

READING BY DESIGN[®] Certification Program

Frequently Asked Questions



Webpage Links

- [Dyslexia homepage](#)
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Helpful Terminology

- Reading by Design (RbD)
 - Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI)
 - International Dyslexia Association (IDA)
 - Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI)
 - Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist (SLDI)
 - Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist (SLDS)
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General Questions

Will you be offering another information session?

We have meetings prior to each cohort. Please check our [website](#) for Information Meeting dates.

Comparing the Region 4 program to other programs, is there a difference between an SLD Interventionist and an SLD Specialist?

See the CERI website for information on the different IDA certifications: <https://effectivereading.org/ceri-certifications/>.

What if we only have 30 -minute classes instead of 45? Is there any flexibility with the minutes per day or group size requirements?

Those criteria are set by the accrediting body. You will need to have a group with 45 minutes to meet this CERI requirement.

Is there a benefit to being certified for the teachers beyond just being better at what they do and better teachers for their students?

The 5-day course provides the mechanics of the program. This is a national certification indicating deep study into Structured Literacy processes on which all dyslexia intervention programs are based.

Also, the Texas Education Code §29.0031(b) provides guidance for who should be included in multidisciplinary teams and ARD committees. (See below) This certification falls under the description after (2).

TEC §29.0031(b) states this member must: (1) hold a licensed dyslexia therapist license under Chapter 403, Occupations Code; (2) hold the most advanced dyslexia-related certification issued by an association recognized by the SBOE, and identified in, or substantially similar to an association identified in, the program and rules adopted under Sections 7.102 and 38.003;

Are there any exceptions for those who took the Dyslexia Intervention Program prior to Reading by Design?

All participants must complete Reading by Design training unless they have completed the Bridge training. If you have completed the Bridge training and have worked with students in Reading by Design, you may apply using the video option.

My RbD kit belongs to the district. Do I need to have my own kit?

You do not have to have your own personal kit; however, you do need access to a kit to conduct the required lessons.

Are teachers outside Region 4 eligible?

Yes. All certified teachers are eligible.

Can you receive any program credits from completing the Reading Academy ELAR blended course?

No. The requirements for this cohort are based upon the requirements of CERI to prepare you for the KPEERI exam.

In addition to gaining deeper knowledge and expertise, does this certification program provide supplemental materials to be used in addition to group sessions?

You will receive Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills by Judith Birsh and Suzanne Carreker and the Activity Book as part of the fees for the course. There will be additional materials provided as required for specific training. The cost of these materials is covered by the overall cost of the cohort.

When is the payment due for the program?

Full payment must be received ten business days prior to the first day of the Cohort.

Our district currently provides students only 90 minutes per week instead of the 4 -5 days/week at 45 minutes per session using the RbD program.

Regarding the Structured Literacy Dyslexia certifications, candidates must provide a minimum of 48 sessions for 2 times/week for 60 minutes non-consecutive days or 3 times/week for 45 minutes. However, according to the Reading by Design Fidelity Statement, Reading by Design lessons should be provided 4-5 times/week for 45 minutes. Therefore, the Reading by Design Certification Program requires 4-5 times/week for 45 minutes per session. Candidates will be required to adhere to these guidelines for successful completion.

My school is requiring me to do the Reading Academy this upcoming school year. Would you recommend doing both programs at the same time?

Given the amount of time required by both programs, it would be very difficult to complete the requirements simultaneously. Consider applying for the Cohort next year.

When would this begin?

The complete list of courses and meeting dates may be located on our webpage.

Cohort meetings are after school hours, but the other trainings are during the day. Would we need our administrator's permission to participate?

Due to the level of commitment required for this cohort, you should have your administrator's permission to participate. You will be submitting practicum videos and completing a practicum portfolio which will require working with students.

Would you be able to use RbD in Tutoring Sessions beyond school?

Yes.

I don't have control over my group time. That is set by my principal. Is there a letter that we could give our principal to adjust this?

You may provide your administrator with a copy of the Reading by Design Fidelity Statement, as well as, the requirements for this level of certification from IDA which can be found [here](#).

Are you going to provide this program next year or is this the only year that this program is available?

Cohorts will be offered every year.

If we did not do any of the Delving Deeper courses, is that something that we need to do before this? Or are they included in the program?

These courses do not need to be completed prior to registering for this program. Candidates will complete the Delving Deeper courses with the cohort. As part of the cohort, there is additional coursework associated with each session.

Do you need to be a full -time teacher through these courses, or could you be a reading interventionist?

You can be either a teacher or an interventionist, as long as you have time and access to a small group of students for dyslexia intervention 4-5 days/week for a minimum of 45 minutes each day for a minimum of 48 weeks.

Will passing the KPEERI exam give me better job opportunities in public schools?

This depends on the hiring district and the credentials they expect from dyslexia interventionists. Candidates should contact their districts for further information.

How do we find the students? Are the schools supportive of this program in giving us the time we need?

Ideally, the students in your intervention group would be students in your school who have been identified with dyslexia. Candidates who are not currently a provider of dyslexia instruction may request permission from their campus or district administrators to work with a group of identified students as part of this program. Candidates should inform their administrators of their participation in this certification program to ascertain the level of support provided by their campus or district.



ADMISSION TO PROGRAM/VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

How many days per week?

Cohort participants must follow the Reading by Design Fidelity Statement when scheduling and meeting with students. You will need a small group of 2-5 students 4-5 days/week for a minimum of 45 minutes for 48 weeks for the Interventionist level. An additional 48 weeks are required for those working on the Specialist level.

How do you approve/deny applicants?

We will ensure that an applicant meets all the CERI requirements. If the teacher has previously completed Reading by Design training and opts to submit a video lesson, the video should demonstrate a thorough knowledge of all lesson components. If we have more applicants than we have spots available, teachers may reapply for the next cohort.

Can you explain more about the video?

The video option is for teachers who have previously trained in and successfully completed the Dyslexia Intervention Fundamentals with Reading by Design five-day course. This submission will be a 45-minute video of the teacher working with a student or a group of students to demonstrate knowledge of all lesson components. The video lesson should be from Volumes 1, 2, OR 3 and should NOT be a review or mastery check lesson. Videos must include all lesson components.

When are the videos due?

Video submissions must be sent to RBDCP@esc4.net within 5 business days of a completed program application.

How many opportunities do we have to submit a video to get credit for the 5 -day reading by design course that we completed?

Only one video per application may be submitted.

Is there a time limit on the video?

Videos should be no longer than 60 minutes.

For the video submission for application, do you need to submit a whole lesson?

Yes, you must submit an entire 45-minute lesson.

Can the video be a mastery check, review lesson, or bridge lesson?

No. The video should be a 45-minute Reading by Design lesson from Volume 1, 2, or 3 demonstrating all lesson components.

Do I need to enroll in an open enrollment session for the 5 -day RbD class? Or is that part of this program?

This course is included in the cohort list of courses. Cohort members participate in this session together.

What date will the application be due?

See the website. Keep in mind that the due date includes your video (within the 5-day window) and all other necessary documents as outlined in the application (i.e., official transcripts and teaching certificates).

What are the prerequisites in order to apply?

The prerequisites are listed on the application. Applicants must be certified teachers who will be actively teaching Reading by Design to at least one group of students during the cohort program.

Do we complete the application at Region 4?

Yes. The link is on our RbD Certification website.

If you are accepted to the cohort, when will the first payment be due? Is it due in full?

Payment is due in full at least 10 business days prior to the first day of the cohort.

Individuals who are paying for themselves may qualify for a payment plan. Please contact RBDCP@esc4.net for information.



COURSEWORK/COHORT REQUIREMENTS

Did you say classes would be during the day?

Most classes will be held during the day.

Cohort meetings will be held after school over Zoom. Classes will be held during the day.

The initial 5-day course meets from 8:30 a.m. to noon via zoom. There will also be a minimum of three hours work outside of class each day, so participants should plan to be occupied until 3:30. A Pre-Day 1 assignment is due before the first day of the 5-day class. Completion of the course requires successfully completing each assignment with submissions being turned in on time.

What time of day are the classes?

Morning classes will meet 8:30-11:30. Afternoon classes will meet 1:00-4:00. Full-day classes will meet 8:30-3:30.

Are all classes in person?

All classes will be virtual with the option for in-person for the final course meeting.

During the program, the video requirement includes 3 videos in total. Does this include the application video?

No. One video will be submitted as part of the application for those who want to opt out of the 5-day Reading by Design initial course. Three videos will be submitted at regularly scheduled times during the program as part of the practicum experience.

If I have already taken RbD do I have to attend those days?

Candidates that have previously successfully completed the Dyslexia Intervention Fundamental with Reading by Design five-day course should submit a video of a complete lesson as part of their application. Videos that meet criteria can take the place of the five-day course listed in the cohort requirements. Participants who submit a video that does not meet criteria will be required to take the five-day initial course, but there will be additional assignments.

If we are scheduled for a Delving Deeper session this year, will it count as one of the optional sessions or do we already need to be enrolled in the cohort?

We recommend candidates repeat these courses. Candidates who have previously attended a Delving Deeper course may submit their certificate of attendance to their cohort leader for consideration as credit for attendance for the course.

Candidates will be required to complete the activities associated with that course and will not receive a refund for the cost of the course.

Can we continue with groups we are already working with, or do we need to start at the beginning of the RbD program?

You can continue with your groups as long as one focus group is in Volume 1, 2, or 3.



CERTIFICATION

Once an applicant completes the practicum will they be able to sit for the CALT test as well?

No. The exam to become a CALT is through the Academic Language Therapy Association. Visit the ALTA website for more information.

Do we have to recertify every year?

The recertification requirement is through IDA. Visit the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI) website for more information. <https://effectivereading.org/faq-2/#CertificationRenewal>

Will there be a \$125.00 yearly cost?

The annual recertification fee is a CERI requirement. Visit the CERI website for more information. <https://effectivereading.org/faq-2/#CertificationRenewal>

How many PD hours each year are required to keep the certification current?

CERI requires 10 clock hours each year. Please refer to the CERI website for the most current information.

Will this certification appear on our Texas teacher credential?

No. This is a national certification.

Is it the same certification that I can get in TDLR?

No. To receive licensure as a dyslexia therapist through the Texas Department of Licensure and Regulation, you must first become a Certified Academic Language Therapist.

Are they moving toward having you be certified to be able to teach dyslexia classes?

No. View Figure 4.1 of The Dyslexia Handbook, 2021 Update for requirements. The state of Texas is encouraging the development of highly-trained interventionists.

What are the different career pathways between a specialist and an interventionist?

It depends on the hiring district and the credentials expected of dyslexia interventionists. Ask your district for information on this question.
