

Achievement Academies

Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. When and where will training take place?

Training will take place beginning in summer 2016. Each education service center (ESC) will determine the dates and locations for academies that occur in each region.

2. When and how can teachers register for academies?

ESCs are working with administrators at priority campuses to register teachers for academies. Teachers cannot individually register for academies at this time.

3. Will academy participants earn Continuing Professional Education credits (CPEs)?

Participants will receive CPEs when they complete all three days of an academy. A participant will receive a certificate from the ESC that will verify completion of the academy and the number of CPEs earned.

4. Will there be support for teachers after they return to their campuses and begin implementing the strategies they learned?

Yes. Relevant resources will be made available to academy participants on a designated website. Additionally, ESCs will be available to provide additional training, follow-up visits, and related support throughout the school year.

5. Will any resources be provided in Spanish?

Yes. Materials for both literacy and mathematics academies will be available in Spanish either on the support website and/or in participant materials that are provided at the academy.

6. Will academy participants be able to train other teachers at their campuses or elsewhere after they complete an academy?

No. Only individuals who have been approved by the state to serve as trainers and who have either completed the training of trainers or who have been trained by master trainers may train others.

Academy Attendance

1. Who is eligible to attend an academy?

Certified, full-time teachers who work at a campus at which at least 50% of the students are educationally disadvantaged and who are assigned to teach either kindergarten or grade 1 are eligible to attend a literacy achievement academy in summer 2016.

Certified, full-time teachers who work at a campus at which at least 50% of the students are educationally disadvantaged and who are assigned to teach either grade 2 or grade 3 are eligible to attend a mathematics achievement academy in summer 2016.

2. Which campuses have at least 50% of students who are educationally disadvantaged?

Lists of priority campuses by ESC region are available at <http://tea.texas.gov/curriculum/academies/>

3. Are eligible teachers required to attend the academies?

The state does not require teachers to attend academies. It is possible that a district might require a teacher to attend an academy. This would be a local decision.

4. Can an administrator, instructional coach, curriculum specialist, or other instructional leader attend an academy?

If space is available and eligible teachers are not displaced, an administrator, instructional coach, curriculum specialist, or other instructional leader may attend an academy. These individuals must commit to attending all day each of the three days the academy is offered. These individuals are not eligible for a stipend.

5. Can a special education teacher attend an academy?

Yes. Special education teachers may attend an academy.

If a special education teacher works at a campus at which at least 50% of the students are educationally disadvantaged and is assigned to provide instruction to students in kindergarten or grade 1 the teacher is eligible to attend a literacy achievement academy in summer 2016 and receive a stipend.

If a special education teacher works at a campus at which at least 50% of the students are educationally disadvantaged and is assigned to provide instruction to students in grade 2 or grade 3 the teacher is eligible to attend a mathematics achievement academy in summer 2016 and receive a stipend.

Stipends

1. What is the fee for attending an academy?

There is no fee for attending an academy. Any travel expenses related to attendance at an academy are the responsibility of participants and/or their districts.

2. Will teachers who attend academies be paid for attendance at an academy?

Yes. If a teacher is eligible and attends all day, each day of a three-day academy, the teacher is entitled to a \$350 stipend.

3. When and how will a teacher receive the stipend?

TEA will process payments to school districts and charter schools for disbursement to eligible teachers who completed a Literacy Achievement Academy or Mathematics Achievement Academy during summer 2016. Once stipend information has been verified and processed, correspondence will be sent to the district or charter school superintendent as well as to the district business office at the email address on file with TEA.

Teachers should expect to receive payment approximately 30 days following completion of an academy. If a teacher has not received payment by the 30th day following completion of an academy the teacher should first contact the school business office, followed by the ESC responsible for the academy the teacher attended.

4. What if a teacher has an emergency and misses part of the academy (one of three days or part of a day)?

If a teacher misses part of all of any of the three days the academy is offered the teacher is no longer eligible for the stipend unless the teacher attends a different academy for all three days that the academy is offered.

5. What if a teacher is 15 minutes late or has to leave early due to unforeseen circumstances?

It is acceptable for academy participants to miss a total of 15 minutes of training and still be eligible to receive the stipend.

6. Can a teacher attend two days of an academy and then make up the third day at a later date in order to receive the stipend?

No. The teacher would have to attend all three days of an academy at the later date in order to receive the stipend.

7. Can a teacher refuse the stipend if he/she wants to count the day as a summer comp day? If so, what would be the process for this?

A teacher will have the option to refuse the stipend. The stipend verification form that academy participants are asked to complete the morning of the first day of the academy provides an option for a teacher to refuse the stipend.

8. May teachers attend more than one academy and receive more than one stipend?

A teacher may attend more than one literacy academy if the teacher is assigned to serve students in more than one grade level and if space is available. However, the teacher is only eligible to receive one stipend.

A teacher may attend more than one mathematics academy if the teacher is assigned to serve students in more than one grade level and if space is available. However, the teacher is only eligible to receive one stipend.

A teacher may attend one literacy academy and one mathematics academy for the grade level that the teacher is assigned to teach and may receive one stipend for each.

9. How will a teacher receive the stipend?

Academy trainers will collect relevant information for each academy participant and provide that information to TEA. TEA will provide school districts and charters with the stipend funding and district/charters will be required to pay stipends to teachers who work at their campuses.

10. What relevant information will teachers be required to provide?

In order to receive a stipend, each teacher will be required to sign and submit a stipend verification form. Teachers must provide the following information on the form: full, legal name; district and campus names; and Texas Student Data System (TSDS) unique staff ID number.