

## MASTER READING TEACHER

New legislation passed in 1999 (House Bill 2307) required the creation of the Master Reading Teacher (MRT) Certificate, the development of standards for the certificate, and the completed design of the Master Reading Teacher certificate exam no later than January 1, 2001. A committee composed of reading instruction experts representing Texas public schools, educator preparation programs, the Texas Reading Initiative, Texas citizens, and governmental policymakers met four times during the last six months to formulate and refine the Master Reading Teacher standards. After review by state and national reading experts, the standards were approved by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) at the January 2000 board meeting.

**DEFINITION:** A Master Reading Teacher is an individual who holds a Master Reading Teacher Certificate and whose primary duties are to teach reading and to serve as a reading mentor to other teachers.

**PURPOSE:** The Master Reading Teacher Certificate is being implemented as part of the Texas Reading Initiative to ensure that all Texas students are reading on grade level by the end of the third grade and that their reading knowledge and skills grow throughout their public school careers.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Master Reading Certificate may be obtained in one of two ways.

- An individual who holds the Reading Specialist Certificate must complete an SBEC-approved Master Reading Teacher preparation program.
- An individual must have a teaching certificate, at least three years of teaching experience, complete an SBEC-approved Master Reading Teacher preparation program, and pass the Master Reading Teacher certification exam.

## MASTER READING TEACHER CERTIFICATE

SBEC has notified existing preparation programs, education service centers, school districts, and other interested entities of the opportunity to provide Master Reading Teacher preparation programs. These entities, as well as others, may design Master Reading Teacher programs to be implemented beginning in the summer of 2000. The certification examinations will be administered for the first time in February 2001.

- MRT standards should be integrated into newly designed programs. The MRT standards are based on EC-3 Reading Instruction certification standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Kindergarten-Grade 12 English, Language Arts/ Reading and require knowledge of:
  - the interrelated components of reading;
  - the use of appropriate reading assessments and the implementation of reading instruction based on state standards;
  - first and second language acquisition, reading difficulties, dyslexia, and reading disorders; and
  - strategies to ensure research-based reading instruction through communication and collaboration with stakeholders;
  - and mentoring, coaching, and providing professional development.
- Preparation programs will provide SBEC with a matrix that documents the integration of MRT standards into their programs and how these standards will be assessed.
- Programs will seek approval from the State Board for Educator Certification.
- Programs are subject to the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP).

## MASTER READING TEACHER STANDARDS

**Standard I.** The Master Reading Teacher applies knowledge of the interrelated components of reading across all developmental stages, including oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, the alphabetic principle, word analysis, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, written language, and concepts of print, and has expertise in reading instruction at the primary, intermediate/middle, or high school level.

**Standard II.** The Master Reading Teacher selects and administers appropriate reading assessments on an ongoing basis and uses the results to design, inform, and adjust instruction to promote literacy.

**Standard III.** The Master Reading Teacher designs and implements reading instruction that reflects state content and performance standards and addresses the varied learning needs of all students.

**Standard IV.** The Master Reading Teacher applies knowledge of primary and second language acquisition, including the relationship between the development of these languages, to facilitate and promote literacy.

**Standard V.** The Master Reading Teacher applies knowledge of reading difficulties, dyslexia, and reading disabilities to facilitate and promote literacy.

**Standard VI.** The Master Reading Teacher facilitates appropriate, research-based reading instruction by communicating and collaborating with educational stakeholders; mentoring, coaching, and consulting with colleagues; providing professional development for faculty; and making decisions based on converging evidence from research.