

Project ELITE

The ELITE (Excellent Literacy Instruction to Empower) Institute is a summer program designed to deliver literacy instruction to K-5 students in Fort Worth ISD. This program came as a result of a partnership between Texas Wesleyan University School of Education and SPARC (Strengthening After School Programs through Advocacy, Resources and Collaboration), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality after-school programs to students in the community.

The goals of the ELITE Institute are to:

- address the summer slide for students in the areas of literacy in an environment where they can learn the fun of reading and writing;
- provide professional development to teachers and after-school community providers in best practices for reading and writing;
- enhance acquisition of literacy skills through the implementation of culturally responsive literacy strategies;
- enrich teachers' knowledge of best practices of reading and writing within an active and engaging learning environment.

ELITE is a unique program in that it provides professional development with immediate opportunity for implementation with coaching. In addition, the program is free to families and provides snacks and transportation.

The program was designed by two professors of Texas Wesleyan University School of Education, Dr. Elsa Anderson and Dr. Lisa Dryden. Alice Puente, Texas Wesleyan University Trustee, and Tobi Jackson, Fort Worth SPARCC, enlisted the professors to create and deliver a summer program.