

2019 – 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Distinguished Teacher Review?

The Distinguished Teacher Review (DTR) is a component of the Teacher Excellence Initiative. The aim of DTR is to retain and reward our best teachers, inspire other teachers to grow, and raise the bar for effective teaching.

What is the purpose of the DTR Application?

The purpose of the DTR Application is to retain and reward teachers for the many roles they hold within and beyond the classroom. The application emphasizes three key levers of impact: leadership, lifelong learning, and contributions to the profession.

What is the 2019 – 2020 DTR Eligibility Criteria?

For the 2019–2020 school year, all teachers with 2018-2019 TEI data must meet the following criteria:

1. Teachers must be in at least their third year of service in the 2019-2020 school year.
2. Teachers must have earned at least 65 points on their summative performance in the 2018-2019 school year.
3. Teachers must have received at least half of available points from a combination of their student achievement and student experience points, if applicable, in the 2018–2019 school year.
4. Teachers must be in the top 30 percent of their teacher category based on their 2018–2019 school year evaluation results.

Note: DTR eligibility criteria is adjusted for teachers with no prior 2018-2019 TEI data, specifically teachers who are new to the district, do not have 2018–2019 evaluation results, received a Scorecard indicating “No Level” or “No Rating,” or did not receive a Scorecard. These teachers must be in at least their third year of service in 2019-2020 and have a summative performance evaluation completed by December 20, 2019, earning at least 65 points to be eligible to apply. After the DTR Application is complete, teachers must receive at least half of available points from a combination of their student achievement and student experience points, if applicable, from the 2019-2020 school year to remain eligible.

If I meet DTR eligibility criteria, am I guaranteed a Distinguished Effectiveness level?

No. Teachers who undergo the Distinguished Teacher Review must also earn an average evaluation score within or beyond the Proficient II effectiveness level range to earn a Distinguished effectiveness level.

Do I have to go through the Distinguished Teacher Review to earn a Distinguished effectiveness level?

Newly eligible teachers (i.e. DTR-eligible teachers with an effectiveness level below Proficient II) must undergo the Distinguished Teacher Review to receive an effectiveness level of Proficient II or higher. Teachers currently holding a Distinguished effectiveness level (Proficient II or higher) and DTR points do not need to submit a DTR Application to advance an effectiveness level.

If I currently hold a Distinguished effectiveness level, do I need to go through the Distinguished Teacher Review to remain a Distinguished teacher?

No. For Distinguished teachers who maintain DTR eligibility, DTR points will carryover for two years. Note: teachers’ effectiveness levels will not decrease unless they earn a lower evaluation rating for three consecutive years.

If I currently hold a Distinguished effectiveness level, will my DTR points carryover?

Yes. For teachers who maintain DTR eligibility, DTR points will carryover for two years only. After DTR points have been applied to teachers’ Scorecards for three consecutive years, teachers must undergo DTR again to earn DTR points.

If I am eligible to use carryover points and elect to submit a DTR Application early, will I receive the better of the two scores?

No. Teachers will receive DTR points based on his or her most recent DTR Application.

What is the deadline to submit a DTR Application for the 2019 – 2020 school year?

For teachers with 2018-2019 TEI data, the deadline to submit a DTR Application is noon on November 7, 2019.

For teachers with no 2018–2019 TEI data, the deadline to submit a DTR Application is noon on February 27, 2020.



How many points are available to teachers through the DTR Application?

Starting in the 2018-2019 school year, teachers can earn up to 20 points on their DTR Application. Specifically, teachers may earn up to 8 points by demonstrating examples of their Leadership and up to 6 points by demonstrating examples of their Lifelong Learning and Contributions to the Profession, respectively. Teachers who underwent DTR in the 2017-2018 school year and choose not to reapply, may rollover points for up to two years using the 2017-2018 scoring methodology.

What types of experiences should I include in the Leadership domain of the DTR Application?

In the Leadership domain, a Distinguished Teacher serves as a role model and leader for peers across the campus in formal and informal settings, proactively setting high standards and demonstrating commitment that accelerates the goals of the school. Examples may include mentoring new teachers, coordinating new teacher support at the campus, or demonstrating initiative in starting a new campus system. Experiences are differentiated across performance levels based on the *strength of the outcome*. For more information about the Leadership domain, view the Resources page on the TEI website or attend a DTR Application Workshop.

What types of experiences should I include in the Lifelong Learning domain of the DTR Application?

In the Lifelong Learning domain, a Distinguished Teacher initiates or seeks out multiple learning opportunities and applies learning successfully to improve individual and campus practice, showing commitment to team innovation and growth. Examples may include professional learning experiences such as personal research, formal training, or degree programs. Experiences are differentiated across performance levels based on the *outcomes* resulting from implementing learning. For more information about the Lifelong Learning domain, view the Resources page on the TEI website or attend a DTR Application Workshop.

What type of experiences should I include in the Contributions to the Profession domain of the DTR Application?

In the Contributions to the Profession domain, a Distinguished Teacher contributes to the improvement of instructional practice of other K-12 teachers and/or impacts K-12 education policy at the campus, district, state, or national level. Examples may include collaboration, development of resource materials, leading professional development, or participation in committees or groups that impact education policy. Experiences are differentiated across performance levels based on the strength of the outcome and scope of impact. All experiences must cite outcomes to meet the requirements for this domain. For more information about the Contributions to the Profession domain, view the Resources page on the TEI website or attend a DTR Application Workshop.

How is my DTR Application score determined?

The DTR Application is reviewed by a trained, TEI and DTR Certified, panel. Each experience is individually scored using the DTR Rubric and assigned a performance level. Applicants are given the highest performance level based on individually scored experiences within each domain. Therefore, it is in an applicant's best interest to provide the strongest experiences within each domain. Teachers will receive the points earned from the review of their application on their DTR Snapshot by June 2020.

Where can I find additional resources to assist me in completing the DTR Application?

Additional materials may be found on the Resources page on the TEI website. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to attend a DTR Application Workshop.

When will I be notified if I earn a Distinguished effectiveness level?

Applicants will be notified of their effectiveness level based on the 2019 - 2020 school year via their Scorecard in September 2020.

How do I reach Exemplary II or Master teacher status?

To reach Exemplary II, an applicant must have served as an Exemplary I teacher for at least one year. The first Exemplary II teachers will be designated in September 2016. To reach Master teacher status, an applicant must have been rated at the Exemplary II level for at least two consecutive years and taught in a Tier I school as a Distinguished Teacher for a minimum of four consecutive years. The first Master teachers will be designated in September of 2018.

Is there a limit to the number of Distinguished Teachers there can be at one school?

No. There is no limit to the number of Distinguished Teachers there can be at one school.

For more information about the Distinguished Teacher Review, visit the TEI website at www.dallasisd.org/tei. To contact a member of our team, email us at tei@dallasisd.org or call at 972-749-5712.