

# Achievement Academies ESC Frequently Asked Questions

---

## General

**1. Who is responsible for contractual agreements with and payment to trainers for delivery of the actual academies?**

Each ESC is responsible for contractual agreements and payments to trainers who have been approved to deliver academies in the region.

**2. Is there a standard fee for adjunct contractors hired by ESCs to deliver academies?**

While there is not a standard fee, ESCs have agreed to a rate in the range of between \$350 and \$500 per day.

**3. Will there be any type of feedback survey given to participants after they've completed the academies?**

Yes. Additional information will be provided as soon as it is available.

**4. When can ESCs offer academies to teachers/districts not eligible for stipends?**

The Texas Education Agency is working to provide opportunities for campuses that are not on the current eligibility lists to participate in academies in the near future. We expect to have more information this fall.

**5. Can a district trainer train all of the teachers in his or her district, including those at non-priority campuses?**

No.

**6. May vendors attend a TOT and serve as academy trainers?**

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.

**7. If I have questions about academy implementation, who should I contact?**

All questions should be provided to an ESC Core Group member who will communicate with the appropriate staff member at TEA.

**8. If an ESC trainer has an emergency and cannot conduct the training, what is the process for requesting assistance from TEA?**

If an ESC needs assistance identifying a replacement trainer due to an emergency, the Core Group member should contact Monica Martinez at TEA.

## Training of Trainers

### **1. Are all trainers expected to attend the state-level training of trainers (TOTs)?**

Yes. Once a trainer has been approved by the agency, a trainer must attend the TOT for each academy that the trainer will deliver.

### **2. What if there is a scheduling conflict and trainers cannot attend any of the TOTs?**

The agency will work with ESCs to identify make-up training opportunities for trainers who are unable to attend any of the scheduled TOTs. ESC Core Group members should contact TEA for assistance.

### **3. May ESCs train additional trainers?**

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.

### **4. Can the ESC conduct a kindergarten or other grade level TOT for a trainer that has attended at least one other TOT so the trainer can train additional grade levels?**

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.

### **5. Can the ESC cross train or train another person to help us deliver the 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.

### **6. Who is responsible for reimbursement associated with travel to TOT sessions?**

Content development partners will process reimbursement payments for travel and meals related to TOT sessions.

## Academy Implementation

### **1. Please clarify how many people can attend each academy. Is there a limit?**

Each ESC must consider available capacity including room size, configuration, and staffing when scheduling academies. A grade level academy should not exceed a maximum of 50 attendees.

### **2. Is every academy supposed to have two trainers?**

While the ideal is for two trainers to present an academy, due to the number of teachers who will be trained in a given region and the number of sessions that will be offered, in many instances there may not be sufficient resources for two trainers at each session. ESCs should use their discretion when planning and scheduling academies.

### **3. Who will make sure the materials are available at the training sites?**

Each ESC is responsible for coordinating materials for academies.

### **4. How will printing of materials be handled?**

ESCs are responsible for printing and preparing materials for academy trainings in their regions. All print files are available on the Texas Gateway.

### **5. Do we have to show the video regarding the \$350 stipend?**

Yes.

### **6. Can an ESC make modifications and/or adjustments to the training that is provided to teachers?**

No. All academies must be implemented with fidelity in the manner presented in the TOTs.

## Literacy/Reading to Learn

- 1. Can an ESC extend the academy training by following it with fidelity and then adding an extra day to go more in depth on specific topics without voiding the copyright/confidentiality agreement we signed?**

Each academy must be advertised and implemented as a three-day academy that addresses the content presented in the TOT. If an ESC wishes to provide additional, related training to support and enhance academies, the ESC may do so only if it is clearly advertised and implemented separately from the academy and the information does not conflict with information presented in the academy.

An ESC may not require that a teacher attend additional training as a condition of receiving the stipend.

- 2. If we are going to be using participant bags for literacy or reading academy training purposes, could we offer the bags for sale at cost for those that don't have materials on campuses?**

Yes.

- 3. Can academy funds be used to purchase table copies of titles (children's books) used during academies?**

Yes.

- 4. Are literacy or reading to learn academies specific to Spanish language arts and reading being created to help ELLs participating in bilingual programs?**

The decision was made to develop only one literacy or reading to learn academy per grade level. The academies include content on providing reading instruction to ELLs. Additional resources will be provided for teachers to support ELLs.

- 5. Will the literacy and reading to learn academies content be revised to reflect the recently revised English language arts and reading TEKS?**

Not at this time.

The revised TEKS for English and Spanish language arts and reading for kindergarten – grade 8 will not be implemented until the 2019-2020 school year. The literacy and reading to learn academies will focus on the current TEKS.

## Mathematics

- 1. What TEKS clarification documents should we use?**

TEA has published *Supporting Information* documents for each grade level. These are the documents used to develop and support academy content. These are the only documents that should be referenced.