

**Senate Education Pre-Briefing
February 27, 2008**

Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies (TALA)
(HB 2237, Section 4)

Overview

- Teachers in grades 6-8
- ELA Academy for English and reading teachers
- Content Area Academy for teachers of mathematics, science, and social studies
- Academies conducted statewide through the 20 Education Service Centers
- Teachers at Academically Unacceptable campuses required to attend
- Teacher stipend for completion
- Teachers in grade 6 – Summer 2008 (approximately 12,000)
- Teachers in grades 7-8 – Summer 2009 (approximately 23,000)

Components of the Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies (TALA)

Part I - ELA Academy

- English and reading teachers, including ESL and special education teachers
- A total of 3 days face-to-face training and a 1-day practicum follow-up with online documentation
 - Content-based academic literacy strategies
 - Intensive intervention strategies
 - Progress monitoring assessment to inform instruction/intervention
- \$500 stipend (½ upon completion of face-to-face session, ½ upon completion of follow-up)
- Certificate and 24 CPEs

Part II - Content Area Academy

- Math, science, social studies teachers, including ESL and special education teachers
- A total of 1.5 days face-to-face training and a half-day practicum follow-up with online documentation
- Content-based academic literacy strategies
- \$250 stipend (½ upon completion of face-to-face session, ½ upon completion of follow-up)
- Certificate and 12 CPEs

2 master trainers from UT-VGC will train 12 state trainers during the week of March 3 – 6

12 state trainers will train 300 regional trainers during the following weeks:

May 5-8 in Austin

May 12-15 in Houston

May 19-22 in Dallas

Part III - Middle School Progress Monitoring System

- HB 2237, Section 6 states that districts are to
 - administer assessment to students in grade 7 (*scale score of 2100 or below on grade 6 TAKS Reading*) who did not demonstrate reading proficiency
 - provide intensive instruction and intervention to these students based on the results of the assessment

Number of Grade 6 Students Taking TAKS Reading 06-07	Number Who Failed	Percentage Failed
298,343	24,549	8.23%

- Instrument is also validated for use with students in grades 6 and 8
- TALA ELA Academy will provide training on administration and use of this assessment

Part IV-Evaluation

- ICF International selected as evaluator
- ICF staff will observe all of the TOTs and at least one session in each of the 20 regions