

DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an update on the Science of Teaching Reading (STR) examination requirement transition and upcoming educator certification test development.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for the classroom teacher class certificate structure is Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.003(a), 21.031, and 21.041(b)(1), (2), and (4), 21.041(c), 21.044(a), 21.0441, 21.0418(a).

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff anticipates presenting an update on educator certification test development to the Board at each SBEC meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: This item provides an update on the plan to communicate to the field the House Bill (HB) 3, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019 requirement 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. In addition, the item provides an update regarding upcoming test development dates. The updated assessments are a part of the teacher certification redesign plan that was discussed with the Board at the August 2018 work session and the October and December 2018 SBEC meetings to improve the quality and consistency of newly certified teachers.

STR Transition Plan

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. TEA staff has provided the Board with regular updates since the July 2019 SBEC work session regarding the STR examination as a part the comprehensive test development timeline.

Since the STR legislative requirement was enacted, TEA staff have actively communicated with

ce of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8,

ties with Science of Teaching Reading:

Included in those efforts is a requirement that all EPPs indicate their ability and readiness to successfully prepare candidates for certification in those impacted certification fields. EPPs that choose not to prepare candidates in these fields that require successful completion of the STR exam will be removed from the ability to certify candidates in these areas.

A timeline of TEA staff communication related to the STR transition can be found in Attachment

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Date	Action
December 6, 2019	TEA staff updates SBEC regarding the science of teaching reading rule changes and test development timeline
December 12, 2019	TEA provides a STR Application Performance Task Deep Dive for preparation programs
December 16–17, 2019	LETRS Training: Group 1, Session 2
December 18, 2019	TEA provides updated guidance via email around the science of teaching reading application and allowing programs to offer the science of teaching reading assessment without an application but with an attestation and updated curriculum.
January 20–21, 2020	LETRS Training: Group 2, Session 1
January 22–23, 2020	LETRS Training for Administrators
January 31, 2020	TEA staff presented to TACTE regarding the upcoming requirements for certification related to STR and the necessary timing for EPP recommendation of certificates
February 7, 2020	TEA staff provides deep dive into substance and implications for different pathways regarding the science of teaching reading assessment for the EPAC.
February 11–12, 2020	LETRS Training: Group 2, Session 2
February 20, 2020	TEA staff discusses with SBEC the replacement of the certification names for the HB 3 impacted certification fields to more clearly indicate the science of teaching reading requirement
March 5, 2020	TEA staff provides update to Data Working Group. The update includes requirements for certification related to STR and the necessary timing for EPP recommendation of certificates
March 13, 2020	Governor Abbott declares a state of disaster due to COVID-19.

ATTACHMENT II

