

## What is HLTA?

Higher Level Teaching Assistants. The DfES and the Teacher Training Agency (TTA) have developed and published standards for higher level teaching assistants. You can find these at: <http://www.hlta.gov.uk/php/read.php?articleid=1385&sectionid=182>

## How do I get HLTA status?

Through accessing a training programme from an approved training provider. These programmes will help teaching assistants to meet the HLTA Standards and will provide assessment against the Standards.

## What are the training programmes?

The TTA are organising national training programmes which will be made up of:

1. an **'assessment only' route** of around three days training to 'HLTA status' designed for those candidates who have been judged ready to be assessed against the Standards;
2. a **'full training programme' route** of around 50 days training to 'HLTA status'. This will be available to candidates who have the potential to operate at the level of an HLTA, but who require a training programme that addresses the full range of the Standards before they would be in a position to undertake an assessment; and
3. an **'accelerated route'** to 'HLTA status', for those candidates who do not require a full training programme but are not yet ready to undertake an assessment. This will offer a more tailored programme and will provide targeted support, taking account of candidates' prior achievement. The TTA will develop and pilot this accelerated route in 2004/5.

## When do the training programmes start?

The first training programmes for routes 1 and 2 will be available from April 2004.

## Who will pay for the training?

Support staff and teaching assistants working in maintained schools seeking 'HLTA status' under each of the three routes identified above will be able to apply to their LEA for approval to take up a TTA funded training place. In addition schools may choose to use part of the School Development Grant for this purpose.

## Who will provide the training?

You will be able to choose which training provider you use, provided they have approved status from the TTA for HLTA training. A list of approved trainers is available at <http://www.hlta.gov.uk/hltaproviders/>

## Are there any minimum requirements?

You need to be working in a school, although this requirement may change in the future. You also need a qualification in English and Maths equivalent to NVQ2 **by the end** of the training programme. See: <http://www.hlta.gov.uk/php/read.php?sectionid=179&articleid=1361> for a list of acceptable qualifications.

## Want to know more?

See: [www.hlta.gov.uk](http://www.hlta.gov.uk)  
or email your query to: [expert@literacymatters.com](mailto:expert@literacymatters.com)