



# Texas Reading Academies

Educator Preparation Program (EPP) Information

# Presentation Overview

In this presentation, we will:

- Explain Texas Reading Academies (TRA)
- Describe the TRA Delivery Model
- Define the EPP Support System Roles
- Review the Application and Onboarding Process
- Discuss Next Steps for Implementation
- Provide Closing Information

# Presentation Objectives

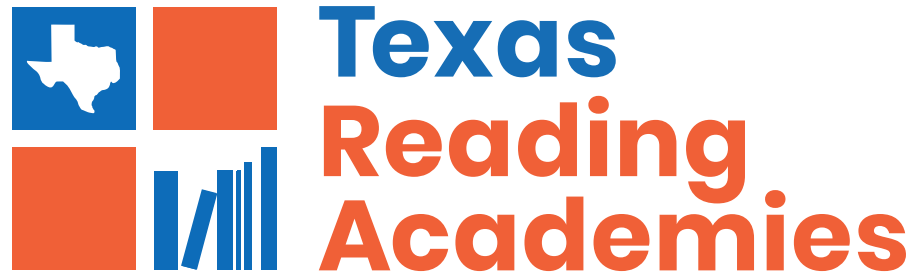
**Our goal is to provide information to assist EPPs' decision-making about offering TRA to their teacher candidates.**

This presentation will assist EPPs with:

- Gathering information about the implementation methods of TRA into EPP
- Planning for the best facilitation method of TRA within programs



# Texas Reading Academies (TRA)



**The Texas Reading Academies (TRA)** is a statewide professional development program that engages educators with high-quality instructional strategies rooted in the science of teaching reading (STR). Through TRA, teachers explore research-based lessons and classroom application of literacy skills.

# What Texas Reading Academies Is and Is Not



## TRA is:

A program that encompasses a body of research providing a deep understanding of how children learn to read, what skills are involved, and which parts of the brain are responsible for reading development.



## TRA is not:

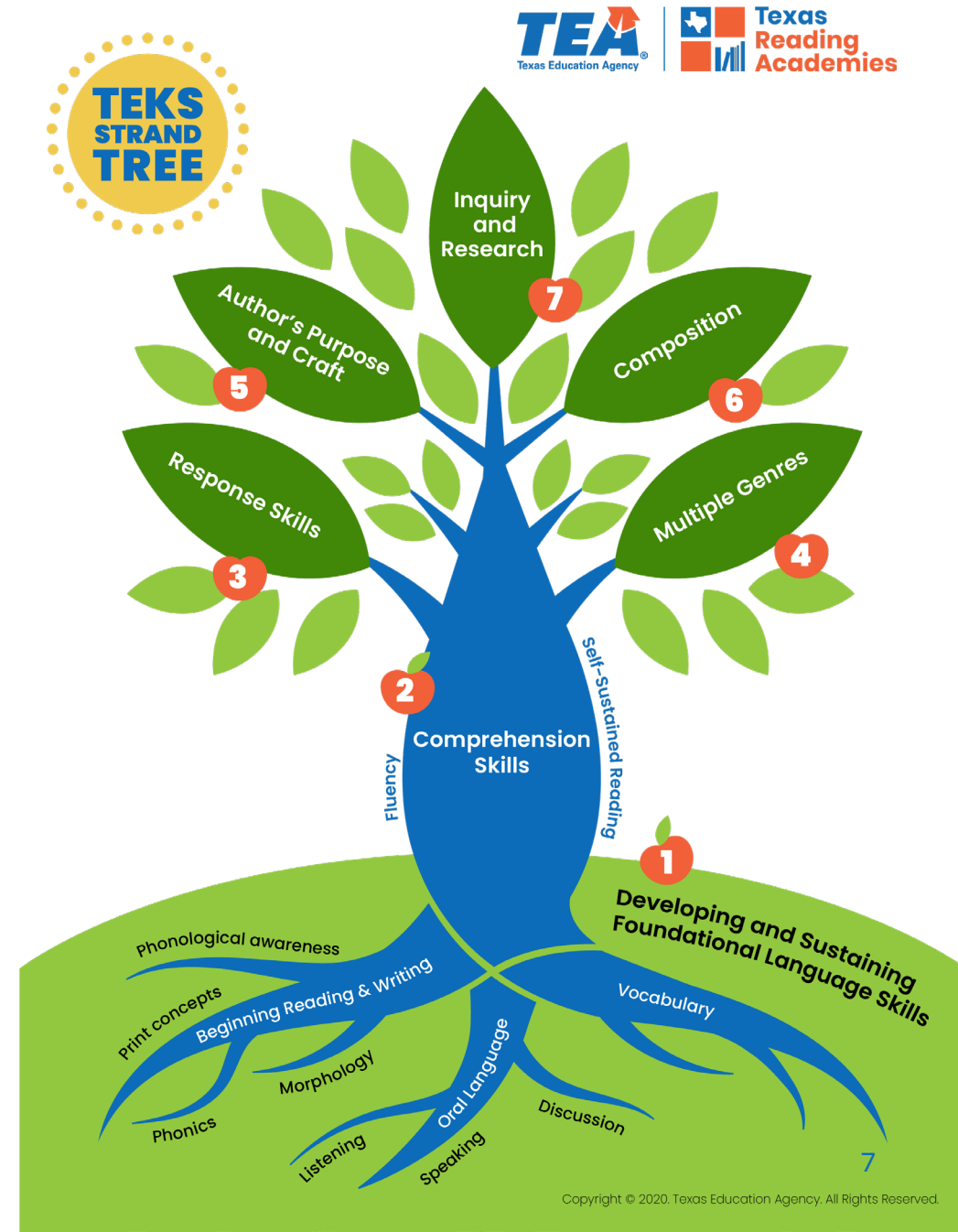
A curriculum or intervention, or a program that is focused on phonics instruction only.



# The Science of Teaching Reading (STR)

STR is the body of scientific, evidence-based research about **what** students need to become proficient readers and **how** to teach students to read.

TRA is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and includes elements of STR.



**STR** and **TRA** provide teachers with foundational knowledge to teach reading and writing, while also supporting teachers in classroom application.

## **Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Certification Exam**

Texas teacher candidates receive training in STR competencies during EPPs. They must pass the STR exam to demonstrate beginning teacher readiness for early literacy instruction.

Educators who pass the STR exam are also required to complete the Reading Academies during their first year of teaching.

## **Texas Reading Academies (TRA)**

TRA is a 12-module training that continues the learning about the science of teaching reading and builds on knowledge of the STR as it applies to school and classroom contexts.





# The TRA Delivery Model

# TRA Delivery Model

Learning through TRA is completed through a combination of online (Canvas) modules, in-person literacy community and learning sessions, and coaching support for classroom application.

Participants complete online module assignments and artifacts, attend in-person training sessions, and demonstrate mastery of TRA content during classroom observations and coaching by a Comprehensive Cohort Leader.

There are **two** pathways available for EPPs: **English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)** and **Biliteracy**. A pathway is the type of course in which all learners within a cohort engage.

Both pathways include the same 12 modules with a baseline of the same literacy content and application of STR instructional practices. The ELAR and Biliteracy pathways have the same learner requirements and are each designed for specific types of learners.

**ELAR** content based on STR competencies and classroom application of STR instructional practices.

- 60-hour comprehensive course
- Designed for K–3 general education and Special Education teachers
- Led by an English cohort leader

**Biliteracy** content and classroom application of STR practices include enhancements for developing metalinguistic awareness of all the components of language in both English and Spanish.

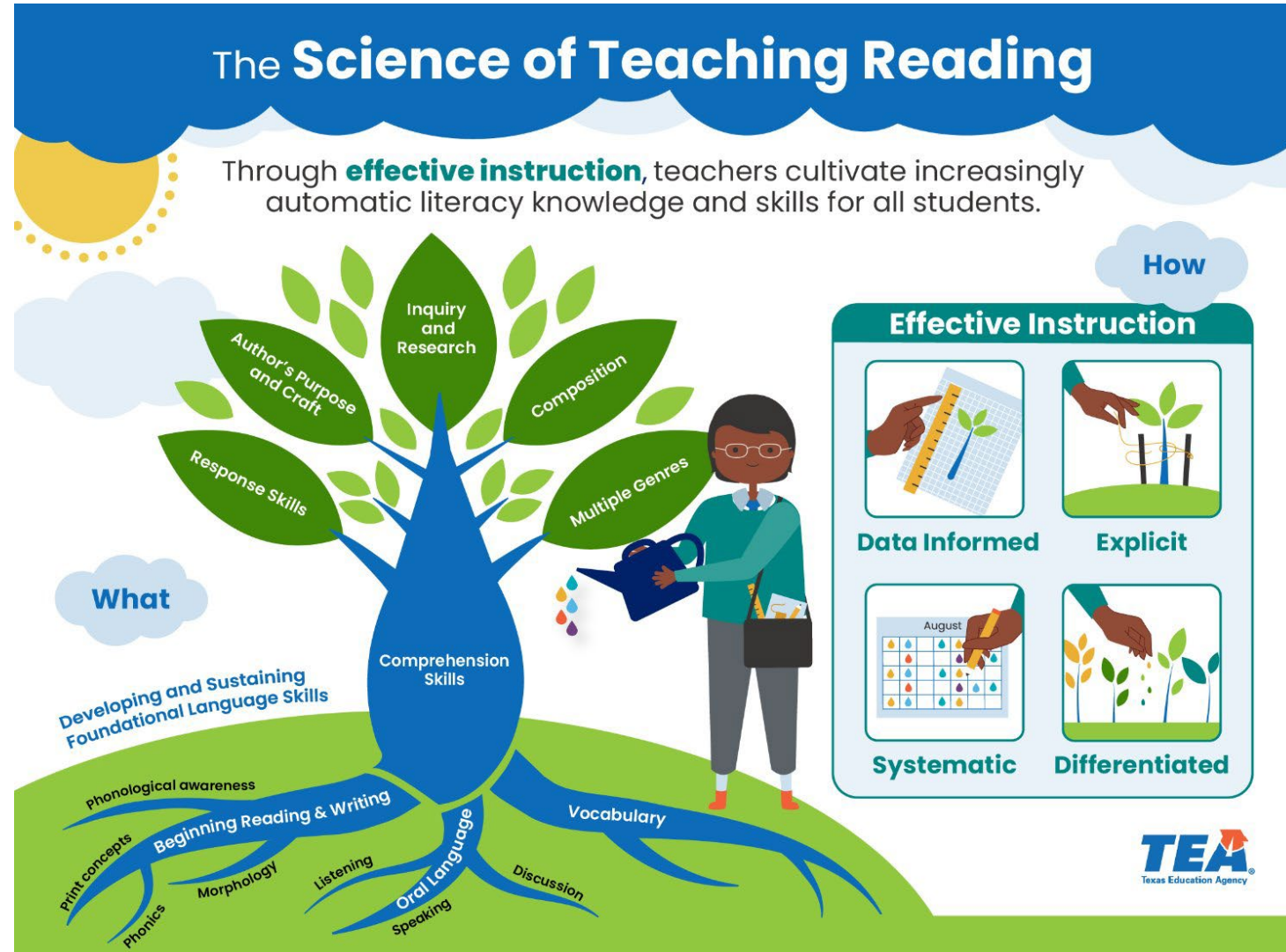
- 60-hour comprehensive course
- Designed for bilingual, dual language, or Spanish Language Arts and Reading (SLAR) teachers
- Led by a bilingual cohort leader



# ELAR Pathway

The **ELAR pathway** builds content knowledge in STR and the aligned evidence-based instructional practices that impact a student's literacy achievement within the English language.

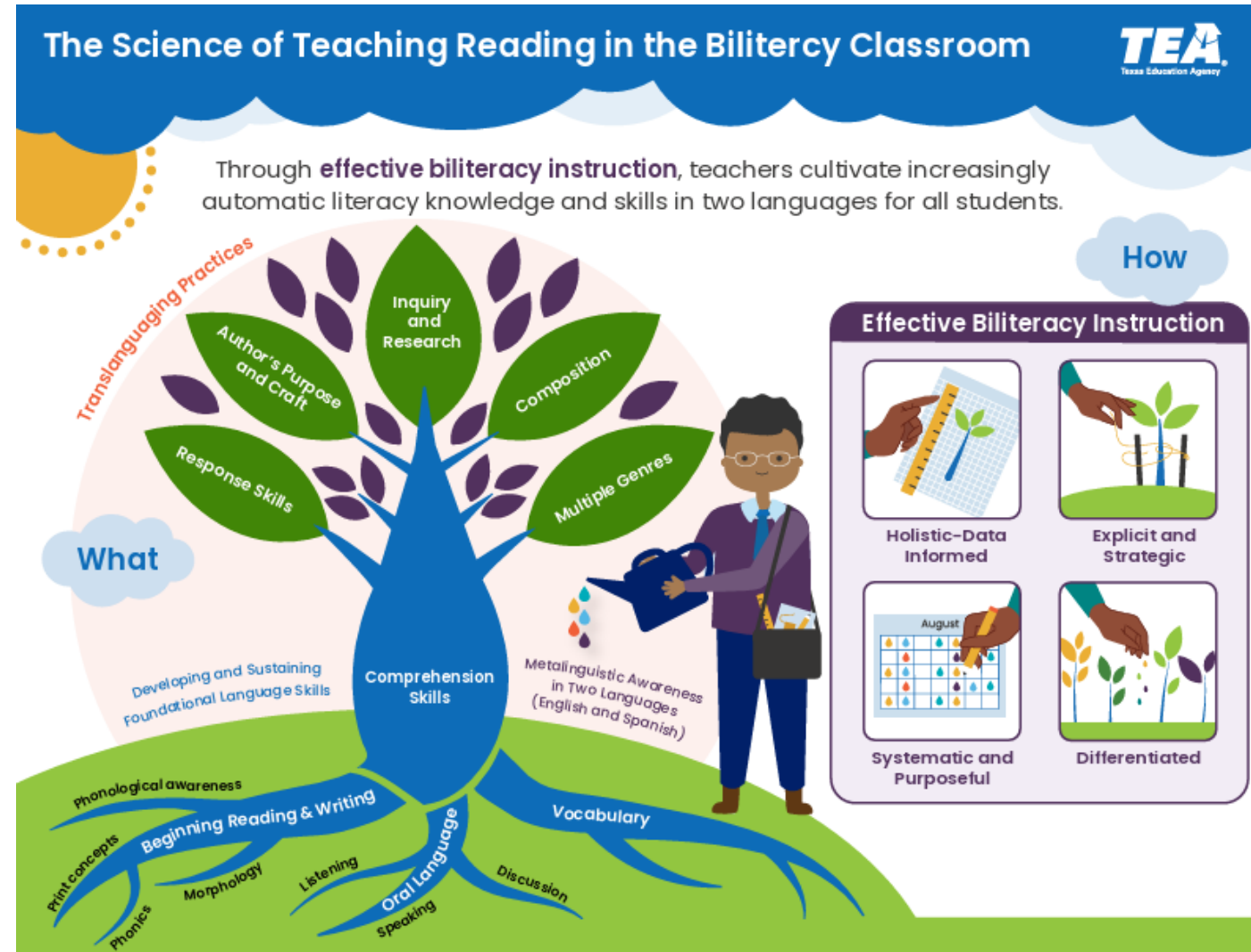
- This pathway also supports students learning English as a second language. This course may be led by a certified ELAR or biliteracy cohort leader.



# Biliteracy Pathway

The **biliteracy pathway** is designed to support teachers in making instructional decisions based on STR and biliteracy.

- This pathway connects evidence-based biliteracy research with classroom practices so that bilingual students develop a strong foundation in reading and writing across both Spanish and English.



# TRA 12-Module Outline for ELAR and Biliteracy

1

Introduction

2

Science of Teaching  
and Reading

3

Building Literacy  
Communities

4

Using Assessment  
Data to Inform  
Instruction

5

Oral Language and  
Vocabulary

6

Phonological  
Awareness

7

Alphabet  
Knowledge and  
Print Concepts

8

Decoding,  
Encoding, and  
Word Study

9

Reading Fluency

10

Reading  
Comprehension

11

Written  
Composition

12

Putting it All  
Together



# TRA Learner Expectations

Learners must complete required TRA assignments, tests, artifacts, and activities to show mastery in their chosen pathway (ELAR or Biliteracy). This includes:

Pre- and post-tests in Canvas

Discussions during in-person training

Checks for Understanding (CFUs) in Canvas

Canvas-graded artifacts\* (Modules 8, 9, and 10)

Human-graded artifacts\* (Modules 6 and 10)

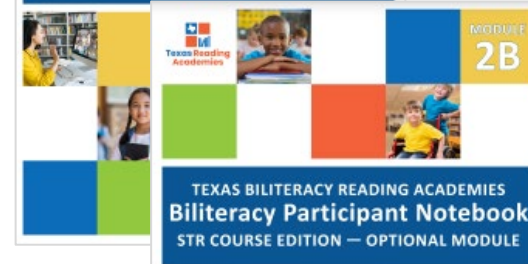
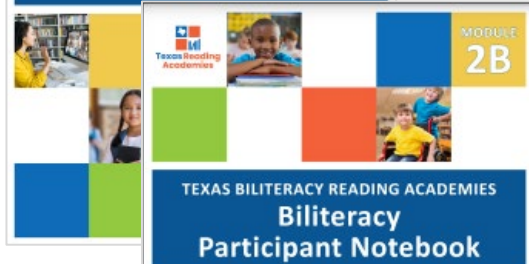
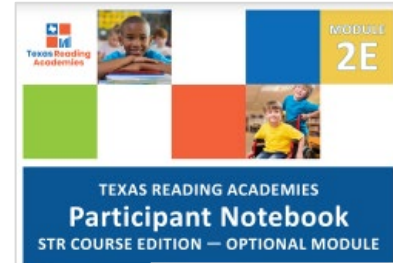
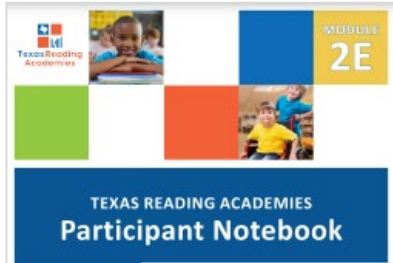
## 80% Mastery

- Learners are required to achieve **80% mastery** on all graded assignments.
- The Cohort Leader will provide coaching to ensure learners demonstrate 80% mastery.
- Learners may retake CFUs and artifacts until they score 80%.

\***Artifacts** are heavily weighted assignments designed to evaluate participants' comprehension of key module content. These assignments are akin to end-of-unit assessments. A total of five artifacts are required.

# Additional Resources

Additional resources are provided to help all ELAR and Biliteracy learners complete the TRA modules and assignments.



## Learner resources include:

- Participant Notebooks
- Module lessons and resources
- Hands-on activities and discussions
- In-person content sessions
- Personalized coaching for CFUs and Draft Artifacts
- Personalized coaching for classroom observations and lesson delivery



## EPP Support System for TRA

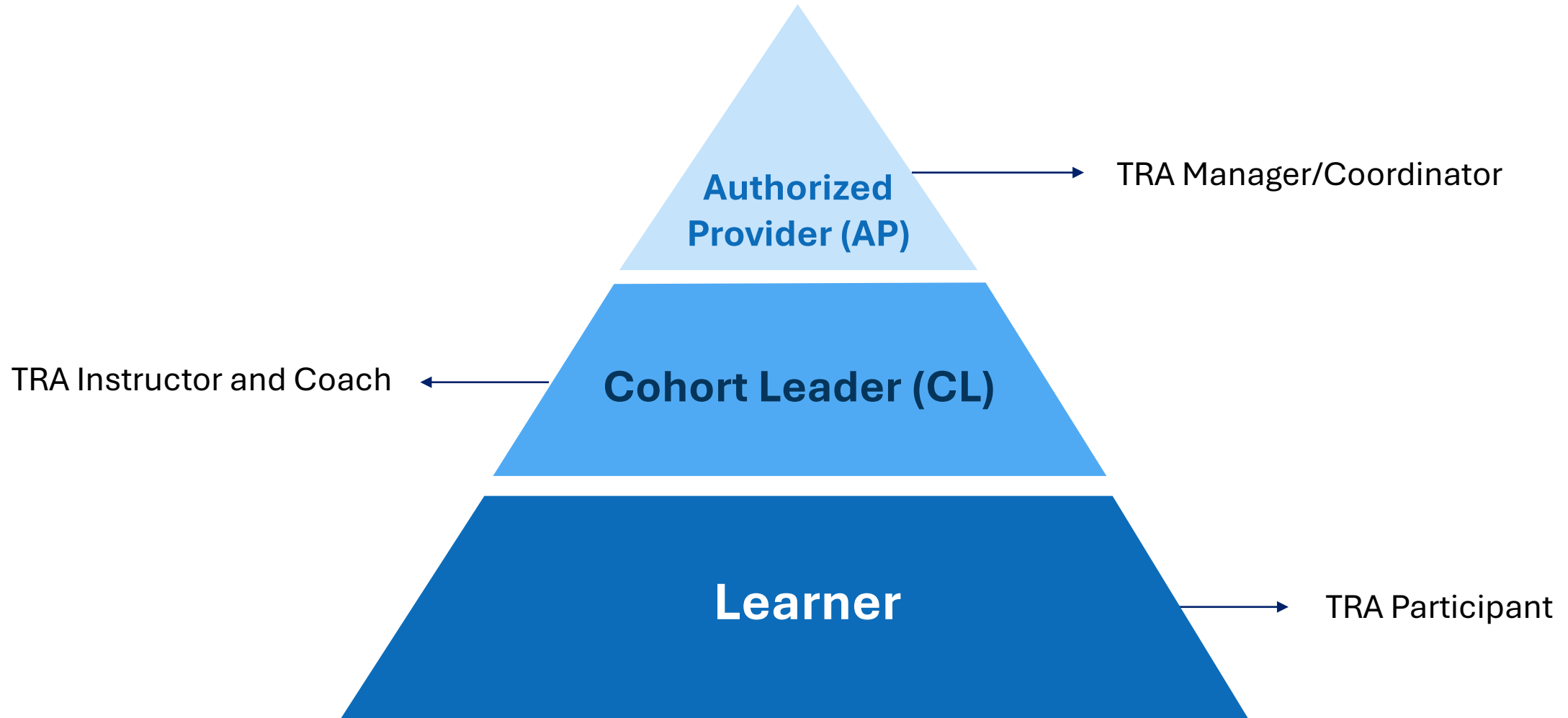


# EPP Support System Overview

TRA employs a support system with clearly designated roles to ensure that all stakeholders understand the necessary frameworks and resources required for successful implementation.

This section provides EPPs with a comprehensive overview of how to integrate TRA effectively, ensuring alignment with established practices by explaining the specific components, requirements, and responsibilities related to each role of the support system.

# EPP Support System for TRA



# Support System Roles and Responsibilities

## Authorized Provider (AP)

Each EPP will designate a staff member as the point of contact, or Authorized Provider (AP), whose role functions similarly to a coordinator. The AP may also serve as a Cohort Leader, allowing for a dual role within the program.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Point of contact for TEA
- Distribute information to Cohort Leaders
- Support and monitor Cohort Leaders
- Lead Communities of Practice

## Cohort Leader (CL)

Each EPP will designate Cohort Leaders (CLs). CLs will act as instructors responsible for embedding TRA content into their courses. Field supervisors will observe and give feedback about TRA practices. All positions must be certified to work with TRA content.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Work with the content
- Deliver the content
- Provide coaching sessions
- Support Learners

## Learner

A Learner is a teacher candidate in the process of completing a certification to become an educator in the state of Texas.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Complete modules, assignments, and artifacts



# Importance of APs and CLs for Successful Facilitation

APs and CLs ensure fidelity of TRA content, delivery, and program requirements.

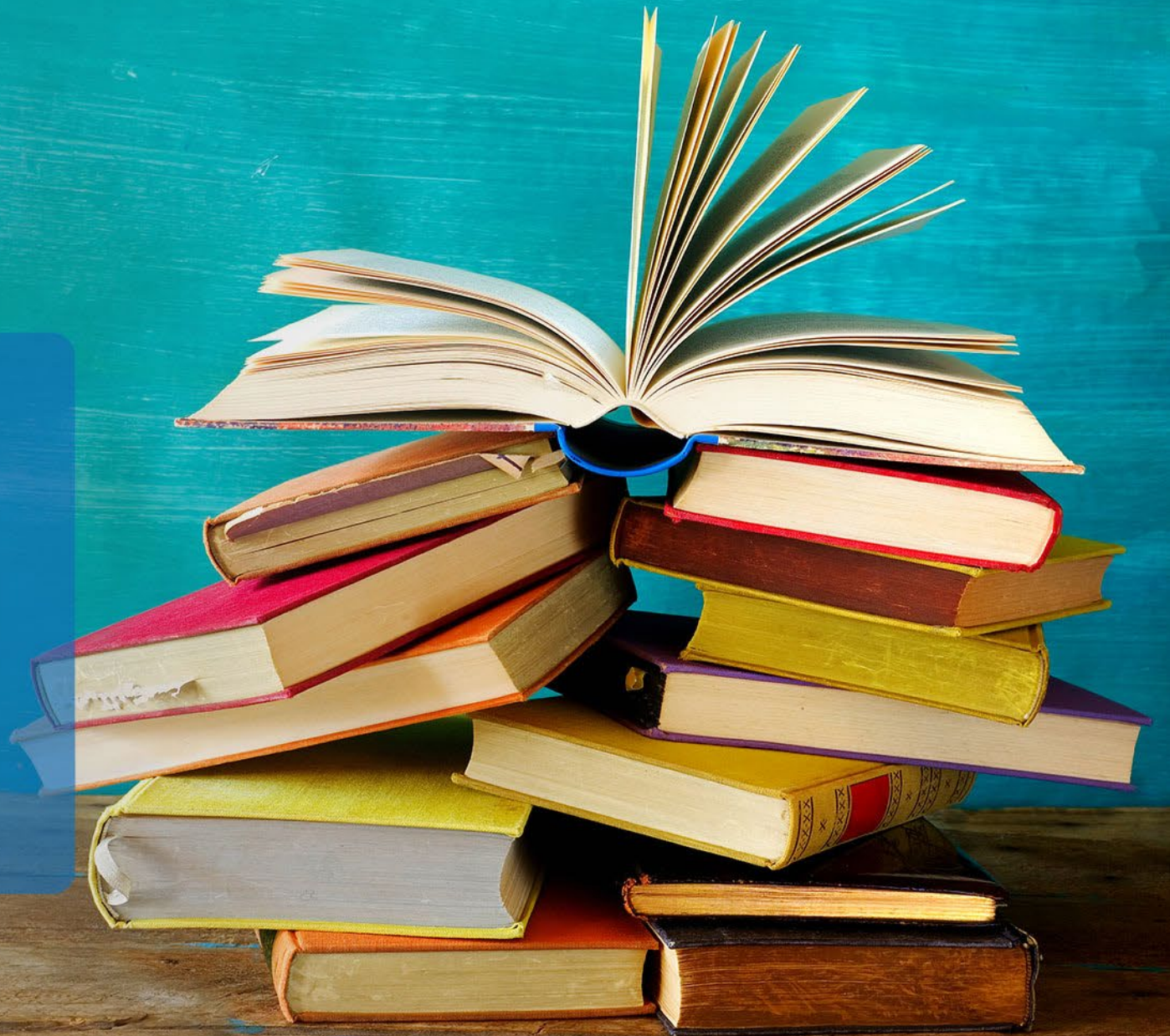
## Authorized Provider (AP)

- Provide access to TRA and facilitate registration, logistical support, and technical assistance in Canvas
- Ensure Cohort Leaders have passed the mandatory hiring screener and attend Cohort Leader Training(s) provided by TEA
- Hire Cohort Leaders and provide on-going Cohort Leader support
- Coordinate and fund travel for cohort leaders
- Enforce timelines and artifact submissions to keep learners on track for successful completion
- Attend mandatory webinars and trainings provided by TEA
- Conduct program evaluation as determined by TEA
- Provide technology customer service to all constituents

## Cohort Leader (CL)

- Pass mandatory Cohort Leader hiring screener and attend Cohort Leader Training provided by TEA prior to serving as a Cohort Leader
- Lead in-person sessions of TRA module content and develop cohort learning communities to provide a high-quality experience for all learners
- Support learners as they engage with hands-on activities and group discussions to develop deep understandings of STR practices during in-person sessions
- Support learners with coaching and timely feedback to ensure successful completion of module Check for Understandings (CFUs) and artifacts
- Provide classroom observations and in-person, one-on-one coaching with each learner using TRA resources and exemplars.

# Application and Onboarding Process



# Application and Onboarding Process Overview

Ensuring all necessary qualifications and standards are met for TRA implementation requires careful planning and execution from EPPs.

This section details the application and onboarding process for becoming an Authorized TRA Provider, as there are several important steps EPPs need to complete before TRA implementation can begin.




# The Application and Onboarding Process

## Key actions necessary to successfully apply to TRA:

- 1 TRA Application**


Complete and submit the application within the window. TRA will then review and notify you of your approval status.



*The application is only available a few times a year. Pay close attention to the windows for application.*

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- 2 Cohort Leader Screener**

Ensure every instructor and field supervisor who will work with TRA materials takes and passes the Cohort Leader Screener.




*Missing Step 2 will result in the inability of an instructor to participate in TRA implementation.*

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- 3 Cohort Leader and Authorized Provider Training**

Confirm that every designated AP and CL attend the required training sessions to receive full certification.

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- 4 Request Branding**

Request Canvas branding, as course branding is important for establishing a strong identity and alignment with the TRA framework.



*The request for branding is completed at the AP technical training.*

# Step 1: TRA Application

Applications for Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) to offer Texas Reading Academies coursework as part of an educator preparation program are currently closed. Announcements regarding future applications periods will be made at the TEA website Educator Preparation Programs page.



The screenshot shows the TEA website header with navigation links: Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, TSDS, and Help Desk. The main navigation bar includes: About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. A search bar is located in the top right. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home / Academics / Early Childhood Education in Texas / Reading Practices. The main heading is "Texas Reading Academies and Educator Preparation Programs". Below the heading, a paragraph states: "The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will provide opportunities for Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) in Texas to offer the Texas Reading Academies for elementary teacher candidates. Please contact the Reading Academies team or the EPP team at TEA to learn more about how you can offer the Reading Academies through your EPP." A URL is provided: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/reading/texas-reading-academies-and-educator-preparation-programs>

There are two possible approval results an EPP can receive after submitting a TRA application:

## Approved

If approved, your EPP will:

- Receive a notification
- Gather the required information needed for the "Implementation Checklist"
- Meet with a TRA specialist

## Conditionally Approved

If conditionally approved, your EPP will:

- Receive a notification
- Meet with a TRA specialist
- Discuss the next steps

# Step 2: Cohort Leader Screener | Considerations

## Required to Lead TRA

- All Cohort Leaders MUST pass the Cohort Leader screener before they are eligible to lead Reading Academies cohorts.
- All EPP Cohort Leaders will be hired directly by an EPP Authorized Provider.
- Cohort Leaders are paid directly by their employer.
- All Cohort Leaders are required to attend a Cohort Leader Training provided by TEA each year.

## Technical Considerations

- The screener can only be taken three times in one year.
- Once the screener is open, time begins.
- Results are shared three to four weeks after taking the screener.

Visit the [Texas Reading Academies Cohort Leader Screener Registration](#) for more information.



## Step 2: Cohort Leader Screener | Components

For EPP Instructors to become Cohort Leaders, they must complete the three-step screening process in Canvas.

1

### **Pass Validated Multiple-Choice Pre-Screener**

Applicants will complete and pass a multiple-choice screener to move forward in the process. (Scores are available immediately after completion.)

2

### **Complete Canvas-Graded Artifacts**

Applicants will complete a Canvas-graded quiz that consists of artifacts A through E assessing basic literacy skills. An overall score of 80% or higher is required to advance to the next section. (Scores are available immediately after completion.)

3

### **Complete Panel-Graded Artifacts**

Applicants will complete three panel-graded artifacts, including a video lesson, a scenario-based demonstration of coaching, and a lesson analysis. All three must be submitted and a passing grade must be achieved on two out of the three artifacts. (Applicants will receive their scores two weeks after submission)

**Note:** There is no cost associated with taking the screener to be a cohort leader.

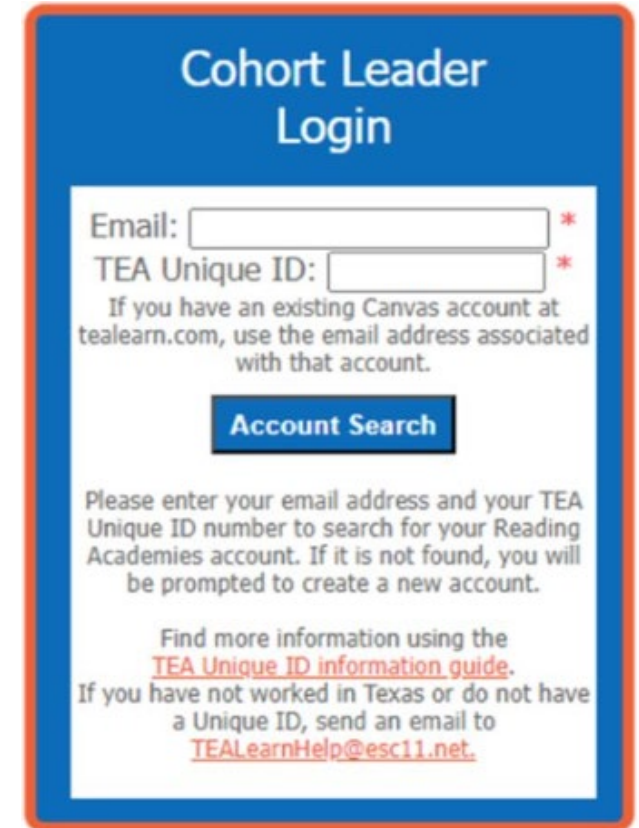
## Step 2: Cohort Leader Screener | Registration

The Cohort Leader Screen registration requires participants to use a TEA Unique ID.

There are several ways to get a TEA Unique ID, including:

- Request a Unique TEA ID by sending an email to **[TEALearnHelp@esc11.net](mailto:TEALearnHelp@esc11.net)**.
- If you have a Unique TEA ID but do not remember it, you may look for it in the Account Search button provided on the login page.

**Note:** Registration for the Cohort Leader Screener should NOT occur until the participant is ready to begin the screener.



**Cohort Leader Login**

Email:  \*

TEA Unique ID:  \*

If you have an existing Canvas account at tealearn.com, use the email address associated with that account.

**Account Search**

Please enter your email address and your TEA Unique ID number to search for your Reading Academies account. If it is not found, you will be prompted to create a new account.

Find more information using the [TEA Unique ID information guide](#).

If you have not worked in Texas or do not have a Unique ID, send an email to [TEALearnHelp@esc11.net](mailto:TEALearnHelp@esc11.net).

# Step 3: Cohort Leader and Authorized Provider Training



For an EPP to receive full approval for providing TRA, every designated Authorized Provider (AP) and Cohort Leader (CL) **are required to attend training sessions**. These trainings provide the necessary knowledge and updates needed for effective TRA implementation and compliance with all program standards.

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Information regarding the latest practices and requirements for APs is disseminated in **yearly trainings** and **monthly webinars**. CLs take their one-time CL Screener and then attend yearly training to maintain their Cohort Leader status and launch new TRA cohorts.

# Step 4: Request Branding

Branding helps create a **cohesive identity** that can be **easily recognized by learners**, stakeholders, and the broader community, making it an essential step in presenting your program consistently across all materials and platforms.

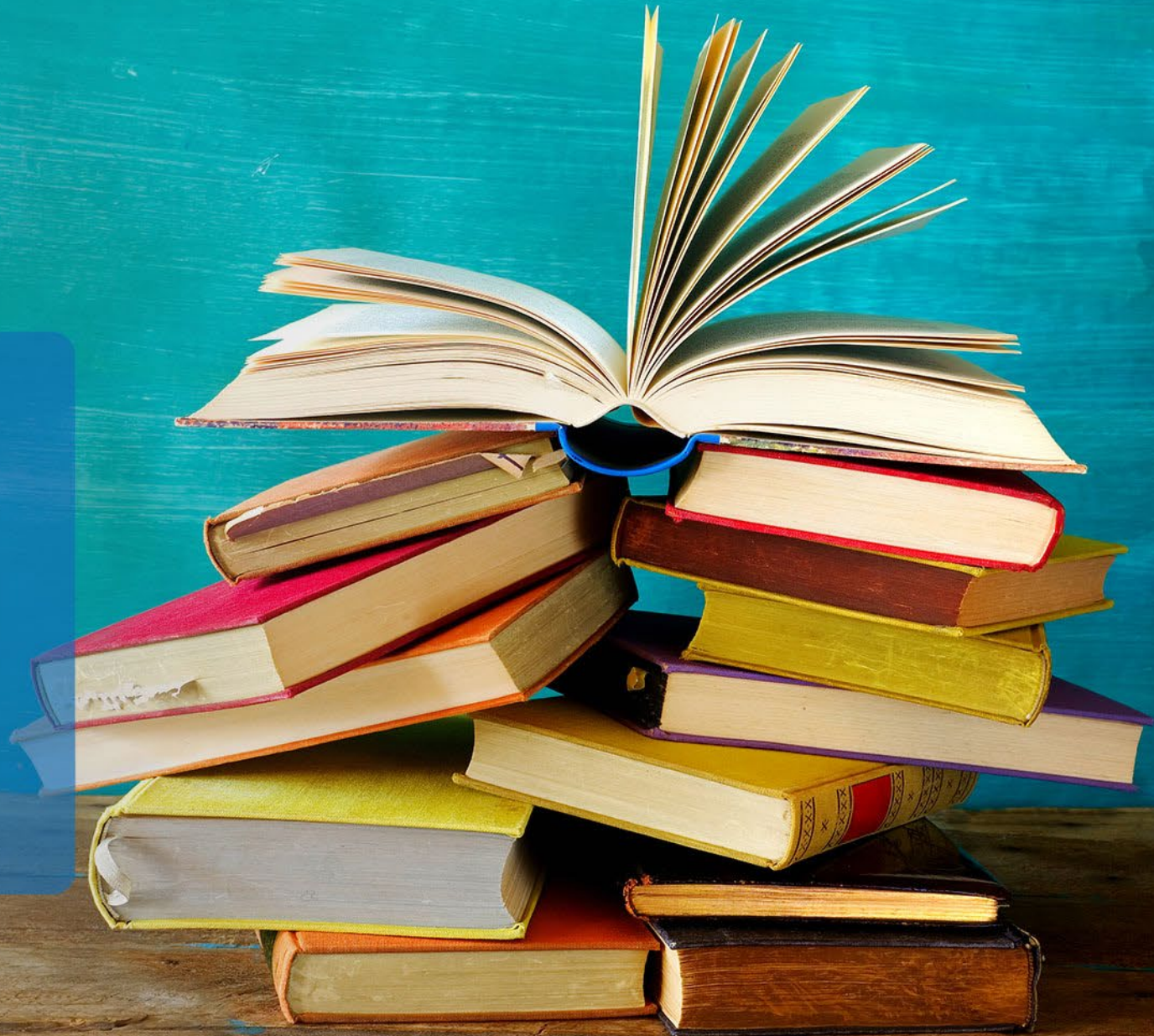
This process is crucial for **establishing a professional and recognizable identity** for your program.

Once your EPP has been approved, your TRA Point of Contact will inform your EPP when to request branding from TRA's partner, Region 11.

The Region 11 team will then gather your EPP's logo and other necessary branding elements to develop your Canvas platform. Canvas is the platform used to launch and manage your cohort of learners, ensuring a seamless and professional experience.



# EPP Next Steps for TRA Implementation



# Next Steps for Implementation Overview

This section provides a clear roadmap for EPPs to begin the implementation process, ensuring that all necessary components and requirements are addressed to effectively plan and execute each next step.

Throughout this section, EPPs must consider the specific needs and contexts of their programs to ensure a smooth and successful implementation.



# Next Steps for TRA Implementation

1. Learn about the Program
2. Start the Process
3. Plan Implementation
4. Prepare for Launch

In the following slides, each step will be broken down with key actions necessary to prepare for TRA implementation.

# Step 1: Learn About the Program



## INFORM

Analyze the information provided in this video



## DECIDE

Determine the implication of implementing TRA into your EPP



## APPLY

Submit application



## LEARN

If approved, move into next steps. If denied, meet with TRA representative to review application



## NEXT STEPS

Plan Accordingly

# Step 2: Start the Process



## INFORM

Attend information session



## CERTIFY

Cohort Leaders take and pass the screener



## TRAIN APs

Authorized Providers attend AP Training; receive AP Access; request CL Training & Canvas course branding



## TRAIN CLs

Cohort Leaders attend CL Training; receive access to content and training materials; receive access to Cohort Leader Central



## LEARN

Learn about and internalize the TRA Materials

# Step 3: Plan Implementation



## PATHWAYS

Learn about pathway options

- ELAR
- Biliteracy



## SEMESTERS

Determine the implication of implementing TRA into your EPP

- Two semesters
- Three semesters



## COURSE

Develop your comprehensive plan



## REVIEW

Submit plan and meet with TRA Specialist



## STUDENTS

Request cohorts

# Step 4: Prepare for Launch



## PREPARE

Review and prepare materials



## ENROLL

Register and enroll  
Teacher Candidates



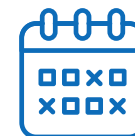
## SUPPORT

Submit Support Portal tickets  
if support is needed



## LAUNCH

Launch your cohort



## CONNECT

Schedule monthly meetings  
with TRA Specialist

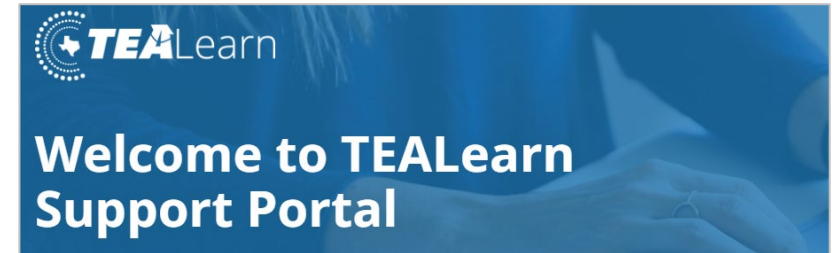


# Questions? Reach out!

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about Texas Reading Academies through the Help Desk.



<https://tealearn.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>



How can we support you?

Subject \*

First Name \*

Last Name \*

I am a/an... \*

**Select option:**



‘I am a/an Educator Preparation Program Representative’ to submit your question.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Reading Academies!

