



Science of Teaching Reading Exam Timelines and Requirements

Updated February 2021



Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Exam Requirements

New Science of Teaching Reading Requirement



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.

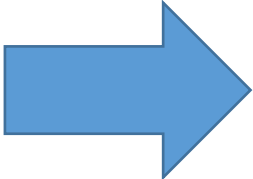


In Statute

TEC Sec 21.048 (a-2): The State Board of 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*

As of Jan. 1, 2021,
The 293 STR TExES
exam is required for
Intern, Probationary,
and Standard
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

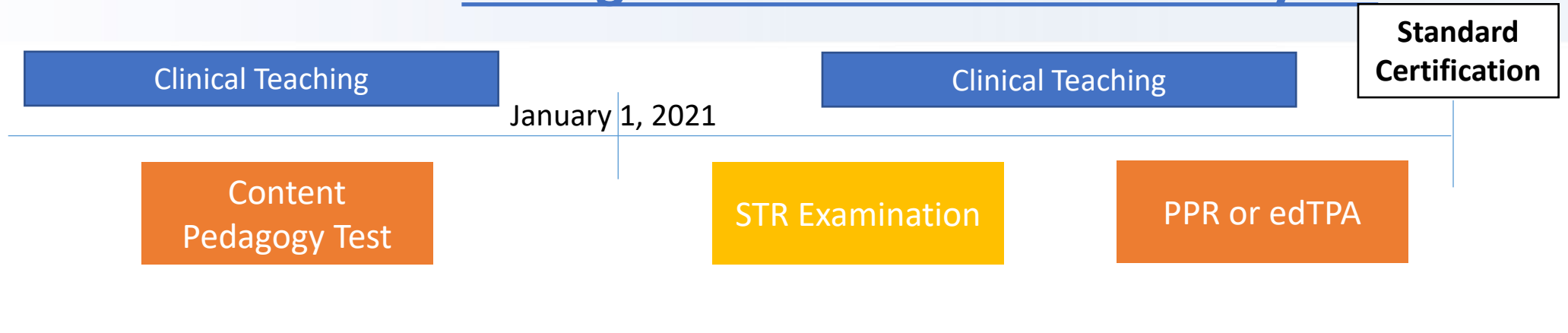
*Teachers who are standard certified in Core Subjects: EC-6, Core Subjects: 4-8, English Language Arts and Reading: 4-8, or English Language Arts and Social Studies: 4-8 will not be required to pass the STR exam for renewal of their certificate. The STR exam requirement only impacts candidates seeking certification after Jan. 1, 2021.



STR Exam Implementation Timelines

Transition Year: 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

Assessment Structure by Pathway after 1/1/2021: Candidate requirements for issuance of an intern, probationary, and standard certificate

IHE
Traditional



Clinical Teaching

Standard
Certification

Content
Pedagogy Test

STR Examination

PPR or edTPA

Alternative
Certification



Intern
Certification

Internship

Standard
Certification

Content
Pedagogy Test

STR Examination

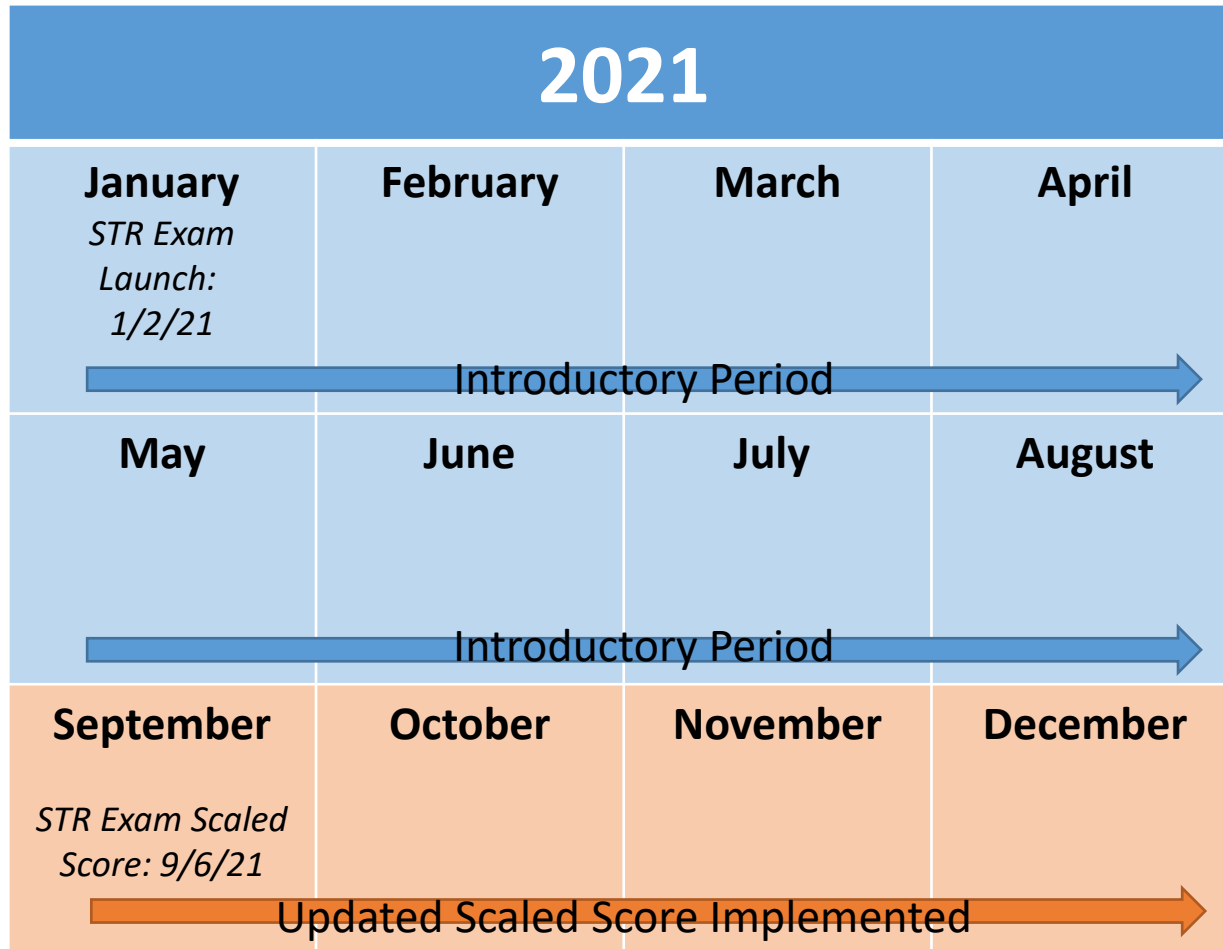
PPR or edTPA

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

As of January 1, 2021:

- Teacher candidates will need to complete the STR exam to receive their intern or standard certificate in one of the 5 impacted certification fields to start as a teacher of record.
- Current teachers of record with a probationary or intern certificate will need to take the STR examination to be issued a standard certificate in one of the 5 impacted certification fields to continue as a teacher of record.
- Standard certified teachers seeking to add one of the impacted certificate fields through certification by examination will need to take the STR examination, along with the appropriate content pedagogy exam, in order to add the certification field to their standard certificate.

STR Exam Introductory Period



- During the eight-month STR Exam introductory period, an initial cut score has been established to support the transition into the new exam. Candidates must meet a minimum threshold of items correct in order to pass the exam. That threshold is established in [19 TAC §151.1001\(b\)\(1\)](#)
- A standard setting committee composed of Texas educators will make recommendations this spring on the passing standard to be implemented in September 2021 for all teacher candidates who take the exam on or after September 6, 2021

Assessment Resources for STR

Resources:

- [STR Standards](#)
- [STR Test Framework](#)
- [STR Exam Preparation Manual](#)
- Representative Exam and Interactive Practice Exam (available Spring 2021)

For additional resources and information regarding the STR Exam, please visit:

tea.texas.gov/str



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 2, 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
- Candidate must pass all subtests for either 291 or 391, passing scores on subtests cannot be combined between 291 and 391

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:

- [391 Core Subjects: EC-6 Preparation Manual](#)

A large, diverse group of young students is shown in the background, sitting on the floor and smiling. They are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual clothing. The image is slightly blurred to make the text overlay stand out.

**For additional updates,
please visit:
tea.texas.gov/str**