

**Which Special Education teachers will be eligible to participate?**

Special education teachers that are the teacher of record are eligible to participate in the ETIP program. These teachers provide grades for the report card in one or more subjects, teach at least 50% of the time, and design and implement instruction. In most cases, teachers of self-contained classes and those teaching MTI for 50% of the time would qualify for this program, as they are the teacher of record for one or more subjects and provide report card grades.

**Are retire/rehire teachers eligible for this program?**

No. These teachers are not eligible.

**If I'm not currently in the classroom, do I have to return for two years before I will be eligible?**

No. You must only be working 2 years in Mesquite to apply for the group starting in 2017-2018.

**I already have a master's degree in School Counseling or another educational field (library science, administration, ETIP.) Will my master's be honored for Level Two, even though it is not in Curriculum and Instruction?**

Yes. A master's in any field will be honored for Level Two of the program, as long as that master's was completed by May 2018. This means that those currently working on a master's degree, that is not in a content area or Curriculum and Instruction, must finish by May 2018 in order to have that master's grandfathered in for that requirement in Level Two.

**I currently receive a \$1500 annual stipend for a master's degree. Will I continue to receive this stipend in addition to the \$5000, once I complete Level One?**

No. While in Level One, the total stipend will be \$5000. Once the Level One criteria have been met for two years, the master's degree will allow teachers to immediately be eligible for Level Two.

**I do not wish to pursue this program, but would like to earn a master's degree in Educational Administration. Will I receive tuition reimbursement?**

Yes. MISD will continue to provide the \$6500 tuition reimbursement for a master's degree in educational administration, counseling, library services and diagnostician. If you are unsure if your content area applies for tuition reimbursement please contact Lanny Frasier.

**What if I already have a master's degree?**

We will honor a master's in any field that has already been completed or will be completed by May 2018. A participant will still have to complete the 18 hours of coursework designed for Mesquite ISD to earn the stipend at Level One, but the master's requirement for Level Two will already be completed.

**If I already have a master's do I automatically qualify for Level One and the \$5000 stipend?**

No. A teacher must complete the requirements of Level One in order to earn the stipend. However, the Masters will count for the educational requirement in Level Two.

**I do not wish to pursue the ETIP program but will soon complete my master's degree. Will I still receive the \$1500 stipend each year for having a master's?**

Yes. Those teachers not participating in the ETIP program will continue to receive the \$1500 per year for a master's degree.

**I just finished my doctorate degree. Will I still be required to take the initial 6 courses for Level One certification?**

Yes. Everyone entering the program will be required to complete the 6 courses required as the educational component of Level One. Your master's and doctorate degrees will meet the educational requirements for Levels Two and Three, but there are additional requirements for these levels that must be met, including adding value to the campus and district.

**Can teachers bring other ideas for meeting the "add value" or educational component at Level Two and Level Three?**

Yes. The list of adding value is not all inclusive. There will be room for innovative ideas and/or degrees or certifications that are not yet available to count for these areas. The district committee would evaluate other ideas on an individual basis.

**Do I have to move through the levels according to the timeline shown?**

No. For example, you could earn Level One, wait a few years, and then earn Level Two. This allows for each individual to move through the levels at a pace that best suits his life circumstances.

**Will the 18 hours completed in Level One be paid for by the district?**

Yes, the district will pay for the level one coursework. Those wishing to apply the coursework to a Master's Degree in C & I from Texas A&M Commerce will pay tuition to the university for the practicum courses. More information will be provided for those who are interested.

**Who will observe the practicum?**

The instructor of the course.

**Will I be required to pay for the Level One courses?**

While you will likely be asked to purchase a professional book for each of the courses, you will not be charged any tuition or fees for the courses at Level One.