

Chapter 239. Student Services Certificates

Subchapter D. Reading Specialist Certificate

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter D issued under the Texas Education Code, §21.031(a) and §21.041(b)(1)-(4), unless otherwise noted.

§239.90. General Provisions.

- (a) Because the reading specialist plays a critical role in campus effectiveness and student achievement, the rules adopted by the State Board for Educator Certification in this subchapter ensure that each candidate for the Reading Specialist Certificate is of the highest caliber and possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.
- (b) An individual serving as a reading specialist is expected to actively participate in professional development activities to continually update his or her knowledge and skills. Currency in best practices and research as related to both campus leadership and student learning is essential.
- (c) The holder of the Reading Specialist Certificate issued under the provisions of this subchapter may teach reading to students in Prekindergarten-Grade 12.

Source: The provisions of this §239.90 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective July 13, 2004, 29 TexReg 6645; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.91. Minimum Requirements for Admission to a Reading Specialist Preparation Program.

- (a) Prior to admission to an educator preparation program leading to the standard Reading Specialist Certificate, an individual must:
 - (1) hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education that at the time was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and
 - (2) meet the requirements for admission to an educator preparation program under Chapter 227 of this title (relating to Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates).
- (b) An educator preparation program may adopt requirements for admission in addition to those required in subsection (a) of this section.

Source: The provisions of this §239.91 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.92. Preparation Program Requirements.

- (a) Structured, field-based training must be focused on actual experiences with each of the standards identified in the State Board for Educator Certification-approved reading specialist standards to include experiences with diverse types of students, grade levels, and campuses.
- (b) An educator preparation program must develop and implement specific criteria and procedures that allow a candidate to substitute related professional reading specialist training and/or experience directly related to the standards identified in subsection (a) of this section for part of the preparation coursework or other program requirements.

Source: The provisions of this §239.92 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.93. Requirements for the Issuance of the Reading Specialist Certificate.

To be eligible to receive the standard Reading Specialist Certificate, a candidate must:

- (1) successfully complete a reading specialist preparation program that meets the requirements of §239.92 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Requirements);
- (2) successfully complete the examination based on the standards identified in §239.92 of this title;
- (3) hold, at a minimum, a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education that at the time was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and
- (4) have two creditable years teaching experience as a classroom teacher, as defined in Chapter 153, Subchapter CC, of this title (relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service) and the Texas Education Code, §5.001(2).

Source: The provisions of this §239.93 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.94. Requirements to Renew the Standard Reading Specialist Certificate.

- (a) An individual issued the standard Reading Specialist Certificate under this title is subject to Chapter 232, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements).
- (b) An individual who holds a valid Texas reading specialist certificate issued prior to September 1, 1999, may voluntarily comply with the requirements of this section under procedures implemented by the Texas Education Agency staff under §232.810 of this title (relating to Voluntary Renewal of Current Texas Educators).

Source: The provisions of this §239.94 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.95. Transition and Implementation Dates.

Section 239.93 of this title (relating to Requirements for the Issuance of the Reading Specialist Certificate) shall be implemented on September 1, 2003, and shall supersede all conflicting provisions in this title on September 1, 2004. All other sections of this subchapter shall take effect pursuant to the Texas Government Code, §2001.036.

Source: The provisions of this §239.95 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.