

1. Are teachers required to be nominated to apply for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Teacher Leadership Fellowship?

The Teacher Leadership Fellowship nomination process is a way for stakeholders across Texas to help spread the word about the new Teacher Leadership Fellowship. Nominated teachers will receive communications from the TEA Teacher Leadership Fellowship team to apply. Teachers are not required to be nominated to apply.

2. Who is eligible for the TEA Teacher Leadership Fellowship?

The TEA Teacher Leadership Fellowship is for any teacher in the state of Texas that is fully certified with a minimum of 2 years of teaching experience. To be considered, the fellows should spend most of their workday working with students in a Texas public school. In addition to core content teachers, this includes Special Education teachers, PK teachers, elective teachers, and interventionists. This does not include instructional coaches, assistant principals, or principals.

3. What is the time commitment, and will fellows be expected to travel?

Fellows will be expected to attend a two day in-person kickoff meeting in Austin in July. After July, fellows are expected to attend a 2–3 hour virtual session once a month and can anticipate 1-2 hours of pre-work and post-work between meetings.

4. Will fellows receive compensation for their participation in the TEA Teacher Leadership Fellowship?

Fellows will receive a \$1500 stipend for their participation in the fellowship, and will have their travel costs, meals, and lodging reimbursed for the July kickoff meeting.

5. What would I do as a Leadership Fellow?

Fellows will meet virtually once a month to engage with peer educators, TEA leaders, and research experts. Through these meetings, fellows will gain knowledge of education policy and programs across the state. Then, through collaboration with colleagues, fellows will develop ideas and action steps to then provide feedback on TEA strategic initiatives. Focus areas for Cohort 1 were strategic compensation, teacher mentorship, teacher time, and teacher preparation.

6. What is included in the Leadership Fellowship?

- Selective yearlong commitment, starting in July 2025, with the opportunity to extend for a second year.
- In-person kickoff meeting in Austin.
- Monthly virtual sessions with learning modules, guest speakers, and working groups centered on topics to provide feedback to TEA on.
- Connections with stakeholders and leaders across Texas.

7. How does this fellowship differ from other teacher leadership opportunities with TEA (Teacher Leadership Grant, Texas Instructional Leadership)?

The Teacher Leadership Fellowship is focused on developing teacher leaders at the state-level. Teacher candidates apply directly to TEA for this opportunity, and selected fellows will work directly with TEA leadership on statewide strategic initiatives. Other teacher leadership grants, administered by the agency, are awarded to school district applicants who intend to build campus- and district-based teacher leadership models (e.g., National Board Candidacy Cohorts, distributed leadership models at the campus level, etc.).