

Dear EPP/PACE Candidates:

May 11, 2020

The WTAMU Educator Preparation and PACE programs would like to take this opportunity to inform you about some upcoming TEA changes to certification requirements affecting the following certificates:

- EC-3
- EC-6 CORE
- 4-8 CORE
- 4-8 ELAR
- 4-8 ELAR/Social Studies

If your certification route is listed above, **effective January 1, 2021**, you will be required to take the Science of Teaching Reading TExES certification exam to be recommended for standard certification in these content areas. If you achieve full standard certification by December 30, 2020, this change will not affect you. However, if you lack any requirements by this date to be fully certified on the standard certificate, you will have to take the Science of Teaching Reading exam to complete your certification. If your certificate area is not listed above, this change does not currently affect you or your certification route.

For those of you affected by this change, please note this is not a change initiated by West Texas A&M University; this change affects all pre-service candidates in the state of Texas not on a standard certificate. Those already certified in these areas will attend reading academies with their districts to receive the necessary training and certificate from TEA.

This change **will affect** those candidates going on Probationary Certificates due to COVID-19 under Governor Abbot's Waivers. While these COVID-19 Probationary certificates allow candidates who only lack testing requirements to teach on a probationary certificate for up to one year, any of the above listed certificate routes will have to also take the STR exam if not **fully certified on a standard certificate by December 30, 2020**.

To assist you in your preparation for this exam, the PACE program will create an online, self-paced module that will expand upon and accompany the current Science of Teaching Reading module. This in depth module will help prepare you to utilize the Science of Teaching Reading skills in your literacy practice, and it will help prepare you for the newly adopted TExES exam.

If you have any questions or concerns about this new and additional requirement, please contact the PACE adviser or the Director of Teacher Preparation. We are here to assist you during this transition and know you will become strong literacy educators.

Sincerely,

<i>Dr. Beth Garcia</i> Director of Teacher Preparation and Certification Assistant Professor ESL/Bilingual Education West Texas A&M University	Pyxa Sovilay PACE Advisor Office of Teacher Preparation & Advising West Texas A&M University
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