



Meeting Date: June 25, 2026

Submitted By: Dr. Kristin Saunders
Title: Chief of Staff

Agenda Item: Consider and take action regarding approving the 26-27 Reading Academy TEA Grant Project Local Implementation Memorandum of Understanding for the 2026-2027 school year.

CONSENT ITEM

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2026-2027 Memorandum of Understanding for the Reading Academy TEA Grant Project Local Implementation.

IMPACT/RATIONALE:

HB3 requires all classroom teachers that teach K-3, special education teachers that teach K-3, as well as elementary campus administration to take and pass the Texas Reading Academy. Judson also follows the state recommendation for RtI teachers to take and pass the Texas Reading Academy. The district Reading Academy Cohort Leader will provide 10 face-to-face sessions and personalized instructional coaching for all 26-27 Reading Academy participants. Due to the number of participants, Judson will hold a September 2026 cohort. The cost is \$12,000 per cohort leader/cohort.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval/Disapproval

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Reading Academies TEA Grant Project
Local Implementation Option – Judson ISD

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Education Service Center, Region 20 (“ESC-20”) serves as an Authorized Provider to conduct Reading Academies as required by House Bill 3 (2019) (the “Reading Academies”);

WHEREAS, the provision of Reading Academies is being regulated by the Texas Education Agency (“TEA”) with the cooperation of Region 11 Education Service Center; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the outcome of every Kindergarten through Third Grade teacher and principal receiving Reading Academy training, TEA has published guidance in the form of letters to school districts and FAQ guidance to Education Service Centers; and

WHEREAS, the most recent guidance to Education Service Center regarding their provision of Reading Academies to school districts and is incorporated for all purposes into this MOU as if reproduced in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, TEA states that school districts have the following three options relating to ensuring their teachers obtain Reading Academies training:

1. **Use an Authorized Provider** for Comprehensive and/or Blended training for teachers and principals.
 - District pays per participant (\$3,000 for Comprehensive; \$400 for Administrator Blended).
2. **Apply to be an approved Authorized Provider** and provide the training to participants.
 - As an Authorized Provider, the district would assume all costs for the training.
3. **Sign an MOU with an Authorized Provider**, then employ staff to act as Cohort Leaders and provide the Comprehensive training locally to teachers and principals.
 - District pays a flat fee to the Authorized Provider (\$12,000 per Cohort Leader for Comprehensive).
 - All Cohort Leaders must pass the Cohort Leader Screening; and

WHEREAS, ESC-20, as an Authorized Provider, desires to comply with the guidance set forth by TEA by entering into this MOU with school districts that opt to provide Reading Academy training for their teachers and principals through Options 1 and 3 above; and

WHEREAS, ESC-20 and **Judson ISD** (herein after the “District”) agree that the provisions set forth in this MOU are intended to set forth the respective responsibilities of the parties regarding the provision of Reading Academies to the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

I. DESIGNATION BY DISTRICT OF READING ACADEMIES SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY ESC-20

The District opts for ESC-20 to provide Reading Academies training to the District as follows:

Use ESC-20 as an Authorized Provider, and District will employ staff to act as Cohort Leaders and provide either the Comprehensive training locally to teachers and principals.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

a. For ESC-20:

- 1) Ensure all Cohort Leaders meet qualifications as determined by TEA.
- 2) Conduct program evaluation as determined by TEA.
- 3) Provide registration assistance, logistical support, and regional technical assistance.

b. For the District:

- 1) Ensure all Cohort Leaders meet the screening requirements determined by TEA and meet the following prerequisite requirements prior to being hired by the district:
 - i. Have served as a reading teacher in K-3 for three or more years across career (special education, general education, or specialized reading teacher).
- 2) Hire Cohort Leaders and assume responsibility for providing salary and benefits.
- 3) Ensure all Cohort Leaders attend the Cohort Leader training provided by TEA.
- 4) Ensure all Cohort Leaders abide by the established participant limitations for each cohort:
 - i. The leader of a Comprehensive Cohort may manage a cohort of up to 60 participants - Comprehensive Cohort Leaders may lead only one cohort at a time.

III. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be effective on **July 27, 2026**, and terminate, except as provided herein, on **June 11, 2027**, unless sooner terminated upon 30 days prior written notice by either party or upon completion of all training by ESC-20 of the District’s personnel (the “Term”). Enrollment Window runs from **July 27, 2026 to September 30, 2026**. It is the local school system responsibility to determine the ten (10) days of professional development as well as ensure that the first day of professional development take place within the **July 27, 2026 to September 30, 2026** window.


Jeffery Goldhorn

Upon termination hereof, each party agrees to cooperate with the other to fulfill any action required by TEA in its regulation of Reading Academies. Additionally, this contract will be terminated and void if the District has not meet all TEA Reading Academies Cohort Leader contingencies.

IV. FEES

Pay a flat fee to the ESC-20 as an Authorized Provider (\$12,000 per Comprehensive Cohort Leader).

V. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Assignments**. Neither Party may assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other.
2. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement contains all of the agreement between the Parties with respect to the matters contained herein and no prior agreement or understanding pertaining to any such matters shall be effective for any purpose.
3. **Independent Contractor Status**. Each party and its people are independent contractors in relation to the other party with respect to all matters arising under this Agreement. Nothing herein shall be deemed to establish a partnership, joint venture, association, or employment relationship between the parties.
4. **Third Party Beneficiaries**. Nothing in this Agreement creates, or will be deemed to create, third party beneficiaries of or under this Agreement.
5. **Governing Law**. This Agreement shall be governed, construed, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Texas, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of laws, and the Parties agree to resolve any dispute in the state and federal courts having jurisdiction in Bexar County, Texas.
6. **Notices**. Notices sent to either party shall be effective when delivered in person or transmitted by fax machine; one (1) day after being sent by overnight courier; or two (2) days after being sent by first class mail postage prepaid, to the address or fax number, as the case may be, set forth in this Agreement. A facsimile of this Agreement and notices generated in good form by a fax machine (as well as a photocopy thereof) shall be treated as "original" documents admissible into evidence unless a document's authenticity is genuinely placed in question.
7. **Counterparts**. This Agreement and any amendment or supplement to this Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will constitute an original but all of which will together constitute a single instrument. Transmission by facsimile of an executed counterpart signature page hereof by a party hereto shall constitute due execution and delivery of this Agreement by such party.
8. **Sovereign Immunity**. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to waive the sovereign immunity of ESC-20, of the staff and employees of ESC-20, or of the District.
9. **Dispute Resolution**. The Executive Director of ESC-20 or his/her designee and the authorized agent of the District shall resolve disputes that develop under this Agreement.
10. **Amendments**. This Agreement may not be amended, modified or changed, nor shall any waiver of any provision hereof be effective, except by an instrument in writing and signed by each of the Parties.



Reading Academies TEA Grant Project Local Implementation Model – Judson ISD

Judson ISD, in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding set forth by Education Service Center, Region 20, plans to utilize the following number of Comprehensive Cohort Leaders/Coaches in Year 7:

1 # of Comprehensive Cohort Leaders/Coaches

As per the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement, **Judson ISD** does acknowledge and agree to pay Texas Reading Academies Authorized Provider Education Service Center, Region 20 the following amount **\$12,000**.

Signature: 
[Carolyn Castillo \(May 14, 2026 16:18:00 CDT\)](#)

Email: carolyn.castillo@esc20.net