



Cohort Leader Screener Preparation Guide

English Pathway

(For Future Cohort Leaders Preparing for CL Certification)

ELAR Screener Purpose:

The cohort leader screener assesses the knowledge and skills of prospective cohort leaders in Science of Teaching Reading (STR) and English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR). This ensures that cohort leaders possess the knowledge and skills to teach reading effectively in English, and they can provide high-quality instruction and coaching support to educators and school leaders.

As a future cohort leader, you are expected to demonstrate deep understanding of:

- The Science of Teaching Reading (STR) framework
- Evidence-based literacy instruction
- Texas literacy standards and policy
- Research-Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS)
- Effective Coaching for Texas educators

Note: This preparation guide provides conceptual and professional understanding. It is not designed to prepare you for specific assessment questions. Review the [Cohort Leader Screener Overview](#) for information on the requirements, processes, and roles of a Texas Reading Academies Cohort Leader.

What Is the Science of Teaching Reading (STR)?

The **Science of Teaching Reading** is a broad, interdisciplinary body of research that explains how students learn to read, why some struggle, and which instructional practices are most effective. It is **not a program, a curriculum or an intervention**; it is the research foundation guiding literacy instruction and decision-making.

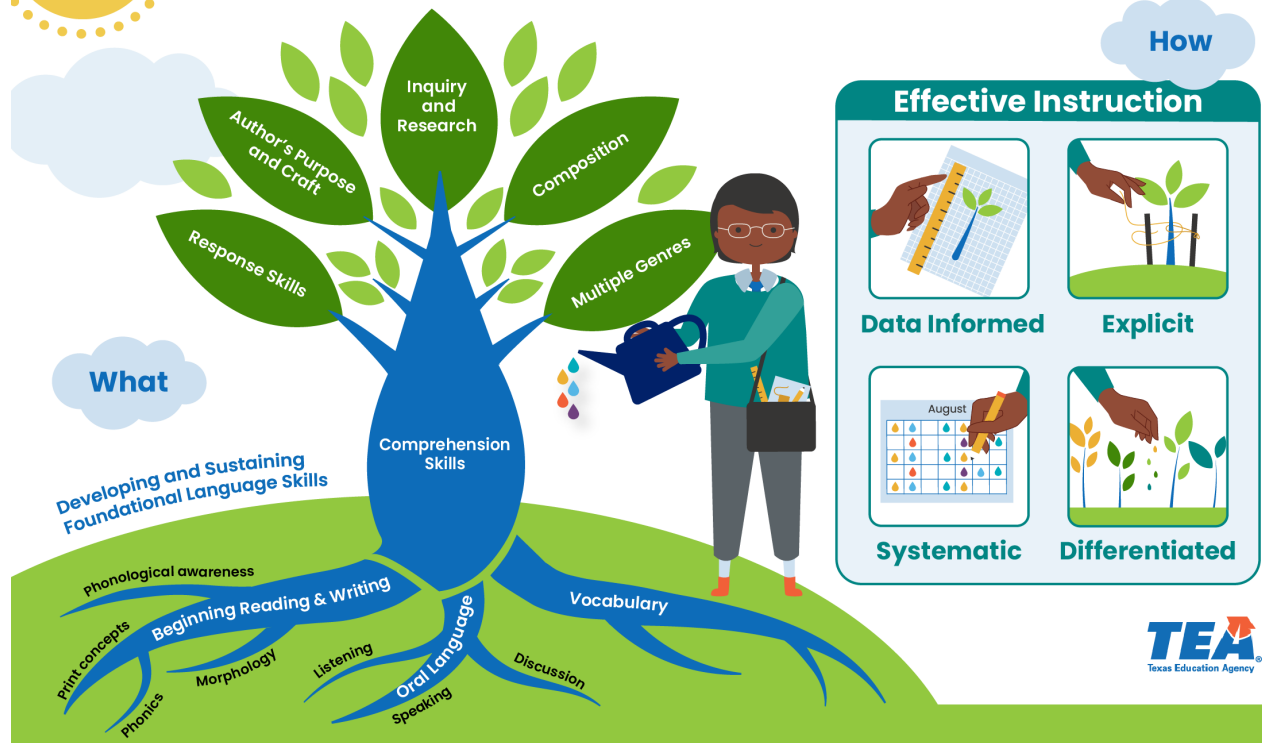
The Science of Teaching Reading Framework

The following visual illustrates how the Texas Reading Academies defines **what** students need to become proficient readers and **how** instruction should be delivered:



The Science of Teaching Reading

Through **effective instruction**, teachers cultivate increasingly automatic literacy knowledge and skills for all students.



WHAT
Language development is central to reading success.
Reading integrates foundational skills (phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, handwriting, phonics, morphology, and fluency) with meaning-making (vocabulary, comprehension, writing).

HOW
Effective Instruction should be:
Explicit, systematic, and evidence-based.
Differentiated to meet the needs of all students.
Assessment and instruction form a continuous, data-informed cycle .



Understanding the Texas Reading Academies

Read the following materials to ensure you have a solid understanding of the Texas Reading Academies.

Texas Reading Academies Overview

[Texas Reading Academies \(HB 3\)](#)

Provides the research foundation adopted statewide.

Standards & Vertical Alignment

As a Cohort leader, you must understand how instruction aligns with Texas standards.

ELAR TEKS

[TEKS Guide by TEA | TEKS Guide](#)

Support for Emergent Bilingual Students

As a cohort leader, you must understand how to support emergent bilingual students in General Education classrooms.

English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)

[ELPS Resource Tools](#)

Content-Based Language Instruction

[EB Portal - CBLI](#)

Reflection

- What does the Science of Teaching Reading emphasize about how students learn to read?
- How do foundational skills and language work together to support literacy development?
- How does research guide instructional decisions?