



# To the Administrator Addressed

Commissioner Mike Morath

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<b>DATE:</b>	<b>December 17, 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Texas Reading Academies Authorized Provider Application Process</b>
<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>Early Childhood Education</b>
<b>NEXT STEPS:</b>	<b>Action requested of LEA: Share with appropriate staff; Action for eligible entities: Apply to become a Reading Academies Authorized Provider</b>

### Reading Academies Authorized Providers

A Reading Academies Authorized Provider is an entity—educational service center (ESC), local educational agency (LEA), institute of higher learning, or other non-profit—that is formally approved by TEA to provide Reading Academies. All Reading Academy Providers must be formally authorized and approved by TEA based on a set of baseline requirements. Eligible providers include ESCs, districts and external organizations.

The agency has released a noncompetitive grant eligible to all Education Service Centers to become a Reading Academies Authorized Provider. See the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page for more information.

Non-ESC entities may apply to be an Authorized Provider through a competitive application process. Eligible entities may visit the Reading Practices web page to access the [application](#) on January 4, 2021, and submit a [Notice of Intent to Apply](#) to become a Non-ESC Reading Academies Authorized Provider prior to submitting the application. Entities must demonstrate capacity to execute Reading Academies at the time of application.

### To be approved as an Authorized Provider, an entity **MUST** agree to:

- Provide and facilitate House Bill (HB) 3 Reading Academies, including registration, logistical support, and technical assistance.
- Follow and implement HB 3 Reading Academies content as designed by TEA.
- Ensure all Cohort Leaders pass mandatory hiring screenings before leading sessions.
- Attend mandatory training as determined by TEA.
- Coordinate and fund travel for all Cohort Leaders.
- Conduct program evaluation as determined by TEA.
- Communicate and respond to TEA information requests.
- Conduct outreach to publicize HB 3 Reading Academies.

Non-ESC entities must demonstrate the capacity to offer [four Comprehensive AND eight Blended Cohorts](#).

### Forthcoming Communications

On the following timeline, TEA will...

December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAA Announcement</li> <li>• Post Notice of Intent to Apply for Authorized Providers</li> </ul>
January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post application for Authorized Providers</li> </ul>
February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for Authorized Providers closes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Review starts</li> <li>• Application Review ends</li> <li>• Announce Authorized Providers</li> </ul>
March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Authorized Provider training</li> </ul>

All updated information will be posted on the Reading Practices site at [www.tea.texas.gov/reading](http://www.tea.texas.gov/reading)

**Resources to support Authorized Provider applicants:**

- Reading Practices website: [www.tea.texas.gov/reading](http://www.tea.texas.gov/reading)
- [HB 3 Reading Practices FAQs](#)
- Reading Practices webinar: [tea.texas.gov/hb3](http://tea.texas.gov/hb3)

It is strongly recommended that applicants review the Reading Academies structure and requirements prior to completing an application.

**Recap: Texas Reading Academies Legislation**

House Bill (HB) 3 was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, and signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 11, 2019. The following areas within HB 3 specifically relate to reading practices:

- The Science of Teaching Reading (STR) exam Texas Education Code (TEC Sec. 21048 (a-2))
- Reading Standards for Kindergarten Through Third Grade (TEC, Sec. 28.0062(a))
  - Literacy Academies
  - Certified Practices
    - Phonics curriculum
    - Placement of highly effective teachers
    - Integrated reading instruments
  - Reading Advisory Board

**Contact**

Please contact TEA with questions via email at [reading@tea.texas.gov](mailto:reading@tea.texas.gov).