

DTR APPLICATION FAQ

DTR APPLICATION TOOLKIT

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.

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 five consecutive years.

Scoring

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.

How is my DTR Application score determined?

The DTR Application is scored by trained, TEI and DTR Certified, review teams. 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. Reminder, experiences are limited to the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years, including the summers of 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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 their most recent DTR Application.

I am currently DTR-eligible with points available for carryover. Will I need to re-apply in 2026-2027?

Teachers may continue to carryover points up to three times before re-applying while eligibility is maintained. See the table below:

Application Year	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
2023-2024	Applied (1)	Optional Carryover (2)	Optional Carryover (3)	Application Required			
2024-2025		Applied (1)	Optional Carryover (2)	Optional Carryover (3)	Application Required		
2025-2026			Applied (1)	Optional Carryover (2)	Optional Carryover (3)	Application Required	
2026-2027				Applied (1)	Optional Carryover (2)	Optional Carryover (3)	Application Required

When is an Application Required?

Footnote	Application Required?
DTR points from two years ago have been carried over two times and are expired. If eligible for DTR, the teacher must submit a DTR Application in the current year to again earn DTR points.	Yes. This teacher's last application was in 2023-2024 and the teacher MUST submit a DTR application during the Round 1 window in October 2026.
DTR points have been carried over one time; the maximum is two times.	No. The teacher may take no action and automatically carry over points from the 2025-2026 TEI Scorecard.
No DTR Footnotes.	No. The teacher may take no action and automatically carry over points from the 2025-2026 TEI Scorecard.

Application

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 his or her PK- 12 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. For more information about the Leadership domain, attend a DTR Application Workshop (page 9). Reminder, experiences are limited to the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years, including the summers of 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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 his or her PK - 12 campus practice, showing commitment to team innovation and growth. Examples may include professional learning experiences such as personal research, formal requirements for this domain. For more information about the Lifelong Learning domain, attend a DTR Application Workshop (page 9). Reminder, experiences are limited to the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years, including the summers of 2024, 2025 and 2026.

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 (see below). Reminder, experiences are limited to the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 school years, including the summers of 2024, 2025 and 2026.

What is the deadline to submit a DTR Application for the 2026-2027 school year?

For teachers **with 2025-2026 TEI data**, the deadline to submit a DTR Application is noon on **Thursday, November 5, 2026**. For teachers **with no 2025–2026 TEI data**, the deadline to submit a DTR Application is noon on **Thursday, March 4, 2027**.

Resources/Notification

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

All materials and resources are found in this 2026-2027 DTR Application Toolkit. TEI strongly recommends attending 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 2026-2027 school year via their Scorecard in September 2027.

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. To reach Master teacher status, an applicant must have been rated at the Exemplary II level for at least two consecutive years and taught at a District Support Initiative (DSI) campus (previously HPC or Tier 1 campus) as a Distinguished Teacher for a minimum of four consecutive years.

DTR Writing Workshops

[**DTR Application Informational Workshop**](#) provides an in-depth overview of the Distinguished Teacher Review Process and provides an overview of the DTR Rubric. It is intended for first-time applicants or teachers wanting to learn more about the DTR Process.

[**DTR Application Writing Workshop**](#) provides an in-depth review of the 2026-2027 DTR Rubric and provides teachers with an opportunity to begin a draft of their DTR Application. Participants will work through this DTR Application Toolkit and begin a draft of one experience for their DTR Application. This course is intended for returning applicants or teachers with an understanding of the DTR Process who are ready to begin the writing process.

[**DTR Application Writing Workshop with Ambassadors**](#) focuses on a in-depth understanding of the DTR domains using the 2025-2026 Rubric. Participants will collaborate with peers, brainstorm experiences and begin a draft of the application. These sessions have limited numbers of participants so that DTR Ambassadors can tailor the training to the specific needs or participants. *Note: Sessions may be in-person or online. Check each session for specific details.*

[**Using the DTR Rubric as a Growth Tool**](#) walks teachers through the reflective process and using the DTR Rubric to identify areas of growth and to use the problem solving cycle to develop experiences for the DTR process that will also enhance individual goals. Teacher will begin the process of building a professional portfolio and determine next steps for significant outcomes.

[**Maximizing Your Student Growth**](#) is a new training developed in conjunction with the Dallas ISD Data Team that answers two questions: what does "significant" mean on the DTR Rubric and how can teachers use the DTR Rubric to plan for collecting evidence. The session will discuss valid and reliable measurements to use in determining whether outcomes are significant and how to use the problem-solving cycle to create an action plan for collecting and analyzing appropriate data that can accurately measure outcomes for significance.