

# 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, 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 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.

***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**

One-year probationary certificate holders 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](https://tea.texas.gov/str)**