

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### General

1. [What are Civics Training Programs?](#)
2. [Who is scheduling civics training and how can I register?](#)
3. [How long is the civics training?](#)
4. [Will participants receive a certificate once they complete the civics training?](#)
5. [Can training be offered during school district professional development days?](#)

### Implementation Timelines

6. [What is the implementation timeline for civics training?](#)
7. [Are the Civics Training Program sessions in summer 2026 limited to campuses designated as elementary campuses?](#)

### Training Attendees

8. [Who is required to attend?](#)
9. [Who qualifies as a “campus instructional leader?”](#)
10. [Do elementary teachers who attend the civics training need to be social studies teachers?](#)
11. [Can an instructional coach who is employed under a teacher contract attend as the campus’s teacher participant?](#)
12. [Can a school librarian or school counselor attend as the campus teacher participant?](#)
13. [Can an instructional coach on a campus/district administrative contract attend as the campus’s teacher participant?](#)
14. [Can a campus send more than the statutorily required number of people?](#)

### Funding

15. [Does an individual receive a stipend for attending this training?](#)
16. [Who is responsible for funding teacher stipends?](#)
17. [Can a campus administrator receive a stipend for attending the civics training?](#)
18. [Is there a fee to register and attend a civics training?](#)

### Campus Requirements

19. [Does this training requirement apply to prekindergarten campuses?](#)
20. [Does this training requirement apply to alternative campuses?](#)
21. [If a trained teacher or administrator changes campuses or districts after attending the summer training, what are the next steps for the original campus?](#)
22. [What are the campus expectations after the campus principal and teacher attend civics training?](#)

## **General**

### **1. What are Civics Training Programs?**

Civics Training Programs build administrator and teacher expertise by strengthening the skills and knowledge Texas educators need to cultivate informed American patriotism in students and lead close study of the founding documents of the United States and Texas.

Texas Education Code ([TEC §21.4555](#)), as added by Senate Bill (SB) 3, 87th Texas Legislature, Second Called Session, 2021, directs the commissioner to develop Civics Training Programs for teachers and administrators to facilitate the teaching of civics curriculum aligned with requirements in TEC [§28.002\(h-2\)](#) and [§28.0022](#).

### **2. Who is scheduling civics training and how can I register?**

Regional education service centers (ESCs) are responsible for the scheduling of civics training sessions for their regions. Contact your ESC for information regarding dates and registration instructions for upcoming training opportunities.

### **3. How long is the civics training?**

The civics training will be delivered as a two-day in-person training (a total of 12 hours of content).

### **4. Will participants receive a certificate once they complete the civics training?**

Yes. Upon successful completion of the training, including demonstration of content mastery based on embedded assessments, participants will receive a certificate of completion and record will be kept of campus compliance with this statutory requirement.

### **5. Can training be offered during school district professional development days?**

In order to be eligible for the stipend, a teacher must complete training outside the days or hours of service included in the term of the teacher's contract. Consequently, a teacher must agree not to receive the stipend to participate in this training during regularly scheduled professional development time.

## **Implementation Timelines**

### **6. What is the implementation timeline for civics training?**

Civics training will begin with elementary campuses in summer 2026. Civics training for secondary campuses will begin in summer 2027, pending approval from the SBOE of the secondary civics training materials.

### **7. Are the Civics Training Program sessions in summer 2026 limited to campuses designated as elementary campuses?**

No. However, secondary civics training materials have not yet been approved by the SBOE, so only elementary civics training will be offered in summer 2026. Campuses serving students in kindergarten through grade 5 are encouraged to send the required attendees to the elementary civics training regardless of their campus level designation.

## Training Attendees

### **8. Who is required to attend?**

As required by [TEC §21.4555](#), each campus in a public school system or charter school system must have at least one teacher and one principal or campus instructional leader attend civics training.

### **9. Who qualifies as a “campus instructional leader?”**

For the purpose of Civics Training Program attendance, a campus instructional leader is the person serving in a role that functions as the campus principal.

### **10. Do elementary teachers who attend the civics training need to be social studies teachers?**

TEA encourages each elementary campus to designate a teacher who is responsible for teaching social studies or knowledgeable in social studies to attend the Civics Training Program.

### **11. Can an instructional coach who is employed under a teacher contract attend as the campus’s teacher participant?**

No. An instructional coach may be employed under a teacher contract, but if the individual is serving in a role other than teacher, they would not meet the requirement to serve as the campus teacher participant.

### **12. Can a school librarian or school counselor attend as the campus teacher participant?**

No. A school librarian or school counselor may be employed under a teacher contract, but if the individual is serving in a role other than teacher, they would not meet the requirement to serve as the campus teacher participant.

### **13. Can an instructional coach on a campus/district administrative contract attend as the campus’s teacher participant?**

No. An instructional coach employed under a campus/district administrative contract would not meet the requirement to serve as a campus teacher participant.

### **14. Can a campus send more than the statutorily required number of people?**

This summer the priority is to ensure that at least one teacher and one principal from each campus receive training. However, requests for additional participants will be accommodated if space and funding allow. Campuses should contact their regional ESC for information about potential capacity and registration options.

## Funding

### **15. Does an individual receive a stipend for attending this training?**

Pursuant to [TEC §21.4555\(f\)](#), classroom teachers who successfully complete a Civics Training Program may receive a \$600 stipend. In order to be eligible for the stipend, a teacher must complete training outside the days or hours of service included in the term of the teacher’s contract.

**16. Who is responsible for funding teacher stipends?**

Funding for the Civics Training Programs is provided through an appropriation from the Texas Legislature. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will distribute stipend funds to local education agencies (LEAs), which are responsible for issuing stipends to teachers who have successfully completed the Civics Training Program in their district.

**17. Can a campus administrator receive a stipend for attending the civics training?**

No, [TEC §21.4555\(f\)](#) specifically allows for stipends to be provided to classroom teachers who complete a Civics Training Program.

**18. Is there a fee to register and attend a civics training?**

No. Regional education service centers (ESCs) will not charge fees to local education agencies for teachers and administrators to attend a Civics Training Program.

**Campus Requirements****19. Does this training requirement apply to prekindergarten campuses?**

No, the Commissioner has designated Civics Training Programs for kindergarten-grade 12.

**20. Does this training requirement apply to alternative campuses?**

Yes. There is no differentiation between traditional and alternative campuses in [TEC §21.4555](#).

**21. If a trained teacher or administrator changes campuses or districts after attending the summer training, what are the next steps for the original campus?**

Campuses will need to contact their regional education service centers (ESCs) for ongoing training opportunities to comply with the statutory requirement that one teacher and one principal on the campus complete the required training.

**22. What are the campus expectations after the campus principal and teacher attend civics training?**

Training participants are expected to make decisions on how to use the post-training activities and discussions at their individual campus.