

# Lexia LETRS Supports Texas Reading Academies



## Transform Literacy and Change Lives by Accelerating Literacy Growth

High-quality literacy professional learning is essential to student success. Lexia® LETRS® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) empowers teachers to understand the what, why, and how of scientifically based reading instruction. It is purposefully designed to help all early-childhood, elementary educators and administrators become literacy and language experts in the science of reading.

LETRS outlines how to teach the skills required for proficient reading and writing, supporting the Texas Reading Academies and increasing instructional impact.

	Texas Reading Academies	Lexia LETRS
<b>Theoretical Approaches to Reading</b>	Modules 2 and 4	<b>Unit 1</b> The Challenge of Learning to Read
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> Our approach advances beyond surface-level strategies by focusing on the neurological underpinnings of reading, giving educators a true understanding of how reading develops in the brain.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> This foundational knowledge empowers educators to deliver more precise, targeted instruction that truly changes student outcomes.</p>	
<b>Print Concepts and Phonological and Phonemic Awareness</b>	Module 6E	<b>Unit 2</b> The Speech Sounds of English
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> A deep understanding of the vowel and consonant phonemes helps teachers identify how students perceive and produce sounds, which is foundational for reading and spelling.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> Consonant and vowel charts provide a visual reference for articulatory features (e.g., place and manner of articulation), helping students connect sounds to letters. Sound walls organize sounds by how they are produced in the mouth, not alphabetically, which aligns better with how children learn to decode and encode words.</p>	

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<b>Phonics and Word Recognition</b>	Module 8E	<b>Unit 3</b> Teaching Beginning Phonics, Word Recognition, and Spelling
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> A structured and intentional focus on phonics and spelling instruction is essential for developing proficient readers and writers.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> By emphasizing phoneme-grapheme mapping, position-based spelling patterns, and the use of decodable texts, educators can build a strong foundation in phonics and orthographic knowledge.</p>	
<b>Advanced Phonics and Word Recognition</b>	Module 9E	<b>Unit 4</b> Advanced Decoding, Spelling, and Word Recognition
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> LETRS ensures an intensive focus on spelling; an intentional understanding of the difference between beginning and advanced word study; and the importance of word, sentence, and passage fluency.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> Recognizing the developmental stages of word study ensures instruction is appropriately scaffolded, promoting deeper word knowledge and reading fluency. Fluency at multiple levels (word, sentence, passage) supports comprehension, confidence, and overall reading proficiency.</p>	
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Module 5E	<b>Unit 5</b> The Mighty Word: Oral Language and Vocabulary
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> Understanding the interconnected roles of vocabulary knowledge, background knowledge, and oral language proficiency provides a powerful framework for improving reading comprehension.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> By intentionally integrating these components into instruction, educators can create more equitable, engaging, and effective literacy experiences that support all learners in becoming confident and capable readers.</p>	



	Texas Reading Academies	Lexia LETRS
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	Module 10E	<p><b>Unit 6</b> Digging for Meaning: Understanding Reading Comprehension</p> <p><b>Unit 7</b> Text-Driven Comprehension Instruction</p>
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> Integrating syntax instruction with deep questioning creates a powerful, dual-layered approach to reading comprehension.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> Students not only decode and understand complex sentence structures but also engage critically with text through thoughtful inquiry, ultimately fostering deeper understanding, analytical thinking, and academic confidence.</p>	
<b>Writing</b>	Module 11E	<p><b>Unit 8</b> The Reading–Writing Connection</p>
	<p><b>LETRS Value Add:</b> Teaching writing at the sentence level is essential because it lays the groundwork for clear communication, reinforces grammar and syntax, builds student confidence, fosters critical thinking, and develops skills that transfer across all writing tasks.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT:</b> By mastering the sentence, students gain the tools to construct meaning with precision and power, setting the stage for success in all forms of writing.</p>	



## Implications

- Bridge to Practice activities in LETRS build educator confidence through continued knowledge application throughout each unit. Ultimately, these activities provide opportunities to practice translating the science of reading into one's own classroom.
- 70% of educators engaged in Texas Reading Academies (TRA) before the in-person training was available, as well as the artifact requirement. Educators who haven't received the full scope of knowledge required to become experts in the science of reading likely need additional support for foundational knowledge and application in the classroom.
- LETRS provides eight in-person sessions with a nationally trained literacy expert. All facilitators have undergone rigorous training and engage in annual activities to retain their facilitator status.

## Recommendations

If a large contingent of your teachers has participated in TRA and your district is looking to fortify their learning as well as build a transformative culture dedicated to the science of reading and Structured Literacy, we recommend the following actions:

- Audit your literacy leadership (district leaders, campus leaders, coaches, and lead teachers) to determine 1) they have completed TRA or LETRS, and 2) their self-evaluation of readiness to fully implement Structured Literacy.
- Determine if a LETRS cohort can help bridge current practice to full implementation.
- Consider common options:
  - » Create a literacy leadership cohort to complete Volumes 1 and 2. As the leadership cohort completes their training, they extend learning and facilitate Bridge to Practice activities with teachers and staff who have completed TRA for in-depth practice.
  - » Require a leadership cohort to complete **LETRS for Administrators**, focusing on Units 4 and 5 to implement district-level system procedures that fortify your Structured Literacy system.
  - » Require teachers who have not gone through TRA to complete Volumes 1 and 2 of LETRS with a subset of leaders, bridging practice to current understanding.
  - » Require sub-population teachers and leaders (primarily dyslexia coordinators and/or special education leaders) to complete Volumes 1 and 2, ensuring that deep practice is established within those departments and instructors.

## LETRS: The Gold Standard in Literacy Professional Learning

**LETRS professional learning for K–5 educators** is an investment in teachers' literacy knowledge and professional practice. Teachers gain essential knowledge to master the fundamentals of literacy instruction required to transform student learning.

