



TEXAS READING ACADEMIES YEAR 3 UPDATES

Due in large part to the advocacy efforts of TSTA and other education stakeholders, the Texas Education Agency has made some updates to the Texas Reading Academies. The revisions include streamlined content and clearer guidance related to extenuating circumstances. TEA also has expanded the number of K-3 teachers who are exempt or partially exempt from the academies. TSTA believes these adjustments support the Year 3 implementation—effective the 2022-23 school year—and will ease the burden of the academies on teachers and schools.

Who is required to attend the academies?

- K-3 General Education Teachers
- K-3 Special Education Classroom Teachers
- K-3 Principals

Who is exempt or partially exempt after the new guidance?

- Teachers who can demonstrate knowledge
- Teachers who passed the Science of Teaching Reading (STR) exam
- Select other K-3 teachers

TEACHERS WHO DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE

*Districts may also allow **certain** teachers and principals to **attempt** to demonstrate knowledge and be exempt from the academies*

- Teachers must have “consistently high student proficiency” and “outstanding evaluations” to be considered
- Teachers must make the request through their ELAR coordinator or superintendent
- If approved, teacher must pass all parts of the “demonstrated proficiency course screener” on the first try
- The demonstrated proficiency test costs \$350, **and districts can require teachers to reimburse the district if they do not pass**

TEACHERS WHO PASSED THE STR EXAM

- Teachers who passed the STR exam will pursue the “STR pathway” and will only be required to complete certain modules. There will be an STR pathway cohort beginning in October 2022 and January 2023
- Teachers who passed the STR exam but who only teach mathematics in a departmentalized setting can be eligible for a waiver from the requirement. The district representative must complete an application to request the waiver <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/be564670aca64fc99d29df1a07e2ceb5>

SELECT OTHER K-3 TEACHERS

- Teachers who have served or are serving as a Reading Academy cohort leader
- Teachers who participated in the 2018-19 READ Grant
- Special areas teachers (health, PE, theater, art, music speech)
- Pull-out teachers
- Assistant principals
- Instructional coaches/specialists/interventionists
- Dyslexia specialists
- Librarians