

Discussion Item

Date: March 2, 2020

Division: Learning and Teaching

Subject: Update on Reading Academies

Background Information:

TEC §28.0062 addresses reading standards for kindergarten through third grade. HB 3 amends this section by requiring school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to:

- Provide for the use of a phonics curriculum for reading instruction in kindergarten through third grade.
- Make sure, not later than 2021–2022 school year, each kindergarten or first, second, or third grade teacher and principal attend a literacy achievement academy (reading academy).
- Make sure for the 2021–2022 and subsequent school years teachers and principals initially employed in the grade level attend a teacher literacy achievement academy developed under TEC §21.4552 before their placement in the grade level.
- TEA has indicated that the reading academy will take 80 hours to complete (online or face-to-face).
 - Training is an 11 month cycle, leaving out July timeframes.
- The training is available in a blended format with online modules or in an in person format with face to face training.
- TEA will be using Canvas as their platform for the online modules in the blended format.
- The blended model cost \$400 per participant and the comprehensive model costs \$3,000 plus subs and travel to the training location.
- Additional costs are incurred for districts who want to have trainers or cohort leaders within their district.

Administrative Consideration:

- The requirement that all K, 1, 2, 3 Teachers & Principals (including Bilingual, ESL, Special Education and Dyslexia) attend a reading academy will impact approximately 1,000 employees in LISD.
- All participants must enroll in a Reading Academy as proposed by TEA by the summer of 2022 with completion by spring of 2023.
- Staff estimate that the impact to teachers and principals will be they will spend 56 hours outside of contract time when considering trade days in order to complete the academy.
- Staff will present additional information regarding the impact of this law and considerations for training LISD staff.