 2021, candidates who take the exam from January 1 through September 5, 2021, will receive a Pass/Fail status based on meeting a set of completion criteria established by TEA.
 - Science of Teaching Reading (293)
 - Early Childhood: PK – Grade 3 (292)
 - Educational Diagnostician (253)

Introductory Period: 1/1/21 – 9/5/21

- During this period, a “Pass” status may be used for the purpose of certification.
- A passing standard approved by the Commissioner will be implemented beginning September 6, 2021.
- For exams taken beginning September 6, 2021, all candidates will receive a scaled score between 100-300, with 240 as the minimum passing scaled score.

The background is a solid teal color with a repeating pattern of white chemical motifs. These motifs include stylized molecular structures with three or four spheres connected by lines, and simple curved lines representing bonds or paths.

Core Subjects EC-6
(291 and 391)

House Bill 3 Implementation

- Science of Teaching Reading (293) exam is required by legislation to be available January 1, 2021.
- The certification fields impacted are:
 - 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
- *NOTE updated certification field names were adopted at the July 24, 2020, SBEC meeting to include “with Science of Teaching Reading” for implementation beginning in 2021.*

Changes to Exams

- The implementation of STR requires changes to other content-pedagogy exams that candidates will also be required to pass.
- Candidates taking STR and another exam will not be tested on the same content twice.

Changes to Exams

- Content that was aligned to the Science of Teaching Reading exam framework is being removed from the following existing exams for implementation beginning January 2021:
 - Core Subjects: Grades 4-8 (211)
 - English Language Arts and Reading 4-8 (117)
 - English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies 4-8 (113)
- There are **no** changes to the exam frameworks or the exam test designs for these 3 exams.
- Updated preparation manuals were made available this summer and can be accessed on the program website at www.tx.nesinc.com.

Core Subjects: EC-6 (291)

- The current exam 291 will be available through 2021.
- The planned last operational date is 12/31/21.
- There are no changes in framework, test design, or content to the current exam 291.

Core Subjects: EC-6 (391)

- Separately, the exam framework and test design for 291 is being updated to support a new exam:
 - Core Subjects EC-6 (391)
- The new exam 391 will be available beginning 1/1/21.
- **Both exams 291 and 391 will be available concurrently through 2021.**

Core Subjects: EC-6 (391)

- Specifically... the exam framework for subtest English Language Arts and Reading and the Science of Teaching Reading (801) has been revised to remove competencies that overlap with Science of Teaching Reading (293).
- This reduces the breadth of content covered by the Core Subjects EC-6 framework.
- This work was reviewed by a committee of Texas educators in fall 2019.
- The draft framework was posted to the TEA website for public comment through June 17, 2020.

Core Subjects: EC-6 (391)

- ❖ New assessment code = 391.
- ❖ New subtest codes = 901, 902, etc.
- Feedback from the field and analysis of the exam has resulted in a reduction and redistribution of items across all 5 subtests.
- Total test session time remains 5 hours.
- Available time per item increases for all 5 subtests.

Representative Examinations

- **291:** The current Representative Examination remains appropriate for use in preparing candidates to take the 291 TExES certification exam through December 31, 2021.
 - **391:** EPPs may purchase a new Representative Examination for use in preparing candidates to take the 391 TExES certification exam beginning January 1, 2021.
 - This new Representative Examination fully reflects the new 391 exam framework and test design.
- ❖ *The next section explains this in detail.*



HB3-Impacted Representative Examinations

Update on Representative Exams

- Beginning January 1, 2021, these four TExES certification exams will not include content that aligns to the Science of Teaching Reading (293) exam framework. Candidates will not be tested on duplicative content in both the STR exam and these exams.
 - 1) Core Subjects: Grades 4-8 (211)
 - 2) English Language Arts and Reading: Grades 4-8 (117)
 - 3) English Language Arts and Reading / Social Studies: Grades 4-8 (113)
 - 4) Core Subjects: Early Childhood-Grade 6 (391)

Update on Representative Exams

- For fields 211, 117, and 113, the Texas Education Agency and Pearson reviewed the current Representative Examinations for duplicative content aligned to the STR exam framework, with the following outcomes:

Update on Representative Exams

1) Core Subjects Grades 4-8 (211): NO CHANGE

- No duplicative content was identified, and the current Representative Examination remains appropriate for continued use.
- For EPPs that already own this Representative Examination, there is no need to replace it or take any additional action.

Update on Representative Exams

2) ELAR 4-8 (117)

****and****

ELAR/Social Studies 4-8 (113):

REVISED REPRESENTATIVE EXAMINATIONS

- Duplicative content has been removed from each of these Representative Examinations.
- For EPPs that already own one or both of these, Pearson will replace your copies at no charge.
- To receive a replacement Representative Examination, send an email to texas.support@pearson.com for assistance and detailed instructions.

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Update on Representative Exams

3) Core Subjects EC-6 (391): NEW

- The new 391 TExES certification exam is a new exam with a different test design compared to the current 291 TExES certification exam.
- The Texas Education Agency and Pearson also reviewed the current 291 Representative Examination for duplicative content aligned to the STR exam framework.
- Such content was identified, and a new 391 exam was created without that content.
- In addition, all 5 subtests were revised to match the new 391 test design.

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Update on Representative Exams

3) Core Subjects EC-6 (391): NEW

- A new Representative Examination for Core Subjects EC-6 (391) is being offered that fully reflects the new 391 exam framework and design.
- Beginning 10/27/20, to purchase the new 391 Representative Examination for preparing candidates to take the 391 TExES certification exam as of January 1, 2021, authorized representatives from SBEC-approved EPPs can send a request for an order form to estestvoucher@pearson.com.

Update on Representative Exams

4) Core Subjects EC-6 (291): NO CHANGE

- NOTE: The current Representative Examination for 291 is unchanged. It remains appropriate for use in preparing candidates to take the 291 TExES certification exam through December 31, 2021.
- For EPPs that own this Representative Exam, there is no need to replace it and no additional action to take.



Contact Us

Candidate and EPP Support

- For candidates: Customer Contact Center
 - <http://www.tx.nesinc.com/Contacts.aspx>
 - Available during extended hours
 - Access to contact center representatives via Live Chat
- For EPP staff: Texas EPP Support Team
 - texas.support@pearson.com
 - Send an email to receive the bi-monthly newsletter.
- Dedicated EPP resource page on website
 - <http://www.tx.nesinc.com>
 - Click on “EPPs” in the navigation bar.



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Q&A

ALWAYS LEARNING