



**THE ALLIANCE FOR ACCREDITATION & CERTIFICATION  
OF STRUCTURED LANGUAGE EDUCATION**  
***Sponsored by the International Dyslexia Association***

**Does The Alliance have individual members?**

The Alliance is composed of three accrediting and/or certifying organizations. These organizations include the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA), the Academic Language Therapy Association Centers Council (ALTA CC), and the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC). All the efforts of these organizations are sponsored by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

**What is The Alliance?**

The Alliance is a tax qualified 501(c)(3) corporation.

The purpose of The Alliance is

- To improve the teaching of reading by promoting criteria and standards for special and general education instruction
- To inform the public of the criteria and standards required for quality instruction
- To collaborate with researchers to validate clinically proven multisensory structured language education (MSLE) instructional practices
- To collaborate with other organizations concerned with accreditation of MSLE courses and certification of graduates who work with individuals with dyslexia and related disorders.

**What is the difference between accreditation and certification?**

**Webster's dictionary defines the following terms:**

**Accredit** – To recognize as coming up to an official standard, worthy of trust

**Accreditation** – Recognition of a school, college, hospital, agency for social work or the like, as coming up to an official standard

**Certify** – To guarantee the quality or value of, to attest to the reliability of

**Certification** – The act of certifying or the state of being certified

**Workshop** – A seminar or meeting for the study and/or discussion of specific approaches Workshops are for briefer periods of time (1, 2, or 3 days) than a training course and do not include a practicum and do not lead to graduation or certification.

**Practicum** – A supervised period of practical experience as part of an academic course

***“promoting literacy through research, education and advocacy”***

## **How do these terms apply to The Alliance?**

The Alliance organizations accredit a variety of MSLE programs. Many of the programs certify the individuals who have successfully completed their requirements. Each organization maintains standards and criteria for accreditation and certification. The high standards adopted by each organization reflect the common commitment of The Alliance to improving the teaching of reading for special and general education instruction.

## **How can The Alliance improve teacher education in my state?**

The Alliance has established standards and criteria for teacher education that are widely accepted in the field. Additionally, The Alliance has compiled a list of colleges and universities across the country that offer courses in multisensory structured language education.

*Both items are available from the International Dyslexia Association.*

## **How do I contact the three accrediting and/or certifying organizations?**

### **The Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA)**

#### ***Certification***

13140 Coit Road  
Suite 320, LB 120  
Dallas, TX 75240

Phone: 972-233-9107, ext. 204  
Fax: 972-490-4219  
brandi@dondillon.com

### **Academic Language Therapy Association Centers Council (ALTA CC)**

#### ***Accreditation***

Nancy Coffman  
c/o Shelton School  
15720 Hillcrest Road  
Dallas, TX 75248

Phone: 972-774-1772  
Fax: 972-991-3977  
ncoffman@shelton.org

### **International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC)**

#### ***Accreditation***

Joyce Pickering  
c/o Shelton School  
15720 Hillcrest Road  
Dallas, TX 75248

Phone: 972-774-1772  
Fax: 972-991-3977  
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*The International Dyslexia Association thanks Valerie Tucker for her assistance in the preparation of this fact sheet.*

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