

# **READ 4213- METHODS OF TEACHING AND LANGUAGE ARTS**

Midwestern State University  
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

## **Instructor/Contact Information:**

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## **Required Text:**

ELAR Block B (with digital code), see bookstore for purchasing information

\*Syllabus, handouts, announcements will be posted on D2L and Revel. (Go to [MWSU](#) )

Access to a personal computer with Microsoft software or Google suite, internet, and the ability to access D2L the MSU Online Learning System.

## **Catalog/Course Description:**

Prerequisites: EDUC 3153, 3162, 4102, 4202, and 4302. Concurrent enrollment in READ 4203. Planning and organizing for the integrated teaching of scientifically-based reading and language arts (i.e. listening, talking, reading, writing, viewing, visually representing) instruction within the context of the content areas.

## **Course Competencies/Learning Outcomes:**

Block B (READ 4203/4213) builds mastery of the following competencies/learning outcomes (Competencies are aligned to the TExES Examination Frameworks/Standards, EC-6 Core Subjects-ELAR, STR, Educator Standards, Technology Standards for Teachers, INTASC, and the International Literacy Association standards for Literacy Professional). Block B courses are taken concurrently. Knowledge and implementation of PK guidelines and K-6 TEKS geared instruction is required:

1. Design content area ELAR classroom instruction.
2. Deliver content area ELAR classroom instruction.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of students and student learning.
4. Demonstrate ELAR content expertise.

5. Create a safe, accessible, and engaging learning environment.
6. Demonstrate data-driven practice.
7. Demonstrate professional practices and responsibilities.
8. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to phonological and phonemic awareness.
9. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to print concepts and alphabetic knowledge
10. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to phonics and word identification skills
11. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to syllabication and morphemic analysis.
12. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to reading fluency.
13. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to vocabulary development.
14. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to comprehension development
15. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to comprehension of literary texts.
16. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to comprehension of informational texts.
17. Demonstrate and apply ELAR content knowledge related to writing, the writing process, and emergent literacy.

**Focus of the Course:**

Learning and the Language Arts/Scientificallly-based instruction

Teaching and Assessing the Language Arts

1. Emergent Literacy (Early Reading Instruction: Phonological Awareness/Phonemic Awareness/Phonics)
2. Promoting Comprehension (Reader and and Text Factors)
3. Oral Language: Listening and Talking
4. Written Language: Reading and Writing (Comprehension/Fluency)
5. Visual Language: Viewing and Visually Representing (Comprehension)
6. Vocabulary (Vocabulary)
7. Comprehending and Composing Stories (Comprehension/Fluency)
8. Investigating Non-Fiction (Comprehension/Fluency)
9. Fluency
10. Learning to Spell Conventionally
11. Language Tools: Grammar and Handwriting
12. Differentiated ELAR Instruction

## **See Appendix A for a complete standards list**

### **Dispositions:**

Teacher candidates will demonstrate the performances essential for meeting the reading/literacy instructional needs of all students.

- Reading education professionals are committed to using research-based instruction.
- Reading education professionals assess learner needs to plan appropriate instruction.
- Reading education professionals are aware that best assessments are conducted over time and compare the child's past and present abilities.
- Reading education professionals display positive dispositions related to reading and the teaching of reading.
- Reading education professionals value students' interests, reading abilities, and backgrounds as foundations for the reading and writing program.
- Reading education professionals model reading and writing enthusiastically as valued lifelong activities.
- Reading education professionals help parents find ways to support learning begun at school in enjoyable ways.

### **Assessment:**

Student performance of knowledge and skills will be formally assessed by Revel Quizzes, the preparation of an integrated thematic unit, classroom performance (evaluation rubrics), and documentation of class activities.

### **Calendar:**

See D2L and attached Word file.

### **Assignments/Grading Procedures:**

**Thematic Unit (52%):** Fifty-two percent of the intern's final grade will be determined by the preparation and organization of the thematic unit. See detailed handout and rubric in D2L.) The intern will plan and organize an integrated thematic unit with lessons (including technology integration); activities for learning centers, knowledge of student learning, and related content areas. TEKS are to be included for each lesson in the unit plan. Specific instructions for the thematic unit will be given in class and posted on D2L. Please submit an electronic copy via D2L Dropbox.

**Revel Quizzes/Activities (18%):** Eighteen percent of the intern's final grade will be determined by participation/completion of assigned Revel activities and performance on quizzes based on readings and case studies in the Revel system. This material is directly linked to our text. You will need to sign up for the REVEL course via the digital code that accompanied your textbook. Instructions for sign-up will be sent through email and D2L News feed. Revel will be counted in both methods courses.

**Practice STR Exam/Certify Teacher (15%):** Fifteen percent of the intern's final grade will be determined by participation/completion of the Certify Teacher practice (STR) flash cards/study mode and performance on the practice exam. **Failure to complete (participate in) the Certify Teacher study mode, flash cards, and practice exam will result in a failing grade or incomplete for Block B.** Students must complete the process below and are not required to pass the Certify teacher content exam to pass Block B. The process is as follows: (1) Exam Mode: take practice content exam through Certify Teacher; (2) Pass: passing the exam (80% in all competencies) will require no further action and 15% of your grade will be determined by the score on the exam; Fail: failing the exam, will require students to go through the study tracker, flash card study materials, and study mode (note: exam may not be attempted again without going through the flash cards and then study mode); (3) Retake exam: Once you have completed the study tracker (total study mode and flash cards must equal at least 10 hours), you may retake the exam. After study tracker is completed retake the exam. Pass or fail, 15% of the final exam grade will be determined by your score on the final attempt. All students (pass or fail) have the option of repeating the process multiple times by reviewing the flash cards and study mode again and retaking the exam to improve their score. Retaking the exam mode over and over until a passing score is achieved will result in no credit for the course. Specific information on how to access Certify Teacher will be given on the first day of class. To be released for the actual TEXES exam requires passing the practice exam with an 80% in each domain/competency and must be completed prior to clinical teaching. I strongly encourage students to complete the WCOE testing protocols in Block B. [WCOE TEXES Testing Policy](#)

**Class Activities/Participation (15%):** Although the course requires a thorough understanding of the readings and assignments, participation in online class discussions/activities/modules will provide the basis for learning and assessment. Revel completion, online participation, field experience, and in person attendance is very important.

**Attendance Policy:**

Be on time and don't leave early. Students who arrive after class has started or leave before it ends will be counted absent. Class attendance and promptness to class are crucial to successful completion of this course.

Points will be deducted for each absence as follows: 1 absence = 2 points from final grade; 2 absences = an additional 3 points from final grade; 3 absences = an additional 5 points from final grade; 4 absences = dropped from the class. For example, if you have two absences, five points will be deducted from your final grade. **Incomplete or time logs not submitted will result in an incomplete or failure for Block B. Unprofessionalism or dismissal from the school site will result in a Block B failure and a fitness for the profession referral.**

**Total Points for Final Grade:**

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

**Participation and Late Work Policy:**

Please complete all assignments on time. Assignments will be deducted by 25% for each late day. Complete readings prior to class schedule to ensure participation in course related content and activities.

**WCOE Policies and Procedures:****Clinical Experiences:**

Clinical experiences at the WCOE, including both initial clinical experiences (e.g. classroom observations) and clinical teaching, are an essential part of the professional preparation program. Clinical experiences vary across many WCOE undergraduate programs and are designed and implemented through collaboration with school district and community partners. WCOE teacher candidates gain essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions through observations and teaching opportunities in a wide variety of diverse settings (e.g. urban/rural, SES, special needs, race/ethnicity). WCOE believes in gradual release of responsibilities and exposes and evaluates teacher candidates throughout the program so as to provide them with the best learning experience.

## Co-Teaching

West College of Education adopts a co-teaching model for the candidates during their clinical/field experiences. These strategies include the following: One Teach, One Observe — One teacher has primary instructional responsibility while the other gathers specific observational information on students or the (instructing) teacher. The key to this strategy is to have a focus for the observation.

- One Teach, One Assist — One teacher has primary instructional responsibility while the other teacher assists students with their work, monitors behaviors, or corrects assignments.
- Station Teaching — The co-teaching pair divide the instructional content into parts and the students into groups. Groups spend a designated amount of time at each station. Of-ten an independent station will be used.
- Parallel Teaching — Each teacher instructs half of the students. The two teachers are addressing the same instructional material and present the lesson using the same teaching strategy. The greatest benefit is the reduction of student to teacher ratio.
- Supplemental Teaching — This strategy allows one teacher to work with students at their expected grade level, while the co-teacher works with those students who need the information and/or materials extended or remediated.
- Alternative/Differentiated Teaching — Alternative teaching strategies provide two different approaches to teaching the same information. The learning outcome is the same for all students, however the instructional methodology is different.
- Team Teaching — Well planned, team taught lessons, exhibit an invisible flow of instruction with no prescribed division of authority. Using a team teaching strategy, both teachers are actively involved in the lesson. From a student's perspective, there is no clearly defined leader, as both teachers share the instruction, are free to interject in-formation, and available to assist students and answer questions. (Adapted from Cook & Friend (1995))

MSU-TEXAS Policies and Procedures:

### **[Student Handbook:](#)**

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#)

## Plagiarism

"By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." from [Student Handbook](#). All assignments submitted in BRIGHTSPACE will also be checked through Turn It In for originality. Assignments with more than 50% match will be given a 0.

Please note: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

## Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Computer issues are not an excuse for missing a deadline.** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

## Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are



informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### **References:**

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Linda, F. (Director). (2019, September 03). The Simple View of Reading [Video file]. Reading Rockets. Retrieved May 24, 2020, from [YouTube](#)

Meeting the Challenges of Early Literacy Phonics Instruction (2019). Retrieved August 20, 2020, from [International Literacy Association](#).

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Understood for Educators. (2019, January 29). Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Action [Video file]. Retrieved May 18, 2020, from [You Tube](#)

### **Additional Readings/References used in Block B:**

The Reading Teacher: International Literacy Association  
Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy: International Literacy Association  
Reading Research Quarterly: International Literacy Association

The Language Arts Journal: National Council of Teachers of English  
Young Children: National Association for the Education of Young Children  
The Kappan: Phi Delta Kappa  
[Reading Rockets Website](#)  
[The Reading League Website](#)  
[Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines](#)  
[Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for ELAR \(Elementary\)](#)

## **Appendix A –Standards/Competencies List**

### **WCOE Standards (InTASC):**

The outcomes for graduates of professional programs are based upon knowledge, skills, and dispositions in the following elements:

- Learner Development - understand how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and design and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.
- Learning Differences - understand individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.
- Learning Environment - work with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.
- Content Knowledge - understand the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.
- Application of Content - understand how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.
- Assessment - understand and use multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.
- Planning for Instruction - plan instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.
- Instructional Strategies - understand and use a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of

content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

- Professional Learning and Ethical Practice - engage in ongoing professional learning and use evidence to continually evaluate his or her practice, particularly the effects of his or her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.
- Leadership and Collaboration - seek appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

TEXES Preparation: The Language Arts and Reading content preparation test and review for the EC-6 Core Subjects and Science of Teaching Reading STR certifications will be given during this block.

Course Objectives based upon the State Standards/ILA/INTASC:

The course objectives of the ELAR Block are based on the Standards for Reading Professionals developed by the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee of the International Literacy Association (ILA), Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC), and the Texas Educator Standards, EC-6 Core Subjects, PPR (EC-12), STR standards and TEXES test framework competencies.

### **ILA Standards for Literacy Professionals:**

#### **Foundational Knowledge-Standard 1 (ILA):**

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the major theoretical, conceptual, and evidence-based foundations of pre-K/primary literacy and language and the ways in which they interrelate. As a result, teacher candidates will:

1.1 Candidates demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical, conceptual, and evidence-based components of pre-K/primary/elementary reading development (i.e., concepts of print, phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension) and evidence based instructional approaches that support that development

1.2 Candidates demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical, conceptual, and evidence-based foundations of pre-K/primary/elementary writing development and the writing process, and evidence based instructional approaches that support writing of specific types of text and producing writing appropriate to task.

1.3 Candidates demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical, conceptual, and evidence-based frameworks that describe the centrality of language to literacy learning and evidence-based instructional approaches that support the development of listening, speaking, viewing, and visually representing

1.4 Candidates demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical, conceptual, and evidence-based frameworks that describe the interrelated components of literacy and interdisciplinary learning

### **Curriculum and Instruction-Standard 2 (ILA):**

Candidates apply foundational knowledge to critically examine pre-K/primary literacy curricula; design, adapt, implement, and evaluate instructional approaches and materials to provide a coherent, integrated and motivating literacy program. As a result, teacher candidates will:

2.1 Candidates demonstrate the ability to critically examine pre-K/primary/elementary literacy curricula and select high-quality literary, multimedia, and informational texts to provide a coherent, integrated, and motivating literacy program.

2.2 Candidates plan, modify, and implement evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and integrated instructional approaches that develop reading processes as related to foundational skills (i.e., concepts of print, phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, fluency), vocabulary, and comprehension for pre-K/ primary learners.

2.3 Candidates design, adapt, implement, and evaluate evidence-based and developmentally appropriate instruction and materials to develop writing processes and orthographic knowledge of pre-K/primary learners.

2.4 Candidates plan, modify, implement, and evaluate evidence based and integrated instructional approaches and materials that provide developmentally appropriate instruction and materials to develop the language, speaking, listening, viewing, and visually representing skills and processes of pre-K/ primary learners.

### **Assessment and Evaluation-Standard 3 (ILA):**

Candidates understand, select, and use appropriate assessments to gather evidence on pre-K/primary students' language acquisition and literacy development for instructional and accountability purposes. As a result, teacher candidates will:

3.1 Candidates understand the purposes, strengths and limitations, reliability/validity, formats, and appropriateness of various types of informal and formal assessments.

3.2 Candidates use observational skills and results of student work to determine students' literacy and language strengths and needs; select and administer other formal and informal assessments appropriate for assessing students' language and literacy development.

3.3 Candidates use results of various assessment measures to inform and/or modify instruction.

3.4 Candidates use data in an ethical manner, interpret data to explain student progress

**Diversity and Equity- Standard 4 (ILA):**

Candidates examine their own culture and beliefs; set high expectations for their students; learn about and appreciate the cultures of their students, families, and communities to inform instruction. As a result, teacher candidates will:

4.1 Candidates recognize how their own cultural experiences affect instruction and appreciate the diversity of their students, families, and communities.

4.2 Candidates set high expectations for learners and implement instructional practices that are responsive to students' diversity

4.3 Candidates situate diversity as a core asset in instructional planning, teaching, and selecting texts and materials.

4.4 Candidates forge family, community, and school relationships to enhance students' literacy learning.

**Learners and the Literacy Environment-Standard 5 (ILA):**

Candidates apply knowledge of learner development and learning differences to create a positive, literacy-rich learning environment anchored in digital and print literacies. As a result, teacher candidates will:

5.1 Candidates apply knowledge of learner development and learning differences to plan literacy learning experiences that develop motivated and engaged literacy learners.

5.2 Candidates incorporate digital and print texts and experiences designed to differentiate and enhance students' language, literacy, and the learning environment.



5.3 Candidates incorporate safe, appropriate, and effective ways to use digital technologies in literacy and language learning experiences.

5.4 Candidates create physical and social literacy-rich environments that use routines and a variety of grouping configurations for independent and collaborative learning.

### **Professional Learning and Leadership-Standard 6 (ILA):**

Candidates are lifelong learners who reflect upon practice; use ongoing inquiry to improve their professional practice; advocate for students and their families to enhance students' literacy learning. As a result, teacher candidates will:

6.1 Candidates are readers, writers, and lifelong learners who continually seek and engage with professional resources

6.2 Candidates reflect as a means of improving professional teaching practices and understand the value of reflection in fostering individual and school change.

6.3 Candidates collaboratively participate in ongoing inquiry with colleagues and mentor teachers and participate in professional learning communities.

### **ELAR & Science of Teaching Reading (TEXES Core Subjects EC-6) Standards**

1. Oral Language 1: Teachers of young students understand the importance of oral language, know the developmental processes of oral language and provide a variety of instructional opportunities for young students to develop listening and speaking skills.
2. Literacy Development and Practice 4: Teachers of young students understand that literacy develops over time and progresses from emergent to proficient stages. Teachers use a variety of contexts to support the development of young students' literacy.
3. Reading Comprehension 7: Teachers understand the importance of reading for understanding, know the components of comprehension and teach young students strategies for improving comprehension.
4. Development of Written Communication 8: Teachers understand that writing to communicate is a developmental process and provide instruction that helps young students develop competence in written communication. (A-I)

5. Writing Conventions 9: Teachers understand how young students use writing conventions and how to help students develop those conventions.
6. Research and Inquiry Skills 11: Teachers understand the importance of study and inquiry skills as tools for learning and promote students' development in applying study and inquiry skills.
7. Viewing and Representing 12: Teachers understand how to interpret, analyze, evaluate and produce.

**English Language Arts and Reading EC-6 Competencies  
(Examination Framework-391)**

1. Oral Language 001: Teachers of young students understand the importance of oral language, know the developmental processes of oral language and provide a variety of instructional opportunities for young students to develop listening and speaking skills. (A-H)
2. Reading Comprehension and Applications 004: Teachers understands the importance of reading for understanding, know the components and processes of reading comprehension, and teaches students strategies for improving their comprehension, including using a variety of texts and contexts.(A-L)
3. Reading, Inquiry, and Research 006: Teachers understand the importance of inquiry and research skills to students' academic success and provides instruction that promotes students' acquisition and effective use of these skills in the content areas. (A-G)
4. Writing Conventions 007: Teachers understands the conventions of writing in English and provides instruction that helps students develop proficiency in applying writing conventions. (A-G)
5. Written Communication 008: Teachers understand that writing to communicate is a developmental process and provides instruction that promotes students' competence in written communication. (A-I)
6. Viewing and Representing 009: Teachers understand skills for interpreting, analyzing, evaluating, and producing visual images and messages in various types of media, including electronic media, and provides students with opportunities to develop skills in this area. (A-J)

**Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Standards [19 TAC 235.15]**

(b) Reading Development. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of Kindergarten-Grade 5 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* pertaining to reading and apply knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote students' development of grade level skills within the following components of reading:

- (1) oral language development;
- (2) print awareness;
- (6) vocabulary development;
- (8) comprehension of informational text; and
- (9) beginning strategies and reading comprehension skills.

(c) Reading Pedagogy. The Early Childhood: Prekindergarten-Grade 3 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of the principles of reading instruction and assessment and use a range of instructional strategies and assessment methods to promote students' development of foundational reading skills, including:

- (1) implementing both formal and informal methods of measuring student progress in early reading development;
- (2) designing and executing developmentally appropriate, standards-driven instruction that reflect evidence-based best practices; and

## **Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Examination Framework [Test 293]**

### **Domain I – Reading Pedagogy**

#### **Competency 001 (Foundations of the Science of Teaching Reading):**

Understand foundational concepts, principles, and best practices related to the science of teaching reading.

B. Demonstrate knowledge of the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines related to reading and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) (Kindergarten through Grade 5).

C. Apply knowledge of the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking by planning reading instruction that reflects an integrated and recursive model of literacy.

**Domain II – Reading Development: Foundational Skills**  
**Competency 003 (Oral Language Foundations of Reading Development):**

Understand foundational concepts, principles, and best practices related to young children's development of oral language, including second-language acquisition, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level oral language skills.

E. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' understanding and use of sentences and grammatical structures of increasing complexity (e.g. compound sentences, complex sentences, relative clauses).

**Competency 004 (Phonological and Phonemic Awareness):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to the development of phonological and phonemic awareness, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level phonological and phonemic awareness skills.

C. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of phonological and phonemic awareness in the development of literacy in an alphabetic language.

D. Demonstrate understanding of the distinctions between phonological awareness and phonemic awareness and the distinctions between phonemic awareness and the alphabetic principle.

E. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts related to the development of phonological and phonemic awareness (e.g., recognizing that young children naturally attend to the meaning of language rather than its sounds and that larger units of sound are easier to detect and manipulate than smaller units of sound).

F. Demonstrate knowledge of the phonological awareness continuum as described in the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the TEKS for ELAR (Kindergarten through Grade 5) and apply knowledge of the phonological awareness continuum in order to plan and deliver instruction that is systematic and sequential.

**Competency 005 (Print Concepts and Alphabet Knowledge):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to the development of print concepts and alphabet knowledge, including

understanding of the alphabetic principle, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level print concepts and alphabet knowledge and their understanding of the alphabetic principle.

C. Demonstrate knowledge of the continuum of development of knowledge and skills related to print concepts, alphabet knowledge, and the alphabetic principle as described in the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the TEKS for ELAR (Kindergarten through Grade 5).

**Competency 008 (Reading Fluency):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to the development of reading fluency, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level reading fluency.

D. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts related to reading fluency, including the key indicators of fluency (i.e., accuracy, rate, and prosody); the role of automaticity in reading fluency; interrelationships between accuracy, rate, and automaticity; the role of fluency in reading comprehension; interrelationships between prosody and comprehension; the importance of providing explicit and frequent instruction in fluency to students at all stages of reading development; and the importance of varying fluency instruction for students at different stages of development in decoding.

**Domain III – Reading Development: Comprehension**

**Competency 009 (Vocabulary Development):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to vocabulary development, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level vocabulary knowledge and skills.

A. Demonstrate knowledge of explicit, research-based strategies, tools, and techniques for assessing students' development of vocabulary knowledge and skills in the context of authentic and meaningful reading.

D. Demonstrate knowledge of the continuum of vocabulary development as described in the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the TEKS for ELAR (Kindergarten through Grade 5), including the importance of providing young children with frequent, repeated, incremental exposures to and opportunities to use new vocabulary in meaningful contexts.

H. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' ability to identify, use, and explain the meaning of grade-level antonyms, synonyms, idioms, adages, and puns.

K. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' ability to use context within and beyond a sentence to help infer the meaning of an unfamiliar word or to determine the meaning of a multiple-meaning word, including using different types of context clues (e.g., syntax, punctuation, embedded definition/explanation, apposition, restatement/synonym, contrast/antonym).

L. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' word consciousness and motivation to learn new words and for supporting their retention of new words (e.g., providing student-friendly definitions and meaningful, contextualized examples; grouping words based on conceptual categories and associative meanings; developing semantic maps).

**Competency 010 (Comprehension Development):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to the development of reading comprehension, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level reading comprehension strategies.

A. Demonstrate knowledge of explicit, research-based strategies, tools, and techniques for assessing various aspects of students' development in reading comprehension (e.g., inferring), including their development of reading comprehension strategies (e.g., self-monitoring).

D. Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of and strategies for providing young children with multiple opportunities to listen to, independently read, and respond to a wide range of literary and informational texts and to interact with others about texts in order to support and enhance their comprehension development, including providing young children with frequent opportunities to repeat key parts of predictable or patterned texts during read-alouds and to reenact stories using a variety of strategies (e.g.,

using puppets and character voices, using student illustrations, using digital applications).

F. Demonstrate knowledge of different levels of comprehension, including literal comprehension skills, inferential comprehension skills, and evaluative comprehension skills; and recognize the essential role background knowledge (including vocabulary knowledge) plays in a reader's ability to make inferences and to make connections within and across texts.

G. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' ability to apply metacognitive reading comprehension strategies to literary and informational texts (e.g., establishing a purpose for reading assigned and self-selected texts; generating questions about a text before, during, and after reading; making predictions about a text and then confirming or correcting the predictions; creating mental images; making connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society; monitoring comprehension and making adjustments such as rereading, using background knowledge, asking questions, and annotating when understanding breaks down).

J. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for teaching students how to vary approaches to reading a text according to the purpose for reading (e.g., skimming for gist, scanning for specific information, close reading for deep understanding).

K. Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of balancing young children's exposure to and reading of multiple genres of literary and informational texts and strategies for selecting and using multiple texts for reading instruction that reflect a diversity of genres, cultures, perspectives, and time periods, including the diversity of the classroom, school community, and society.

L. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for differentiating instruction in comprehension strategies in order to address the assessed needs of all students.

**Competency 011 (Comprehension of Literary Texts):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to the comprehension of and critical thinking about literary texts, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all students' development of grade-level comprehension and analysis skills for literary texts.

A. Demonstrate knowledge of explicit, research-based strategies, tools, and techniques for assessing students' reading comprehension and analysis of literary texts.

B. Demonstrate ability to accurately interpret the results of ongoing assessments in reading comprehension and analysis of literary texts and to use the results to inform instructional planning and delivery, including differentiation strategies and interventions.

C. Demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing characteristics of well-known children's literature, such as folktales, fables, fairy tales, legends, myths, tall tales, nursery rhymes, poetry, and drama from various cultures.

D. Demonstrate knowledge of the continuum of development in the comprehension and analysis of literary texts as described in the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the TEKS for ELAR (Kindergarten through Grade 5).

F. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' ability to comprehend and analyze a range of literary texts, including identifying a text's key ideas and details; analyzing an author's purpose for writing; identifying story elements, such as characters, plot, setting, and theme; analyzing an author's craft, such as word choice and use of imagery and figurative language; and using evidence from a literary text to support responses.

G. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' comprehension of literary texts at all three comprehension levels (i.e., literal, inferential, and evaluative) and for promoting critical thinking about literary texts (e.g., synthesizing information to create new understandings; asking and having students generate questions related to bias, such as which voices and perspectives are present and absent in a text).

H. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for differentiating instruction in the comprehension and analysis of literary texts in order to address the assessed needs of all students.

**Competency 012 (Comprehension of Informational Texts):**

Understand concepts, principles, and best practices related to the comprehension of and critical thinking about informational texts, and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate, research- and evidence-based assessment and instructional practices to promote all



students' development of grade-level comprehension and analysis skills for informational texts.

A. Demonstrate knowledge of explicit, research-based strategies, tools, and techniques for assessing students' reading comprehension and analysis of informational texts

B. Demonstrate ability to accurately interpret the results of ongoing assessments in reading comprehension and analysis of informational texts and to use the results to inform instructional planning and delivery, including differentiation strategies and interventions.

C. Demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing characteristics and structures of informational, persuasive, multimodal, and digital texts.

D. Demonstrate knowledge of the continuum of development in the comprehension and analysis of informational texts as described in the *Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines* and the TEKS for ELAR (Kindergarten through Grade 5).

E. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of reading aloud high-quality informational texts on a regular basis to develop young children's familiarity with informational texts, and demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices related to using read-alouds for this purpose, including asking questions about a text as it is being read aloud, engaging students in activities related to the text's content, and extending an informational text into centers to continue students' interactions with the text's content.

F. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of scaffolding young children's comprehension and analysis of informational texts and knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices related to this purpose (e.g., using strategic questioning and engaging students in academic conversations about a text's content, teaching text annotation and note-taking skills, helping students develop semantic maps and other graphic organizers to help clarify or reinforce a text's content or organizational structure, helping students generate and respond to peer questioning about a text).

G. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' ability to comprehend and analyze informational texts, including identifying different informational text structures (e.g., descriptive, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, sequential, chronological), identifying and summarizing a text's central ideas and supporting evidence, using textual features (e.g., subtitles, bold or italicized text) and graphic

features (e.g., charts, diagrams) to gain information, comparing and contrasting the content presented in a book's text with that presented in its graphic features, identifying a sequence of steps or events in a text, recognizing the characteristics of multimodal and digital texts, identifying an author's purpose and intended audience, analyzing an author's craft (e.g., choice of words, evidence, and rhetorical devices), distinguishing facts from opinions, and identifying the claim in an argumentative text.

H. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' comprehension of informational texts at all three comprehension levels and for promoting critical thinking about informational texts (e.g., synthesizing information to create new understandings; asking and having students generate higher-order questions about a text, such as questions related to voices or perspectives present and absent in a text or questions about the credibility of a text).

I. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for promoting students' development of disciplinary-literacy skills, including distinguishing discipline-specific meanings of words (e.g., *ruler* in mathematics [a measuring device] versus *ruler* in social studies [a monarch or government leader]), and recognizing text structures commonly used in a discipline.

J. Demonstrate knowledge of research-based strategies and best practices for differentiating instruction in the comprehension and analysis of informational texts in order to address the assessed needs of all students.

## **Texas Educator Standards (Chapter 149)**

### **(1) Standard 1--Instructional Planning and Delivery.**

Teachers demonstrate their understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based, data-driven, differentiated instruction that engages students, makes appropriate use of technology, and makes learning relevant for today's learners.

(A) Teachers design clear, well-organized, sequential lessons that build on students' prior knowledge.

(i) Teachers develop lessons that build coherently toward objectives based on course content, curriculum scope and sequence, and expected student outcomes.

(ii) Teachers effectively communicate goals, expectations, and objectives to help all students reach high levels of achievement.

(iii) Teachers connect students' prior understanding and real-world experiences to new content and contexts, maximizing learning opportunities.

(B) Teachers design developmentally appropriate, standards-driven lessons that reflect evidence-based best practices.

(i) Teachers plan instruction that is developmentally appropriate, is standards driven, and motivates students to learn.

(ii) Teachers use a range of instructional strategies, appropriate to the content area, to make subject matter accessible to all students.

(iii) Teachers use and adapt resources, technologies, and standards-aligned instructional materials to promote student success in meeting learning goals.

(C) Teachers design lessons to meet the needs of diverse learners, adapting methods when appropriate.

(i) Teachers differentiate instruction, aligning methods and techniques to diverse student needs, including acceleration, remediation, and implementation of individual education plans.

(ii) Teachers plan student groupings, including pairings and individualized and small-group instruction, to facilitate student learning.

(iii) Teachers integrate the use of oral, written, graphic, kinesthetic, and/or tactile methods to teach key concepts.

(D) Teachers communicate clearly and accurately and engage students in a manner that encourages students' persistence and best efforts.

(i) Teachers ensure that the learning environment features a high degree of student engagement by facilitating discussion and student-centered activities as well as leading direct instruction.

(ii) Teachers validate each student's comments and questions, utilizing them to advance learning for all students.

(iii) Teachers encourage all students to overcome obstacles and remain persistent in the face of challenges, providing them with support in achieving their goals.

(E) Teachers promote complex, higher-order thinking, leading class discussions and activities that provide opportunities for deeper learning.

(i) Teachers set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students, encouraging them to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems.

(ii) Teachers provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.

(iii) Teachers incorporate technology that allows students to interact with the curriculum in more significant and effective ways, helping them reach mastery.

(F) Teachers consistently check for understanding, give immediate feedback, and make lesson adjustments as necessary.

(i) Teachers monitor and assess student progress to ensure that their lessons meet students' needs.

(ii) Teachers provide immediate feedback to students in order to reinforce their learning and ensure that they understand key concepts.

(iii) Teachers adjust content delivery in response to student progress through the use of developmentally appropriate strategies that maximize student engagement.

## **(2) Standard 2--Knowledge of Students and Student Learning.**

Teachers work to ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student's educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student's needs.

(A) Teachers demonstrate the belief that all students have the potential to achieve at high levels and support all students in their pursuit of social-emotional learning and academic success.

(i) Teachers purposefully utilize learners' individual strengths as a basis for academic and social-emotional growth.

(ii) Teachers create a community of learners in an inclusive environment that views differences in learning and background as educational assets.

(iii) Teachers accept responsibility for the growth of all of their students, persisting in their efforts to ensure high levels of growth on the part of each learner.

(B) Teachers acquire, analyze, and use background information (familial, cultural, educational, linguistic, and developmental characteristics) to engage students in learning.

(i) Teachers connect learning, content, and expectations to students' prior knowledge, life experiences, and interests in meaningful contexts.

(ii) Teachers understand the unique qualities of students with exceptional needs, including disabilities and giftedness, and know how to effectively address these needs through instructional strategies and resources.

(iii) Teachers understand the role of language and culture in learning and know how to modify their practices to support language acquisition so that language is comprehensible and instruction is fully accessible.

(C) Teachers facilitate each student's learning by employing evidence-based practices and concepts related to learning and social-emotional development.

(i) Teachers understand how learning occurs and how learners develop, construct meaning, and acquire knowledge and skills.

(ii) Teachers identify readiness for learning and understand how development in one area may affect students' performance in other areas.

(iii) Teachers apply evidence-based strategies to address individual student learning needs and differences, adjust their instruction, and support the learning needs of each student.

### **(3) Standard 3--Content Knowledge and Expertise.**

Teachers exhibit a comprehensive understanding of their content, discipline, and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lessons and their ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards.

(A) Teachers understand the major concepts, key themes, multiple perspectives, assumptions, processes of inquiry, structure, and real-world applications of their grade-level and subject-area content.

(i) Teachers have expertise in how their content vertically and horizontally aligns with the grade-level/subject-area continuum, leading to an integrated curriculum across grade levels and content areas.

(ii) Teachers identify gaps in students' knowledge of subject matter and communicate with their leaders and colleagues to ensure that these gaps are adequately addressed across grade levels and subject areas.

(iii) Teachers keep current with developments, new content, new approaches, and changing methods of instructional delivery within their discipline.

(B) Teachers design and execute quality lessons that are consistent with the concepts of their specific discipline, are aligned to state standards, and demonstrate their content expertise.

(i) Teachers organize curriculum to facilitate student understanding of the subject matter.

(ii) Teachers understand, actively anticipate, and adapt instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.

(iii) Teachers promote literacy and the academic language within the discipline and make discipline-specific language accessible to all learners.

(C) Teachers demonstrate content-specific pedagogy that meets the needs of diverse learners, utilizing engaging instructional materials to connect prior content knowledge to new learning.

(i) Teachers teach both the key content knowledge and the key skills of the discipline.

(ii) Teachers make appropriate and authentic connections across disciplines, subjects, and students' real-world experiences.

#### **(4) Standard 4--Learning Environment.**

Teachers interact with students in respectful ways at all times, maintaining a physically and emotionally safe, supportive learning environment that is characterized by efficient and effective routines, clear expectations for student behavior, and organization that maximizes student learning.

(A) Teachers create a mutually respectful, collaborative, and safe community of learners by using knowledge of students' development and backgrounds.

(i) Teachers embrace students' backgrounds and experiences as an asset in their learning environment.

(ii) Teachers maintain and facilitate respectful, supportive, positive, and productive interactions with and among students.

(iii) Teachers establish and sustain learning environments that are developmentally appropriate and respond to students' needs, strengths, and personal experiences.

(B) Teachers organize their classrooms in a safe and accessible manner that maximizes learning.

(i) Teachers arrange the physical environment to maximize student learning and to ensure that all students have access to resources.

(ii) Teachers create a physical classroom set-up that is flexible and accommodates the different learning needs of students.

(C) Teachers establish, implement, and communicate consistent routines for effective classroom management, including clear expectations for student behavior.

(i) Teachers implement behavior management systems to maintain an environment where all students can learn effectively.

(ii) Teachers maintain a strong culture of individual and group accountability for class expectations.

(iii) Teachers cultivate student ownership in developing classroom culture and norms.

(D) Teachers lead and maintain classrooms where students are actively engaged in learning as indicated by their level of motivation and on-task behavior.

(i) Teachers maintain a culture that is based on high expectations for student performance and encourages students to be self-motivated, taking responsibility for their own learning.

(ii) Teachers maximize instructional time, including managing transitions.

(iii) Teachers manage and facilitate groupings in order to maximize student collaboration, participation, and achievement.

(iv) Teachers communicate regularly, clearly, and appropriately with parents and families about student progress, providing detailed and constructive feedback and partnering with families in furthering their students' achievement goals.

### **(5) Standard 5--Data-Driven Practice.**

Teachers use formal and informal methods to assess student growth aligned to instructional goals and course objectives and regularly review and analyze multiple sources of data to measure student progress and adjust instructional strategies and content delivery as needed.

(A) Teachers implement both formal and informal methods of measuring student progress.

(i) Teachers gauge student progress and ensure student mastery of content knowledge and skills by providing assessments aligned to instructional objectives and outcomes that are accurate measures of student learning.

(ii) Teachers vary methods of assessing learning to accommodate students' learning needs, linguistic differences, and/or varying levels of background knowledge.

(B) Teachers set individual and group learning goals for students by using preliminary data and communicate these goals with students and families to ensure mutual understanding of expectations.

(i) Teachers develop learning plans and set academic as well as social-emotional learning goals for each student in response to previous outcomes from formal and informal assessments.

(ii) Teachers involve all students in self-assessment, goal setting, and monitoring progress.

(iii) Teachers communicate with students and families regularly about the importance of collecting data and monitoring progress of student outcomes, sharing timely and comprehensible feedback so they understand students' goals and progress.

(C) Teachers regularly collect, review, and analyze data to monitor student progress.

(i) Teachers analyze and review data in a timely, thorough, accurate, and appropriate manner, both individually and with colleagues, to monitor student learning.

(ii) Teachers combine results from different measures to develop a holistic picture of students' strengths and learning needs.

(D) Teachers utilize the data they collect and analyze to inform their instructional strategies and adjust short- and long-term plans accordingly.

(i) Teachers design instruction, change strategies, and differentiate their teaching practices to improve student learning based on assessment outcomes.

(ii) Teachers regularly compare their curriculum scope and sequence with student data to ensure they are on track and make adjustments as needed.

## **(6) Standard 6--Professional Practices and Responsibilities.**

Teachers consistently hold themselves to a high standard for individual development, pursue leadership opportunities, collaborate with other



educational professionals, communicate regularly with stakeholders, maintain professional relationships, comply with all campus and school district policies, and conduct themselves ethically and with integrity.

(A) Teachers reflect on their teaching practice to improve their instructional effectiveness and engage in continuous professional learning to gain knowledge and skills and refine professional judgment.

(i) Teachers reflect on their own strengths and professional learning needs, using this information to develop action plans for improvement.

(ii) Teachers establish and strive to achieve professional goals to strengthen their instructional effectiveness and better meet students' needs.

(iii) Teachers engage in relevant, targeted professional learning opportunities that align with their professional growth goals and their students' academic and social-emotional needs.

(B) Teachers collaborate with their colleagues, are self-aware in their interpersonal interactions, and are open to constructive feedback from peers and administrators.

(i) Teachers seek out feedback from supervisors, coaches, and peers and take advantage of opportunities for job-embedded professional development.

(ii) Teachers actively participate in professional learning communities organized to improve instructional practices and student learning.

(C) Teachers seek out opportunities to lead students, other educators, and community members within and beyond their classrooms.

(i) Teachers clearly communicate the mission, vision, and goals of the school to students, colleagues, parents and families, and other community members.

(ii) Teachers seek to lead other adults on campus through professional learning communities, grade- or subject-level team leadership, committee membership, or other opportunities.

(D) Teachers model ethical and respectful behavior and demonstrate integrity in all situations.

(i) Teachers adhere to the educators' code of ethics in §247.2 of this title (relating to Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators), including following policies and procedures at their specific school placement(s).

(ii) Teachers communicate consistently, clearly, and respectfully with all members of the campus community, including students, parents and families, colleagues, administrators, and staff.

(iii) Teachers serve as advocates for their students, focusing attention on students' needs and concerns and maintaining thorough and accurate student records.

## **Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Standards, Early Childhood-Grade 6 (Rule 235.21)**

### **(b) Instructional Planning and Delivery.**

Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers demonstrate understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based, data-driven, differentiated instruction that engages students and makes learning relevant for today's learners. Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers must:

(1) develop lessons that build coherently toward objectives based on course content, curriculum scope and sequence, and expected student outcomes;

(2) effectively communicate goals, expectations, and objectives to help all students reach high levels of achievement;

(3) connect students' prior understanding and real-world experiences to new content and contexts, maximizing learning opportunities;

(4) plan instruction that is developmentally appropriate, is standards driven, and motivates students to learn;

(5) use a range of instructional strategies, appropriate to the content area, to make subject matter accessible to all students;

(6) differentiate instruction, aligning methods and techniques to diverse student needs, including acceleration, remediation, and implementation of individual education plans;

(7) plan student groupings, including pairings and individualized and small-group instruction, to facilitate student learning;

(8) integrate the use of oral, written, graphic, kinesthetic, and/or tactile methods to teach key concepts;

(9) ensure that the learning environment features a high degree of student engagement by facilitating discussion and student-centered activities as well as leading direct instruction;

(10) encourage all students to overcome obstacles and remain persistent in the face of challenges, providing them with support in achieving their goals;

(11) set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students, encouraging them to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems;

- (12) provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving;
- (13) monitor and assess students' progress to ensure that their lessons meet students' needs;
- (14) provide immediate feedback to students in order to reinforce their learning and ensure that they understand key concepts; and
- (15) adjust content delivery in response to student progress through the use of developmentally appropriate strategies that maximize student engagement.

### **(c) Knowledge of Student and Student Learning.**

Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers work to ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student's educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student's needs. Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers must:

- (1) create a community of learners in an inclusive environment that views differences in learning and background as educational assets;
- (2) connect learning, content, and expectations to students' prior knowledge, life experiences, and interests in meaningful contexts;
- (3) understand the unique qualities of students with exceptional needs, including disabilities and giftedness, and know how to effectively address these needs through instructional strategies and resources;
- (4) understand the role of language and culture in learning and know how to modify their practice to support language acquisition so that language is comprehensible and instruction is fully accessible;
- (5) understand how learning occurs and how learners develop, construct meaning, and acquire knowledge and skills; and
- (6) identify readiness for learning and understand how development in one area may affect students' performance in other areas.

### **(d) Content Knowledge and Expertise.**

Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers exhibit an understanding of content, discipline, and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lessons and the ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards. Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers must:

- (1) have expertise in how their content vertically and horizontally aligns with the grade-level/subject area continuum, leading to an integrated curriculum across grade levels and content areas;
- (2) identify gaps in students' knowledge of subject matter and communicate with their leaders and colleagues to ensure that these gaps are adequately addressed across grade levels and subject areas;
- (3) keep current with developments, new content, new approaches, and changing methods of instructional delivery within their discipline;
- (4) organize curriculum to facilitate student understanding of the subject matter;
- (5) understand, actively anticipate, and adapt instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions;
- (6) promote literacy and the academic language within the discipline and make discipline-specific language accessible to all learners;
- (7) teach both the key content knowledge and the key skills of the discipline; and
- (8) make appropriate and authentic connections across disciplines, subjects, and students' real world experiences.

### **(e) Learning Environment.**

Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers interact with students in respectful ways at all times, maintaining a physically and emotionally safe, supportive learning environment that is characterized by efficient and effective routines, clear expectations for student behavior, and organization that maximizes student learning. Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers must:

- (1) embrace students' backgrounds and experiences as an asset in their learning;
- (2) maintain and facilitate respectful, supportive, positive, and productive interactions with and among students;
- (3) establish and sustain learning environments that are developmentally appropriate and respond to students' needs, strengths, and personal experiences;
- (4) create a physical classroom set-up that is flexible and accommodates the different learning needs of students;
- (5) implement behavior management systems to maintain an environment where all students can learn effectively;
- (6) maintain a culture that is based on high expectations for student performance and encourages students to be self-motivated, taking responsibility for their own learning;
- (7) maximize instructional time, including managing transitions;

- (8) manage and facilitate groupings in order to maximize student collaboration, participation, and achievement; and
- (9) communicate regularly, clearly, and appropriately with parents and families about student progress, providing detailed and constructive feedback and partnering with families in furthering their students' achievement goals.

**(f) Data-Driven Practices.**

Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers use formal and informal methods to assess student growth aligned to instructional goals and course objectives and regularly review and analyze multiple sources of data to measure student progress and adjust instructional strategies and content delivery as needed. Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers must:

- (1) gauge student progress and ensure mastery of content knowledge and skills by providing assessments aligned to instructional objectives and outcomes that are accurate measures of student learning;
- (2) analyze and review data in a timely, thorough, accurate, and appropriate manner, both individually and with colleagues, to monitor student learning; and
- (3) design instruction, change strategies, and differentiate their teaching practices to improve student learning based on assessment outcomes.

**(g) Professional Practices and Responsibilities.**

Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers consistently hold themselves to a high standard for individual development, collaborate with other educational professionals, communicate regularly with stakeholders, maintain professional relationships, comply with all campus and school district policies, and conduct themselves ethically and with integrity. Early Childhood-Grade 6 classroom teachers must:

- (1) reflect on their own strengths and professional learning needs, using this information to develop action plans for improvement;
- (2) seek out feedback from supervisor, coaches, and peers and take advantage of opportunities for job-embedded professional development;
- (3) adhere to the educators' code of ethics in §247.2 of this title (relating to Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators), including following policies and procedures at their specific school placement(s);
- (4) communicate consistently, clearly, and respectfully with all members of the campus community, administrators, and staff; and

(5) serve as advocates for their students, focusing attention on students' needs and concerns and maintaining thorough and accurate student records.

### **Technology Application Standards for All Teachers [19 TAC 228.30]**

Standard I: All teachers use and promote creative thinking and innovative processes to construct knowledge, generate new ideas, and create products.

Standard II: All teachers collaborate and communicate both locally and globally using digital tools and resources to reinforce and promote learning.

Standard III: All teachers acquire, analyze, and manage content from digital resources.

Standard IV: All teachers make informed decisions by applying critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Standard V: All teachers practice and promote safe, responsible, legal, and ethical behavior while using technology tools and resources.

Standard V: All teachers practice and promote safe, responsible, legal, and ethical behavior while using technology tools and resources.

Standard VI: All teachers demonstrate a thorough understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.

Standard VII: All teachers know how to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate instruction for all students that incorporates the effective use of current technology for teaching and integrating the Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) into the curriculum.

**[Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines](#)** (hyperlink)

**[Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for ELAR Subchapter A. Elementary \[Chapter 110\]](#)** (hyperlink)