

DTR Ambassadors

DTR Ambassadors provide peer-to-peer support to DTR-eligible teachers. While working with a DTR Ambassador does not guarantee teachers points on the DTR Rubric, it is our hope that it will increase collaboration across the district and encourage teachers to share their strategies and impact with their peers. DTR Ambassadors support teachers by:

- Hosting specialized DTR Application Writing Workshops
 - Supporting teachers via email with DTR-related questions
 - Reading DTR applications and providing suggestions for improvement
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2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Nina Atai
School: South Oak Cliff HS
Email: natai@dallasisd.org
Feeder: South Oak Cliff HS



Ambassador: Rikki Bonet
School: Pre-K Partnerships
Email: riingram@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Lincoln HS



Bonet has over 20 years of teaching. Rikki is currently a PreK 3/4 teacher for the PreK Partnership program. Rikki is a mentor/lead mentor, team chair, TEI expert, and presenter. She has taught PreK 3, PreK 4, Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 4th and 5th grade all subjects. She was awarded Teacher of the Year for my campus in 2017. She has also worked with TEA to develop a 30 year plan for public education, and she has help streamline the social studies TEKS grades K-3.

Ambassador: Daniel Cerda
School: Career Institute South
Email: Dacerda@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Career Institute South



I am a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Information Technology teacher serving high school students, passionate about preparing them for success beyond the classroom. I create hands-on, real-world learning experiences that help students develop technical, professional, leadership, and problem-solving skills. I also support technology initiatives on my campus and provide students with opportunities to apply their skills through authentic projects and student-led technology support. My goal is to help students build the confidence, skills, and experiences they need for college, careers, and their future.

2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Karla Chapa Valdez
School: Jerry Junkins Elementary
Email: kchapavaldez@dallasisd.org
Feeder: W.T White HS



Ambassador: Monica Chapa
School: Lakewood Elementary
Email: riingram@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Woodrow Wilson



Ambassador: Maria Rosa Da Cruz
School: Paul Dunbar Learning Center
Email: mdacruz@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Madison HS



Mrs. Da Cruz is a PK4 Bilingual teacher. She has been teaching at Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center for 11 years. At Dunbar she has taught PK, Kinder, first- and second-grade.

2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Sergio De Rozas Barrio
School: L.O. Donald Leadership Academy
Email: sderozasbarrio@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Kimball HS



Ambassador: John "Greg" Fore
School: Young Women's STEM Academy
Email: gfore@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Spruce HS



John "Greg" Fore has 32 years of experience in education. He currently teaches an all-girls 6th-8th grade Functional Living Skills class at Young Women's STEAM Academy. He believes that all students can learn and that educators should strive to model this belief for our students by continuously stretching, growing and learning professionally themselves. He is glad to support teachers as they navigate through the DTR Process.

Ambassador: Rochelle Grant Jackson
School: Billy Earl Dade Middle School
Email: rocgrant@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Lincoln/Madison HS



2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Joshua Gutierrez
School: Nancy Moseley Elementary
Email: josgutierrez@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Spruce HS



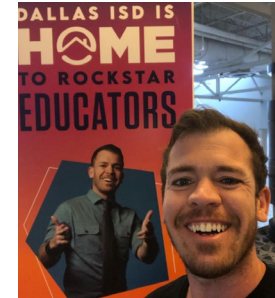
Joshua Gutierrez is currently teaching ELAR, SLAR, Science and Social Studies at Nancy Moseley Elementary School. He is in his 19th year in Dallas ISD. He has a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Divinity. He has worked for the State of Texas the last 9 years in creating the STAAR assessments (through Teacher Focus Groups, Teacher Summer Institute, and TELPAS, and he works closely with the Social Studies Department as a Teacher Leadership Cohort member. He also served as an Academic Partnering teacher, making instructional videos for the Office of Family and Community Engagement Department. He previously served as a Reading Instructional Coach for four years, and in his educational experience he taught 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5.

Ambassador: Shanyka Hampton
School: West Dallas Junior High
Email: shahampton@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Pinkston HS



I teach Algebra I at West Dallas Junior High and serve as the Instructional Lead Teacher for seventh and eighth-grade mathematics and Algebra I. My work focuses on strengthening instruction, using student data to guide support, and helping students explain their mathematical thinking. As a DTR Ambassador, I am excited to support teachers in recognizing their impact and communicating their instructional practices through clear, meaningful evidence. I look forward to helping teachers navigate the DTR application process and share the work happening in their classrooms.

Ambassador: William Hastings
School: H. Grady Spruce HS
Email: WHASTINGS@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Spruce HS



Will Hastings, is an Early College Math Teacher, and Department Chair at H Grady Spruce. He was a Dallas ISD Teacher of the Year Finalist for 2021 - 2022. He has taught for 8 years at H Grady Spruce, and he has led the school as a TEI Expert for 4 years.

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Ambassador: Natalie Herbert
School: Mockingbird Elementary
Email: nhebert@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Woodrow Wilson HS



Natalie Hebert is a K-5 visual arts teacher at Mockingbird Elementary School and has taught elementary art for 11 years. She is passionate about creating meaningful, engaging art experiences that encourage creativity and help students build confidence. Natalie loves helping other educators by sharing practical ideas and resources, especially those specific to the visual arts classroom. As a DTR Ambassador, she looks forward to supporting visual arts teachers and other educators across Dallas ISD as they navigate the DTR process.

Ambassador: Susan Higgins
School: Larry G. Smith
Email: shiggins@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Bryan Adams



Ms. Susan Higgins is a General Music Teacher who has also instructed Middle School Choral Studies and Avid. She has been teaching at Larry G. Smith Elementary for six years and was previously the Choral and Theatre Director for Longfellow Academy for eight years. She began her teaching career by opening Henry B. Gonzalez Elementary in 2006. Ms. Higgins has worked with the district to develop training for Middle School Choir, Summer Intensive Programs in Recorder and Bucket Drumming through Region 10, and with the Texas Black Academy with their Budding Rose Concerts.

Ambassador: Dorcas Kassebaum
School: Ronald McNair Elementary
Email: dkassebaum@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Carter HS



Dorcas Kassebaum is an FLS teacher with grades 3-5. She has been teaching at Ronald E. McNair for 22 years. She coaches a First Lego League team and an Adaptive Robotics team. She spearheaded the district-wide Adaptive Science and Engineering Fair Showcase.

2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Jhaidee Nava
School: Jose "Joe" May Elementary (PTE Campus)
Email: Jhnav@dallassisd.org
Feeder: Thomas Jefferson HS



Jhaidee Nava has a diverse teaching background and has had the privilege of working with students in 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Dual Language. Her skills transfer outside the classroom as she is currently serving as member of the Dual Language Cadre in DISD, supporting the implementation of Dual Language programs in the district. Additionally, she served as a reading interventionist, focusing on supporting students who struggle with reading. This multifaceted experience has given her a comprehensive understanding of the academic and developmental needs of elementary students, particularly in the realm of language acquisition and literacy.

Ambassador: Jamie Polk
School: Career Institute South
Email: japolk@dallassisd.org
Feeder: Career Institute South



Jamie Polk is a veteran Career and Technical Education educator in Dallas ISD with 19 years of experience empowering high school students. Currently teaching Entrepreneurship, Jamie bridges the gap between the classroom and the real world by teaching teens how to be fully career-ready. Most recently, Jamie's exceptional dedication to business education was recognized with the prestigious 2026 Texas Business Hall of Fame - DFW Teacher of Excellence award.

Ambassador: Sara Ramirez
School: Environmental Education Center
Email: sarramirez@dallassisd.org
Feeder: Central Staff



Sara Ramirez is a PK-12th grade science lab teacher. She has been teaching at the DISD STEM Environmental Education Center for 12 years. She has received several grants to purchase items for her science classroom and facility, and she has presented at many state science conferences to share engaging lesson ideas.

2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Kolbe Ricks
School: Sunset HS
Email: Koricks@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Sunset HS



I have been teaching for 14 years, and the last six have been at Sunset High School, where I also coach swimming, football, and girls flag football. I am part of the founding team of teachers for our advanced academic cohort and recently piloted a literature collaboration with a local bookstore for our AP English students.

Ambassador: Dr. Melissa Rock
School: Bryan Admas HS
Email: mrock@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Bryan Admas HS



Dr. Melissa Rock is in her fifth year at Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy and her seventh year as an educator, where she teaches Criminal Justice P-TECH dual credit courses. She previously served for 10 years as a U.S. Army officer and has more than seven years of experience conducting federal background investigations. She holds a master's degree in forensic science and a Ph.D. in criminal justice.

Ambassador: Hector Rodriguez
School: Skyline HS
Email: hectrodriguez@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Skyline HS



Mr. Hector Rodriguez, a native of Puerto Rico, has been with Dallas ISD since 2015. For over 24 years, he has taught ethics, geography, and history in the U. S. and Puerto Rico. Currently, Rodriguez teaches Public Administration and Political Science at the Magnet Program. He has worked as a Chairperson for the Middle School Association of Colleges and Schools, Speaker for the PR Association of Private Education, Academic Senator at the University of Puerto Rico, CILT, ILT, TEI Expert, and DTR Ambassador. In his second year at Dallas ISD, Mr. Rodriguez was recognized with the 2017 Teacher of the Year Award at his middle school campus, thanks to his dedication and achievement with his students. Mr. Rodriguez has a dual BA in Secondary Education -Social Studies and History and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership.

2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Brandon Segura
School: Dan D. Rogers Elementary
Email: bsegura@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Hilcrest HS



Mr. Segura is a Pre K Bilingual teacher, who has been teaching and at Dan D. Rogers Elementary for 9 years. He recently piloted the new bilingual program and enjoys helping his fellow teachers move up to the next level on their applications.

Ambassador: Brent Voorhees
School: Skyline HS
Email: bvoorhees@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Skyline HS



Brent Voorhees is a Precalculus teacher at Skyline High School. This is his 12th year as a member of Dallas ISD, serving all 12 at Skyline High School.

Ambassador: Courtney Wade
School: Skyline HS
Email: COWADE@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Skyline HS



Mrs. Courtney Wade is an 11th grade English III teacher. She has been teaching at Bryan Adams High School Leadership Academy for 4 years however teaching for 11 years in total. She served as a DTR ambassador last year and helps facilitate AFC tutoring on her campus.

2026-27 DTR Ambassadors

Ambassador: Monica Williams
School: Seagoville Elementary
Email: MWILLIAM@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Seagoville HS



Mrs. Monica Williams is a 6th grade teacher at Seagoville Elementary. Mrs. Williams has been a part of Dallas ISD for 22 years. She started out in central staff for Dallas for 16 years and then became a teacher for 6 years. After her 3rd year of teaching, she became department Team Lead as well as the campus Teacher of the Year.

Ambassador: Leonardo Zuno Fernandez
School: Booker T Washington
Email: lzunofernandez@dallasisd.org
Feeder: Region IV



Piano, Music Theory, Music Appreciation

DTR Application Resources

[2026-2027 DTR Rubric](#)

[2026-2027 DTR Important Dates](#)

[2026-2027 DTR Application Toolkit](#)

[DTR Application Tips and Best Practices](#)

[DTR Information for Teachers](#)

[2026-2027 DTR FAQ](#)

Additional DTR Resources can be found on the [TEI Resource Page](#)