READING ACADEMIES 11
ESC REGION 11 • TEA AUTHORIZED PROVIDER

READING ACADEMIES HANDBOOK

2026

Cohort Leader



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.

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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



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PATHWAYS

ELAR OR Biliteracy

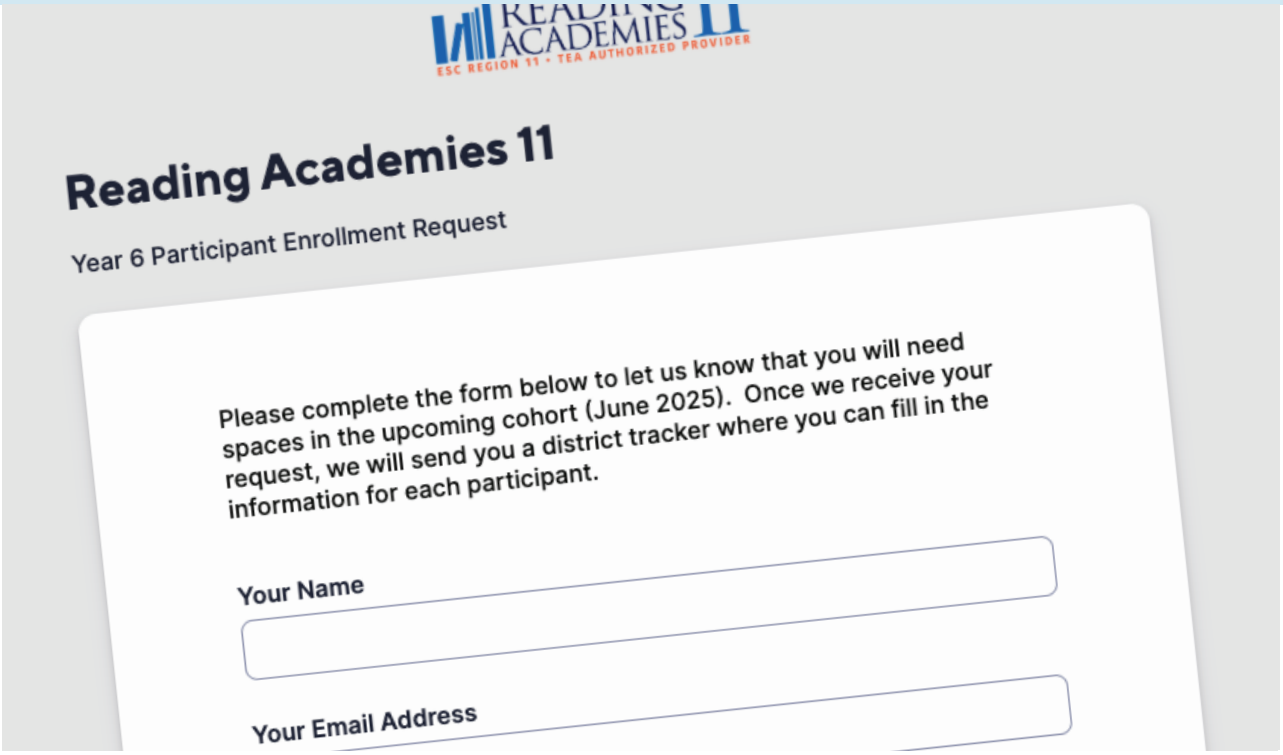
TEA offers two main pathways for teachers. The first is called the ELAR pathway. This is the best option for most teachers including general education teachers and special populations teachers. The course is entirely in English. The Biliteracy pathway is for teachers who teach in a Spanish bilingual program. The teachers in this pathway are expected to speak and write fluently in Spanish. Additionally, participants must submit their artifacts in Spanish.

Science of Teaching Reading (STR)

This pathway is available in both English and Biliteracy. 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.



ENROLLMENT
PROCESS



Please check the *Important Dates Document* in Cohort Leader Central for cohort start dates. The cohort leader receives access to the course 2 weeks before it opens to students.

Year 7, will offer three launch windows. The course enrollment windows for each launch are outlined in the *Important Dates Document*.

To access enrollment instructions, please click here.

TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS

Requirements:

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

Attendance:

- Please have participants sign in for each session as a record of attendance.
- Provide at least one face-to-face make-up opportunity for each day of training





COHORT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

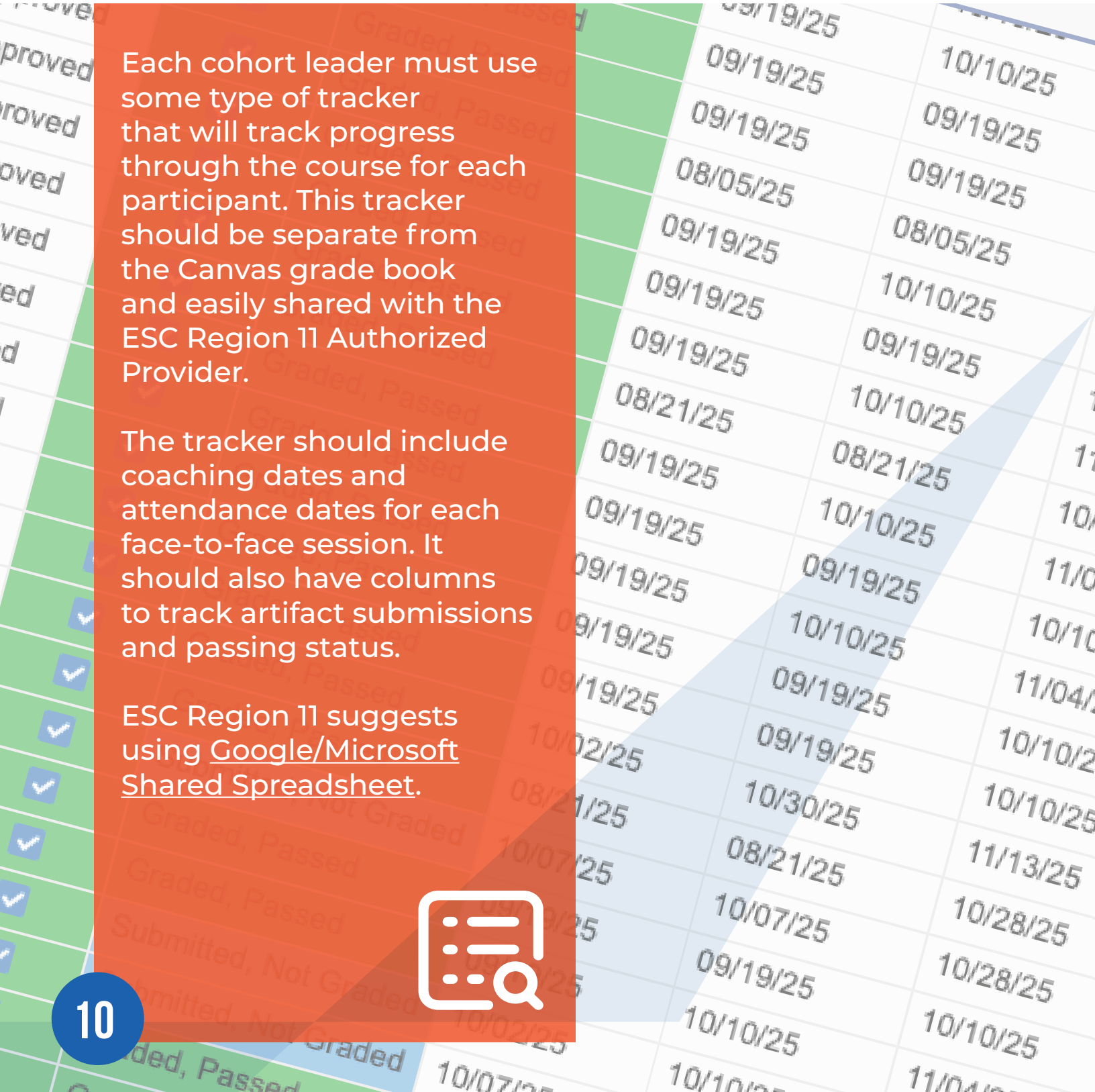
- Create a schedule of training dates.
- Ensure you have at least one make-up session for each training date.
- Review and prepare for each face-to-face session.
- Provide copies of the participant notebooks for each participant.
- Keep records of coaching visits and ensure participants complete the coaching visit assignments in the first module.
- Grade all coaching visit assignments, artifact drafts, and artifact resubmissions.
- Once participants complete the course, verify that ALL coursework is complete with an 80 or above and assign a grade of 100 to the final affirmation.
- Ensure that you complete module 6 well before the Artifact 1 rough draft is due to allow time for participants to complete the artifact.
- Ensure that you complete module 10 well before the Summative Artifact rough draft is due to allow time for participants to complete the artifact.
- Provide specific feedback on each participant's artifact rough draft.
- Ensure participants earn a passing score on the rough draft before allowing them to upload their final draft.
- Any artifacts that do not pass during the first attempt, must be resubmitted by the participant and graded by the cohort leader utilizing the rubric.

TRACKING
PROGRESS

Each cohort leader must use some type of tracker that will track progress through the course for each participant. This tracker should be separate from the Canvas grade book and easily shared with the ESC Region 11 Authorized Provider.

The tracker should include coaching dates and attendance dates for each face-to-face session. It should also have columns to track artifact submissions and passing status.

ESC Region 11 suggests using Google/Microsoft Shared Spreadsheet.



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 Friday of the month from 1:30 a.m. to 2:30 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: Is ther 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. 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 is the deadline to request a cohort?

A: In order to meet TEA deadlines for course requests, we require districts to request a cohort at least 6 weeks before the course opens.

Q:

I requested a course. Can I choose what day it opens?

A:

No, all courses open on the second Monday of their launch month.

Q:

If I have a question or need support, what should I do?

A:

Please reach out to your Authorized Provider. The Authorized Provider for Region 11 is Shelly Shaw.

CONTACT US
FOR MORE INFO

ESC Region 11
Reading Academies

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

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