

Dyslexia Therapist Training

Application Deadline: May 8, 2026

The Dyslexia Therapist Training Course is offered by Dyslexia Training and Evaluation Center of Waco (DTEC Waco) located in Waco, Texas. This is a rigorous training course that offers the highest level of training to prepare individuals so that they may give children with dyslexia the most effective tools and strategies to become life-long readers. Individuals meeting all training requirements from DTEC Waco will be trained in Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia developed by the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia at Scottish Rite for Children in Dallas, Texas. Upon completion of all training requirements, candidates will earn a certificate of completion as a “Dyslexia Therapist”. Eligible candidates who hold a master’s degree may apply with Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) to sit for the certification exam. ALTA is the professional organization which certifies professionals giving the title of Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT).

Please mail completed application to:

Dyslexia Training and Evaluation Center of Waco
1600 Lake Air Drive, Suite 104
Waco, TX 76710

Or you may e-mail completed application to:

jennifer@dtecwaco.com

Your application will be complete and eligible for review upon receipt of the following required items:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Two professional letters of recommendation
3. Official transcript of a bachelor’s degree.
4. Signed School Support Form (if applicable)
5. Signed School Financial Support Form (if applicable)

General Program Information

The course offers training in the following:

- Educational identification of dyslexia
- Characteristics of dyslexia
- *Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia*, a multisensory, structured approach to teaching:
 - phonemic awareness
 - phonic skills
 - vocabulary
 - fluency
 - comprehension skills
 - spelling
 - handwriting
 - written expression
- Classroom strategies and techniques used for students with dyslexia and dysgraphia
- Characteristics of dysgraphia
- Conducting parent and teacher information seminars
- Section 504/IDEA Laws
- Role of Executive Function

Candidates for the training must:

- Hold a bachelor's degree.

Length of the program

- Two consecutive years (Providing the trainee has completed the requirements of documented 700 clinical teaching hours. If the trainee fails to complete the training requirements by late spring of the 2nd year of training, he/she may continue the supervised documentation for an additional training/administration fee of \$500.00 per trainee, per year, until fulfillment of training is complete. Therapists-in-training have 5 years from their start date to meet the requirement of 700 contact hours with students.)

Graduates of the Dyslexia Therapist Training Course:

- Will receive a certificate title of "Dyslexia Therapist".
- Will be allowed to purchase and use "*Take Flight*" materials from Scottish Rite for Children in accordance with their policies and procedures.
- Are eligible to complete the certification exam through the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) if the applicant has completed a master's degree. For more information about Midwestern State University's Graduate program you may call (940) 397-4800.

First Year of Training

Academic Instruction

Introductory Course Includes:

- One (1) 2-hour virtual Orientation Seminar on Thursday, May 19, 2026 (4:15 – 6:15)
- Ten (10) in-person training days, weekdays in the summer, July 20 – 31, 2026
 - Monday – Friday
 - 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - Location at DTEC Waco
 - Lecture
 - Practicum
 - Classroom observation and participation
 - Competency assignments
 - Final exam

Introductory Seminars:

- Five (5) full-day in-person seminars during the school year TBD (8:00- 5:30, at DTEC Waco)
- One (1) in-person or virtual ALTA approved *professional* conference (ALTA, IDA, or CESD)
- One (1) in-person/virtual approved Dyslexia Basics Identification Seminar during the school year dates/times TBD, provided by DTEC Waco

Clinical Teaching:

Demonstration of Teaching Competency

- Five (5) demonstration lessons with one of the local remedial classes
- Self-critiqued by therapist-in-training
- Observed and evaluated by a Qualified Instructor
- Accompanying suggestions, critiques, and evaluation
- One-on-one review of evaluation with a Qualified Instructor

Supervised Teaching:

Teaching Experience (one of the following)

- Implement and maintain remedial classes (1-6 students per class) of Dyslexia Therapy with at least three (3) groups for at least 45 minutes, in an appropriate setting, during each school day
- Implement and maintain remedial classes (1-6 students per class) of Dyslexia Therapy with at least three (3) groups for at least 1 hour, in an appropriate setting, 4 days a week

Progress Reports

Prepare and submit periodic Progress Reports documenting supervised teaching situations and clinical teaching hours.

Second Year of Training

Academic Instruction

Advanced Course includes:

- 5 days in the summer of 2026 (TBD)
- Monday - Friday
- 8:00 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
- Lecture
- Practicum
- Competency assignments
- Final Exam

Advanced Seminars:

- Five (5) full-day seminars during the school year TBD (8:00- 5:30, at DTEC Waco)
- One (1) in-person/virtual ALTA approved *professional* conference (ALTA, IDA, CESD)
- One (1) in-person/virtual approved Beyond the Basics Dyslexia Identification Seminar during the school year dates/times TBD, provided by DTEC Waco

Clinical Teaching:

Demonstration of Teaching Competency

- Five (5) demonstration lessons with one of the local remedial classes
- Self-critiqued by therapist-in-training

- Observed and evaluated by a Qualified Instructor
- Accompanying suggestions, critiques, and evaluation
- One-on-one instruction with a Qualified Instructor

Supervised Teaching:

Teaching Experience (one of the following)

- Implement and maintain remedial classes (1-6 students per class) of Dyslexia Therapy with at least three (3) of the same groups carried over from Introductory year, teaching the advanced curriculum, for at least 45 minutes 5 days a week, in an appropriate setting, during each school day
- Implement and maintain remedial classes (1-6 students per class) of Dyslexia Therapy with at least three (3) of the same groups carried over from Introductory year, teaching the advanced curriculum, for at least 1 hour for 4 days a week, in an appropriate setting, during each school day

Progress Reports

Prepare and submit periodic Progress Reports documenting supervised teaching situations and clinical teaching hours.



School Support Form

(This form must be completed by a Supervisor and returned with the application.)

The supervisor responsible for the support of **(applicant's name)** _____ while enrolled in the Dyslexia Therapist Training course should review the following terms of participation. If the terms can be met for the two years of training the supervisor should sign below. If the applicant is selected to participate in the Dyslexia Therapist Training Course and the terms are not fulfilled, Dyslexia Training and Evaluation Center of Waco and Jennifer Halvorsen cannot be responsible for the applicant's completion of training until all requirements are met. There will be no refunds after the summer sessions.

1. The participating school district will allow the therapist-in-training to instruct at least three groups of no more than 1-6 students per group in daily, 45-minute sessions for 5 days a week (or, one-hour sessions for 4 days a week) for two (2) consecutive school years. Student members of each group should be at a level which is age-appropriate (age 7, or older) to begin Take Flight curriculum in order to count towards the 700 student contact hours. Students may not be added to a group once instruction begins, as this is a sequential, cumulative course. However, it is possible for the school district to form a new group anytime during the school year.
2. The participating school district will provide an appropriate setting for daily instruction. An appropriate setting is defined as a set-apart space, in an environment free from interruptions by non-participating students. Also, the therapist-in-training will have freedom from responsibility for other groups or situations during the regularly designed 45-minute (or, hourly) remedial lesson periods.
3. During the *first* school year of training, from August to May, the following scheduling allowances are necessary for the therapist-in-training. The participating school district will allow the above applicant the following:
 - a. Off campus seven (7) total days (as listed above) during the school year, with no financial penalty
 - i. attend five (5) day-long seminars during the week at DTEC Waco offices
 - ii. attend one (1) Introductory Identification Seminar
 - iii. attend one (1) ALTA approved professional conference (ALTA, IDA or CESD)
 - b. Review five (5) videotaped demonstration lessons/evaluations (may be completed by phone conference)
4. During the *second* school year of training, from August to May, the following scheduling allowances are necessary for the therapist-in-training. The participating school district will allow the above applicant the following:
 - a. Off campus seven (7) total days during the school year, with no financial penalty
 - i. attend five (5) day-long seminars at DTEC Waco offices
 - ii. attend one (1) Advance Identification Seminar
 - iii. attend one (1) ALTA approved professional conference (ALTA, IDA or CESD)
 - b. Review five (5) videotaped demonstration lessons/evaluations (may be completed by phone conference)
5. The participating school district will provide the following materials for use by the above applicant in implementing the program.
 - a. Required therapist-in-training course materials for the Introductory and Advanced Course and Seminars that will be purchased and in place by the beginning of the course.
 - b. Required student materials for the students in each remedial group taught by the above applicant that will be purchased and in place by the beginning of the class.
 - c. Complete sets of required non-consumable classroom materials for the student in each group taught by the above applicant that will be purchased and in place by the beginning of the class.

Supervisor's signature

Date

Print Name of Supervisor

School District

Phone number

Email

School Financial Form

The supervisor responsible for the support of **(applicant's name)** _____ while enrolled in the Dyslexia Therapist Training Course, should review the following terms of participation. If the terms can be met for the two (2) years of training the supervisor should sign below. If the applicant is selected to participate in the Dyslexia Therapist Training Course and the terms are not fulfilled, Dyslexia Training and Evaluation Center of Waco cannot be responsible for the applicant's completion of training.

1. If the applicant does not live within daily driving distance, your district will financially support:
 - a. Per diem housing and meals. (approximately \$150 per day) (minimum of 15 days)
 - b. Transportation over the 2-year period [airfare/mileage for approximately 13 round trips to Waco for training, 2 round trips to an approved professional conference]
 - c. Supplies for the teacher
 - i. approximately \$1500 - 1st summer
 - ii. approximately \$600 — 2nd summer
 - d. Supplies for the students
 - i. about \$260 per student over the 2-year program (consumable student books/materials)
 - ii. approximately \$500 to set up a classroom
 - e. Registration Fee Two (2) Professional Conferences
 - f. Approximately \$350 of additional textbooks that may be purchased by the trainee or the district
2. If the applicant lives within daily driving distance, your district will financially support:
 - a. Per diem meal (approximately \$5 - \$7 per day for lunch)
 - b. Transportation over the 2-year period (transportation for 27 round trips to Waco, and 2 round trips to an approved professional conference)
 - c. Supplies for the teacher
 - i. approximately \$1500 — 1st summer
 - ii. approximately \$600 — 2nd summer
 - d. Supplies for the students
 - i. about \$260 per student over the 2-year program (consumable student books/materials)
 - ii. approximately \$500 to set up a classroom
 - e. Registration Fee for Two (2) Professional Conferences over a 2-year period
 - f. Approximately \$350 of additional textbooks that may be purchased by the trainee or the district

The district will also pay Dyslexia Training and Evaluation Center of Waco a total Training Fee of \$2,800.00 for the first year of training for each therapist-in-training, and \$2,000 for the second year of training for each therapist-in-training. If training extends beyond the two-year minimum, an additional fee of \$500 per year, per trainee, will be charged, but not more than 3 years. The DTEC Training Fee does not include the cost of the materials, travel fees, conference fees, or ALTA fees. The therapist-in-training, and/or his/her district, assumes approximately \$2100 for teacher training materials, \$500 for materials to set up classroom, \$260 per student for student materials, and approximately \$350 for additional books, and personal course supplies, over the 2-year period, and any travel and/or per diem expenses incurred by the trainee, and the cost for attending Dyslexia Identification workshops and Dyslexia conferences.

Supervisor's signature

Date

Please print signer's name

Telephone number

Position of signer

Fax number or E-mail

School

School district

Name of Accounts Payable Clerk/ PO Contact

Phone Number

E-mail address



Application

Please make a copy of all pages and retain that copy for your files.

Name		District	
<hr/>			
Home Address	City	State	Zip
<hr/>			
Cell Phone	Home Number		Work Number
<hr/>			
Fax	Email		
<hr/>			
Date of Birth			

Current Professional Position

What do you currently teach?	
<hr/>	
Grade level(s)	School(s)
<hr/>	
Current Supervisor Name	Current Supervisor's Phone Number

Professional Background

List your previous jobs (most recent experience first)

1)	Place of Employment	Job Duties	Number of Years
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2)	Place of Employment	Job Duties	Number of Years
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3)	Place of Employment	Job Duties	Number of Years



Educational Background

List all the colleges / universities you have attended (most recent first)

1)	University/College Attended	Degree Earned	Years Attended
2)	University/College Attended	Degree Earned	Years Attended
3)	University/College Attended	Degree Earned	Years Attended

Questions

- 1) Why are you interested in applying for this training?
- 2) To date, what experience have you had with dyslexia? Please describe.
- 3) How are the needs of the students with dyslexia currently addressed in your district?
- 4) How do you and your supervisor(s) intend to utilize the skills of the Dyslexia Therapist in your district?

I acknowledge that I have received and read the policies contained in this manual, and I agree to comply with such policies and practices as a condition of my participation in the Dyslexia Therapy Training Program.

Therapist Name (Print Name)

Date

Therapist Signature

QI Signature

Date