

# Achievement Academies

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### General

#### **1. When and where will Academies take place?**

Each regional education service center (ESC) will determine the dates and locations for academies that will take place in the 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.

#### **7. What academy materials may be shared with teachers who were unable to attend an academy?**

While teachers who attend a literacy, reading, or mathematics academy are not eligible to train others on materials presented during the academies, they may share the activities or strategies presented with their colleagues.

## Academy Attendance

### **1. Who is eligible to attend an academy?**

State law requires that TEA give priority for academy participation to public school teachers that teach at campuses at which at least 50% of the students are educationally disadvantaged.

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 math or reading at the designated grade of the academy, will be eligible to attend an academy and receive a stipend.

### **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 or other instructional leader attend an academy?**

If space is available and eligible teachers are not displaced, an administrator 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 or bilingual education teacher attend an academy?**

Yes. 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 math or reading at the designated grade of the academy, will be eligible to attend an academy and receive a stipend. This includes teachers who spend at least 50% of the time providing direct classroom instruction in math and reading to students.

### **6. Can an instructional coach, interventionist, or curriculum specialist attend an academy?**

An instructional coach, interventionist, or curriculum specialist who spends at least 50% of the time providing direct classroom instruction in math or reading at the designated grade level of the academy is eligible to attend an academy 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, minus all applicable income taxes and payroll deductions.

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

Academy participants must fill out an electronic stipend form during the academy. Information will be collected and submitted to TEA. TEA will process payments to school districts and charter schools for disbursement to eligible teachers who successfully complete an academy. Districts and charter schools are then responsible for ensuring that the stipend payment is issued to the teacher in a timely manner.

### **4. Who should teachers contact with questions about their stipend?**

Teachers should first contact their school or district business office, followed by the ESC responsible for the academy the teacher attended.

### **5. Who receives notification when a stipend payments is made to LEAs or charter schools?**

Once stipend information has been verified and processed, correspondence from TEA will be sent to the district or charter school superintendent as well as to the business office at the email address on file in AskTED on the TEA website.

### **6. How can a school district or charter school change the name of the person receiving notification when a stipend payment has been processed?**

The district or charter school AskTED administrator may at any time go in to the system and edit the email address for the superintendent and CFO/Business Manager. TEA staff do not have the authority to make changes in AskTED.

### **7. 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 or 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.

**8. 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 no more than 15 minutes over the course of the three-day training and still be eligible to receive the stipend.

**9. 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.

**10. Can a teacher refuse the stipend if he/she wants to count the days as 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 provides an option for a teacher to refuse the stipend.

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

An eligible teacher may attend more than one literacy/reading 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 in total for literacy/reading.

An eligible 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 in total for mathematics.

An eligible teacher may attend one literacy or reading academy and one mathematics academy for the grade level that the teacher is assigned to teach and may receive one stipend for each content area.

**12. What relevant information will teachers be required to provide?**

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

**13. How do I find out my TSDS Unique ID?**

For help obtaining your Unique ID, the following options are available:

- Contact your campus registrar
- Contact your district/charter PEIMS coordinator
- Contact your ESC and ask to speak to the TSDS Unique ID Champion
- Log into your Texas Education Agency Login (TEAL) user account