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Patterson Family Foundation Supports New Bilingual Teacher Training to Help Kids in Kansas Read

WICHITA, Kan.— Phillips Fundamental Learning Center (PFLC) is excited to share that it has received a special grant from the Patterson Family Foundation to help train Spanish/English bilingual educators to support young Spanish speaking English Language Learners.

This new program will give bilingual educators specialized training to help Kindergarten and 1st-grade Spanish speaking students learn to read, write, and spell in the English language. Many Kansas students struggle with reading, including those learning English as a second language. According to the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores, only 17% of Hispanic students scored at a proficient level.

PFLC is honored to announce that Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, an expert in teaching Spanish Speaking English Language Learners, will provide a training program consisting of Science of Reading and Structured Literacy teaching methods proven to help students learn to read. Support from experienced mentors will be available to teachers in the program as they practice in real classrooms the skills they have learned. Upon completion of the course, participants may sit for the exam to earn the esteemed Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) Bilingual certification with the Academic Language Therapy Association or the Certified Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist (C-SLDI) certification through the Center for Effective Reading Instruction.

PFLC is looking for 40 Spanish/English bilingual educators to join the first training group this summer, July 7-11, at PFLC in Wichita, Kansas. Tuition will be covered by a generous grant from the Patterson Family Foundation.

Who can apply?

- Educators who are fluent in reading and writing in both Spanish and English.
- Educators working in rural Kansas counties (see the attached map for eligible areas).

The deadline to apply is **May 31, 2025**. For more details, visit our [FAQ page](#) or complete a form to speak with an enrollment specialist.

“This grant is life-changing,” said Jeanine Phillips, Executive Director of PFLC. “By training teachers in bilingual literacy, we can help more young students succeed in school and in life.”

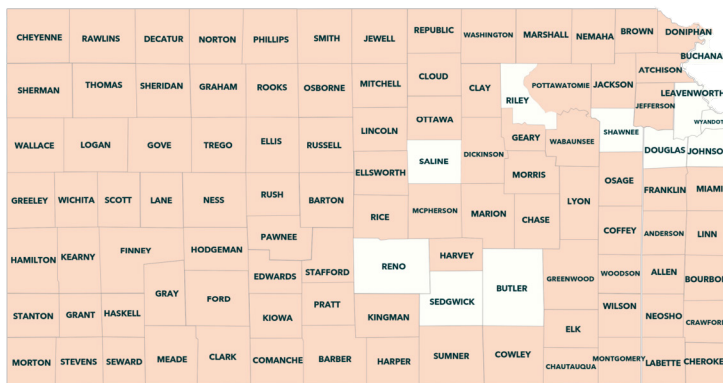
Help us take a big step forward in reaching our goal of **All Kids Reading...All Kids Succeeding**.

Apply Now – Limited Spots Available

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Note: This press release incorporates data from the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to emphasize the critical need for this initiative.

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