READING ACADEMIES 11
ESC REGION 11 • TEA AUTHORIZED PROVIDER

District Contact

READING ACADEMIES HANDBOOK

2026



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

PROJECT CONTENT



PURPOSE 04

REQUIREMENTS 05

COST 06

ENROLLMENT PROCESS 07

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS 08

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES 09

TRACKING PROGRESS 10

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION 11

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 12

CONTACT US 14

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.

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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



READING ACADEMIES 11
COST

Teachers

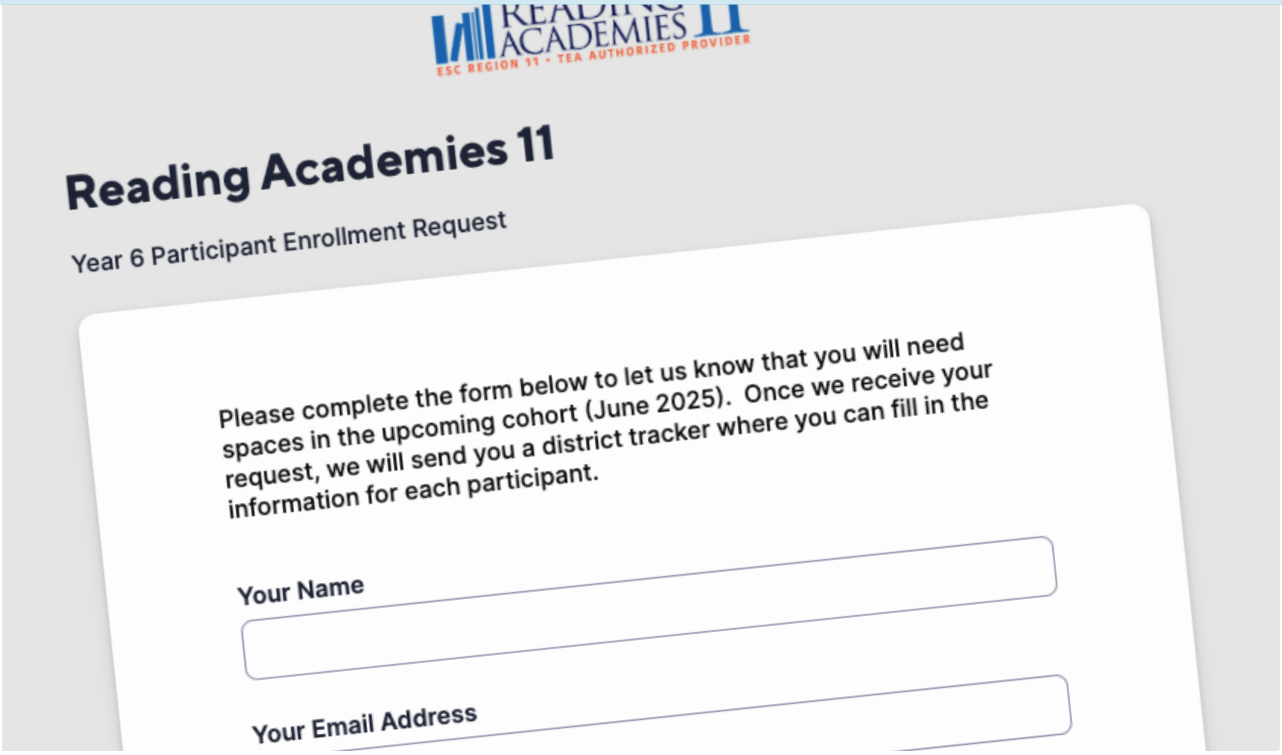
The cost for teachers to attend Reading Academies through a cohort at ESC Region 11 is $3,000 per teacher. This cost is set by TEA. The cost of this training includes 7 Science of Teaching Reading (STR) or 10 face-to-face sessions and 4 classroom coaching visits.

Administrators

The cost for administrators to attend Reading Academies is $400 per administrator. This cohort is facilitated through ESC Region 16. The course is 100% online and self-paced.



ENROLLMENT PROCESS



ESC Region 11 launches cohorts in June. When you are ready to enroll teachers in a cohort, you will fill out the Participant Enrollment Request form. Once ESC Region 11 receives the request form, we will create a tracker and send it to the district contact.

Once you receive the tracker, please enter the name, email address, campus, and pathway for each teacher that you wish to enroll. Entering the participant information on the tracker secures a spot for that teacher.

The next cohort will launch in **May 2026**.

TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS

Requirements:

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

Training Schedules:

Cohort schedules coming soon!

Participants will get their full schedules from their cohort leader on day 1.

Biliteracy *(choose one):*
- May 11, 2026
- May 19, 2026

ELAR *(choose one):*
- May 13, ,2026
- May 18, 2026



DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide ESC Region 11 with the participant name, email, campus, and pathway
- Communicate expectations to fulfill Reading Academies' responsibilities to all participants (attending all training, completing all coaching cycles, and passing both artifacts with 80% or higher)
- Provide substitutes for teachers on training dates
- Convey the importance of completing coaching visits as scheduled with the cohort leader
- Check the participant tracker at least once a month to monitor each participant's progress



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TRACKING PROGRESS

ESC Region 11 utilizes a tracker in SmartSheet to monitor the progress of each participant. Trackers are updated after each training session to indicate whether a participant attended the session or not. Coaching visits are also documented on the tracker.

To access your district tracker, please *click here* and log in with your free SmartSheet account. Click the appropriate view from the list (Year 5 or Year 6).

Once the tracker opens, you will have access to see the progress of each participant.



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

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 district contact and 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. These dates are set by ESC Region 11.

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

A: The teacher should alert the district contact and the cohort leader. Once the teacher returns to duty, the teacher should contact the cohort leader for the next steps. The next steps are dependent on the number of sessions missed.

Q: What is the cost of Reading Academies?

A: The cost is $3,000 per teacher. This price is set by TEA.

Q: Is there a separate pathway for administrators?

A: Yes! The administrators take an online version of the course. This course is facilitated through ESC Region 16. The cost is $400 per administrator. To register, click here and fill out the form.

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. If teachers start after July 1, 2025, they will need to wait until June of 2026 to be enrolled in the Reading Academies.

CONTACT US
FOR MORE INFO

ESC Region 11
Reading Academies

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