

The Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam

Important information for teacher candidates who will have finished an educator preparation program by December 2020

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 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:

SBEC Virtual Certificate

Teacher candidates are encouraged to take **proactive action** to ensure that their standard certification is issued well in advance of the December 31, 2020 deadline. This includes actively communicating with their EPP, passing all certification exams, and completing all certification issuance requirements.

If you have additional questions about standard certificate issuance prior to the deadline, please contact your educator preparation program.

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.

tea.texas.gov/str