

SUMMERS 2008 & 2009

T E X A S
TALA
A D O L E S C E N T
L I T E R A C Y
A C A D E M I E S

TEXAS ADOLESCENT LITERACY ACADEMIES

Students who can read effortlessly with comprehension are better equipped to understand literature, science, social studies, and mathematical word problems. With HB 2237, the 80th Texas Legislature acknowledged that more must be done to support middle school teachers as they attempt to address the literacy needs of students in grades 6 through 8.

During the summers of 2008 and 2009, Texas teachers for grades 6, 7, and 8 will have the opportunity to receive professional development in scientifically based reading instruction (SBRI) for adolescents through the *Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies* (TALA). The Academies will help prepare middle school teachers to design appropriate instruction for all students, including those who are struggling with reading due to limited English proficiency, learning disabilities, dyslexia, and other risk factors for reading difficulties.

Tailored for the unique structure of middle schools, the TALA model consists of two separate Academies—the *English Language Arts (ELA) Academy* (for English Language Arts/Reading Teachers) and the *Content Area Academy* (for Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Teachers). Eligible teachers who complete the Academy of their primary teaching assignment will receive a stipend and Continuing Professional Education credits (CPEs).

(more details on back)



T E X A S
E D U C A T I O N
A G E N C Y

TEXAS ADOLESCENT LITERACY ACADEMIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) ACADEMY for English Language Arts/Reading Teachers

Built on the success of the K-4 *Texas Teacher Reading Academies*, this professional development model is designed to meet the needs of the secondary teacher population. Specifically, the content of the ELA Academy will include:

General education instructional routines

- Modules that address school-wide intervention, effective instruction, vocabulary, and comprehension
- Integrated scaffolding for English language learners and students with disabilities
- Content-specific examples
- Connections to TEKS and TAKS
- Time for practical application/lesson planning

Intervention components

- Modules that address word recognition, fluency, and comprehension
- Reinforcement of the general education instructional routines to promote transfer of skills
- Sample lessons appropriate for a dedicated reading intervention class at the middle school level

Diagnostic and progress monitoring instrument

- Modules on assessing word identification, fluency, and comprehension in struggling adolescent readers
- Decision-making tools for tracking progress and planning instruction
- Practice administering assessments and interpreting results

The implementation plan for this model includes the following:

- Grade 6 teachers trained in summer 2008
- Grades 7 and 8 teachers trained in summer 2009
- Ratio of 2 trainers to 50 participants
- A total of 3 days face-to-face training and a 1-day practicum follow-up with online documentation
- \$500 stipend and 24 Continuing Professional Education credits (CPEs) for completion

CONTENT AREA ACADEMY for Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Teachers

This professional development model has been designed to facilitate the incorporation of literacy support within subject matter teaching. Specifically, the content of the Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Academy will include:

General education instructional routines

- Modules that address school-wide intervention, effective instruction, vocabulary, and comprehension
- Integrated scaffolding for English language learners and students with disabilities
- Content-specific examples
- Connections to TEKS and TAKS
- Time for practical application/lesson planning

The implementation plan for this model includes the following:

- Grade 6 teachers trained in summer 2008
- Grades 7 and 8 teachers trained in summer 2009
- Ratio of 2 trainers to 50 participants
- A total of 1.5 days face-to-face training and a half-day practicum follow-up with online documentation
- \$250 stipend and 12 Continuing Professional Education credits (CPEs) for completion

***More information (Criteria for Attendance, Frequently Asked Questions, etc.)
can be found at www.tea.state.tx.us/tala***