READING ACADEMIES 11
ESC REGION 11 • TEA AUTHORIZED PROVIDER

READING ACADEMIES HANDBOOK

2026

Participant



WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to Reading Academies 11

On behalf of Education Service Center Region 11, welcome to Reading Academies 11. Your commitment to strengthening literacy instruction will make a lasting difference for students across Texas.

This guide is designed to be your go-to resource for understanding the program. Inside, you'll find key information about the purpose of the Texas Reading Academies, participation requirements, costs, enrollment, training expectations, district responsibilities, progress tracking, and local implementation. You'll also find answers to common questions and ways to connect with our team for support.

At ESC Region 11, we are proud to partner with you to ensure this learning translates into strong instructional practice and improved student outcomes. We look forward to supporting you throughout your Reading Academies journey.

Shelly Shaw

Teaching and Learning Coordinator, ESC Region 11



ESC Region 11
1451 S. Cherry Ln., White Settlement, TX 76108

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TEXAS READING ACADEMIES
PURPOSE

For more information, please visit the HB 3 Reading Academies page on TEA's website.

The purpose of Texas Reading Academies is to fulfill House Bill 3 (HB 3), passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in June of 2019. HB 3 requires all kindergarten through third-grade teachers and principals to successfully complete the HB 3 Texas Reading Academies.

For more information, please visit the HB 3 Reading Academies page on TEA's website.

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REQUIREMENTS



Required Educators

- K-3 general education classroom teachers
- K-3 special education classroom teachers
- Principals on a campus that includes K-3 classrooms

Exempt Educators

- Art teachers
- Health teachers
- Music teachers
- Physical Education teachers
- Speech Communication teachers
- Theater teachers

For more information, please click here.



READING ACADEMIES 11
PATHWAYS

ELAR OR Biliteracy

TEA offers two main pathways for teachers. The first is called the ELAR pathway. This is the best option for most teachers including general education teachers and special populations teachers. The course is entirely in English. The Biliteracy pathway is for teachers who teach in a Spanish bilingual program. The teachers in this pathway are expected to be fluent in Spanish and must submit at least one artifact in Spanish.

Science of Teaching Reading (STR)

This pathway is available in both English and Spanish. This is a condensed version of the course. It includes 7 face-to-face days instead of 10 days. Teachers who have passed the STR exam are eligible to participate in this pathway.



TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS

Requirements:

- 10 face-to-face training days (7 for Science of Teaching Reading)
- 4 coaching cycles
- Submit and pass 2 artifacts

Attendance:

- Attendance is required for all training dates.
- Please be sure to sign in for each session.
- Please schedule appointments at other times as you will need to attend the entire 6 hours of the training each day.



DAY 1:
WHAT TO EXPECT

Your first day of training will take place at ESC Region 11. Our address is 1451 S. Cherry Lane, White Settlement, Texas. All training sessions start at 8:30 a.m. Please plan to arrive at least 15-30 minutes before the start of your session so you have plenty of time to sign in and find your training room.

We conveniently offer vending machines, ice machines, refrigerators, coffee, and tea to our participants. Additionally, there are many great restaurants nearby where you can enjoy lunch if you choose.

Finally, please wear layers and consider bringing a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket since the rooms can sometimes be cold.



PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITY



- Participants are expected to attend each training session. Participants should be on time and available to stay for the entirety of the training session.



- To ensure a productive environment that fulfills all TEA requirements, late arrivals will not be admitted to the session. If you miss the start, please contact your cohort leader to inquire about available make-up dates. Exceptions are granted only for those who have made prior arrangements with their leader.



- Participants are expected to turn in rough drafts and final drafts for each artifact by the TEA assigned due date.
- Participants are expected to engage in 4 coaching visits with their coach.



- Participants are expected to inform their coach within 48 hours of receiving a coaching appointment

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Day 1 Options

Biliteracy Pathway *(choose one)*:

- May 11, 2026
- May 19, 2026

ELAR Pathway *(choose one)*:

- May 13, 2026
- May 18, 2026

Reading Academies will not meet over the summer and will resume after school reconvenes in August. Participants will receive the schedule for the remaining session dates from their cohort leader on day one.

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

Districts can choose to implement an option called “Local Implementation.” This option allows the district to have its own cohort leader to facilitate training and conduct coaching visits. The cost per cohort leader is $12,000. There is not a per participant charge with this option.

The district must ensure that the intended cohort leader has passed the Cohort Leader Screener to be eligible as a cohort leader. The cohort leader must also attend yearly certification training facilitated by TEA.



For more information, contact:

Shelly Shaw
sshaw@esc11.net



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MONTHLY PLC

In order to provide support for all cohort leaders in the region, ESC Region 11 provides monthly PLC meetings for cohort leaders. The meetings are held online through Zoom. They last approximately 1 hour and are typically the last Monday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The PLCs are led by the ESC Region 11 Reading Academies Team.

Typically the May PLC session is held as an in-person support training to prep for the upcoming year.

At the PLC, important information, announcements, upcoming dates, and artifact support are shared.

If you are not receiving calendar invites for the PLCs, please reach out to Shelly Shaw to get added to the list.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: What if a teacher is sick and has to miss a face-to-face session?

A: The teacher should let their cohort leader know as soon as possible that they will need to miss due to illness. The cohort leader will offer one opportunity for the teacher to attend a make-up session.

Q: What if a teacher goes out on FMLA while enrolled in the Reading Academies?

A: The teacher should alert the cohort leader. Once the teacher returns to duty, the teacher should contact the cohort leader for the next steps. The cohort leader will meet with the ESC Region 11 Authorized Provider to determine the next steps which are dependent on the number of sessions missed.

Q:

I have new teachers on my campus. When should I enroll them in Reading Academies?

A:

According to HB3, teachers need to enroll within their first year of teaching. The final launch for each school year is in June. This is the last opportunity for teachers who are completing their first year of teaching to enroll in Reading Academies to remain in compliance with HB3.

Q:

What if I am running late to my face-to-face session?

A:

To ensure a productive environment that fulfills all TEA requirements, late arrivals will not be admitted to the session. If you miss the start, please contact your cohort leader to inquire about available make-up dates. Exceptions are granted only for those who have made prior arrangements with their leader.

CONTACT US
FOR MORE INFO

ESC Region 11
Reading Academies

Shelly Shaw
817-740-7560
sshaw@esc11.net

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