

The New Core Subjects EC–6 Certification: Implications for Teacher Candidates

On **January 16, 2015**, TEA/ETS will unveil the new **Core Subject EC-6 certification** and the required TExES examinations. This test will replace the current **EC-6 Generalist certification** and some of the content examinations required for it—TExES 191 EC-6 Generalist, the TExES 192 EC-6 Generalist bilingual, and TExES 193 ESL EC-6 examination. To avoid confusion with these changes, the state has established a *two-year overlap policy* of the current and new testing programs. Under the current guidelines, teacher candidates have the option of taking the current exams, listed in Table 1, to complete certification requirements. Under this two-year overlap, the current examinations will be available until **August 31, 2015**. This policy does not affect the PPR (TExES 160), nor the Spanish proficiency exam (TExES 190), which will be offered continuously. Candidates taking the current examinations will have until **August 31, 2017** to complete the rest of the test required to meet certification requirements.

Table 1: Testing Program Effective Until August 31, 2015

Certification	TExES 1	TExES 2	TExES 3	TExES 4	Combo Option *
Bilingual	TExES 191	TExES 160	TExES 164	TExES 190	TExES 192
ESL	TExES 191	TExES 160	TExES 154		TExES 193
Generalist	TExES 191	TExES 160			

*Note: If the teacher preparation program allows it, candidates can take the combined Bilingual/EC Generalist (TExES 192) or the ESL/EC- Generalist (TExES 193) to comply with bilingual or ESL certification, respectively. This option eliminates the need to take supplemental examinations—TExES 164 and TExES 154

After August 31, 2017, all bilingual, ESL and EC-6 candidates **MUST** comply with the new testing program presented in Table 2

Table 2: New Testing Program for EC-6, and EC-6 Bilingual and ESL

Certification	TExES 1	TExES 2	TExES 3	TExES 4	
Bilingual	TExES 291	TExES 160	TExES 164	TExES 190	
ESL	TExES 291	TExES 160	TExES 154		
Generalist	TExES 291	TExES 160			

Since taking the new test (TExES 291) is technically an option until August 2017, TEA and ETS devised a plan to motivate teacher candidates to take the new test. During the first few months of the administration of the test, the \$160 test administration fee will be waived. If candidates take and pass all parts of the test, the test will replace the content area examination—TExES 191. However, if candidates fail any part of the test, they will have to pay \$60 to retake any part missed, or retake the full test paying the total amount. Taking the new test—**Core Subject EC-6**—is an option; however, candidates must check with their teacher preparation program to seek permission to participate in this program. In conclusion, we are going through a period of changes in teacher education that can affect the time it takes to complete certification requirements. Candidates need to have a clear understanding of the timelines of these changes, and

together with their advisors develop a plan to comply with certification requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner.

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