



Reading Academies

HB 3 reinforces the statewide implementation of the Teacher Literacy Achievement Academies, which support K-3 teachers and principals. These Reading Academies are different from the structure of the current Reading Academies.

Currently, Reading Academies provide in-person training sessions and job-embedded coaching over the course of the year. But, HB 3 now requires each teacher and principal in grades K-3 to attend Reading Academies (the Teacher Literacy Achievement Academies mentioned above) by the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This number includes more than 121,000 teachers and principals, and districts will be responsible for ensuring that they attend. TEA has indicated that the curriculum content will need to be changed to reflect differentiated needs for administrators and classroom teachers serving various students and subjects, including special education, bilingual, and special and non-core subjects.

According to TEA, there are two, competency-based models to meet the requirement in statute: blended or comprehensive. The comprehensive model is similar to current models with 10 days of in-person training over the course of 15 months with job-embedded coaching. The blended model is a facilitated online course with opportunities for additional support and participation. Participants in the blended model may work at their own pace, but they must complete competency exercises throughout in order to continue to work through the models. Districts may also choose additional support to ensure participants are able to master competencies. Importantly, with the blended model, teachers may be able to test out of the academy if they have already mastered the content.

The online modules are currently being developed by the agency. All eligible teachers and principals will be able to begin registration this spring for cohorts with a summer 2020 start. Additional cohorts will enroll on a quarterly basis. Districts are currently being asked to allocate funds for the chosen model and determine how these Reading Academies fit into the professional development and in-service catalogs.

For more information on the Reading Academies, including curriculum content, eligible providers and details on implementation, watch TEA's video on the subject found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SwCb2Oq_KE