

1. When and where will training take place?

Each education service center (ESC) will determine the dates and locations for trainings that occur in each region. For more information about training schedules, please contact your local ESC.

2. Am I required to complete face-to-face training, or is online training an option?

ESCs are able to offer training in both face-to-face and online formats. Please note that all face-to-face trainings do not have an equivalent online option, and all online trainings do not have an equivalent face-to-face option. When selecting training, an ESC will provide information on available courses (face-to-face and online) and how to register.

3. When will a teacher be able to register for training?

Registration will be conducted through the 20 ESCs. Check your local ESC website for registration information in your region. You can access these websites at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/ESC/>.

4. What is the fee for attending training?

There is no fee for Texas public school and open enrollment charter educators who attend training. Any travel expenses (mileage, meals, etc.) incurred while attending training are the responsibility of the participants or their districts.

5. Which teachers are eligible to attend?

Certified, full-time teachers (including bilingual/ESL and special education) and teacher leaders who teach in the grade level/content area specified in the training descriptors (available through each ESC) are eligible to attend. Administrators/coordinators are also eligible to attend, but they are not eligible to receive a stipend.

6. May teachers attend more than one training and receive more than one stipend?

To attend any academy, the participant must sign a verification form stating that his assignment includes the content area addressed in the training, whether working with students or teachers. If a teacher has multiple assignments (e.g., 6th grade math and science), he is eligible to attend both academies and receive stipends from both academies.

An exception is the ELPS Academies. A teacher/teacher leader may attend multiple ELPS academies, but she can only receive one stipend from the first academy.

7. Are teachers required to attend the academies?

The state does not require teachers to attend training. However, there are two exceptions:

1. Middle school teachers whose campuses were rated Academically Unacceptable in TAKS reading are required by law to attend Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies (TALA).

2. Recipients of the Algebra Readiness grant are required to send math teachers to the MSTAR Academies.

There may be a district requirement that you attend training. Please check with your district about training requirements.

8. What are the specific requirements and timelines for teachers?

A teacher must verify that she is currently employed with a district/charter and that her teaching assignment includes the specific content and grade level of the academy. For example, if she wants to attend a math academy, her teaching assignment must include math in grades 5, 6, 7, or 8.

Training calendars vary across each ESC. For a training schedule in your region, please contact your ESC.

9. What if training sessions are full?

If trainings are full, ESCs will work to offer more training opportunities during the 2011-12 school year and summer 2012. For teachers required to attend specific academies, check with your ESC PD Contact for options.

10. Will teachers be paid to attend training?

With the exception of new TEKS overview trainings (e.g., Science TEKS, Social Studies TEKS), eligible teachers who successfully complete training will receive a stipend.

11. Will participants be able to receive Continuing Professional Education credits (CPEs)? What documentation for verification of attendance will a participant receive?

Participants will receive CPEs when they complete all days of the face-to-face training. A participant will receive a certificate from his ESC that will verify his completion and the number of CPEs.

Participants who complete online training through Project Share are also able to earn CPEs. Upon successful completion of a course, the participant can generate and print a certificate of completion. The certificate will verify completion and number of CPEs earned.

12. Can an administrator, professional development coordinator, literacy coach, content area director, academic dean, etc. attend the academies?

Other participants may attend the training. Each ESC will use verification guidelines to determine who is eligible to attend and receive a stipend and who may attend (on a space available basis) but will not receive a stipend. In some cases, an administrator overview will be available.

13. What if a teacher has an emergency and misses any of the face-to-face training sessions? Can a participant split the session (e.g., attend 2 days at one session and go to the third day at a later date)?

A teacher is expected to register for an academy that fits within her schedule and attend a complete face-to-face session. If unavoidable circumstances arise, the teacher will need to work with an ESC representative to arrange a time to make up what was missed or attend a new academy.

14. What are the expectations for teachers after they complete an academy? Will there be support for teachers after they return to their campuses and begin implementing the strategies they learned?

After teachers complete training (face-to-face or online), they will be invited to complete online follow-up activities through Project Share. The follow-up may involve actually implementing some of the content learned in their classrooms during the fall semester. The expectation is that teachers will continue to implement the research-based strategies in order to improve student learning of classroom content. We encourage campus administrators and specialists to participate in training or in an overview session for administrators to assist teachers in supporting classroom implementation.

ESCs are also available for additional training, follow-up visits to campuses, and continued support (both face-to-face and online) throughout the school year.

ESCs can also provide additional training through contractual agreements with districts, open enrollment charters, etc.

15. Will participants be able to train other teachers at their campuses or elsewhere?

No, participants will not be trained as trainers. Only regional trainers who attended a state training-of-trainers session or who were specifically trained by qualified ESC staff are able to train others.

16. Where can someone find additional information?

For additional information, please contact your local ESC.