

Mentor Program Allotment Cycle 1 FAQ: Posted April 20, 2020

1. How are beginning teachers defined?

- *For the purposes of the Mentor Program Allotment (MPA), a beginning teacher is a classroom teacher who has less than two years of teaching experience in the subject or grade level to which the teacher is assigned.*

2. When will the new commissioner rules be posted for public comment?

- *Proposed new 19 TAC §153.1011, Mentor Program Allotment is posted at [here](#). The previous Beginning Teacher Mentoring and Induction Program rules (TAC §153.1011) will be repealed and replaced with Mentor Program Allotment rule, which is scheduled to take effect on June 21, 2020.*

3. Is there a list of approved mentor and induction training service providers?

- *As stated in TEC §21.458, mentor teachers must complete a research-based mentor and induction training program approved by the commissioner. This training program could be one that was created internally by an LEA (i.e., by LEA staff) or developed externally (e.g., by an education service center or vendor). Regardless of which entity created the research-based mentor and induction training program, it will require commissioner approval through the MPA application.*
- *TEA has previously approved two external providers of mentor and induction training as part of the School Improvement Provider vetting process: The New Teacher Center and the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching. LEAs that use either of these two providers for mentor and induction training must still complete the full MPA application and would likely want to collaborate with these entities on relevant parts of the application.*

4. What is the process to become an approved provider of mentor and induction training?

- *TEA will post an application for vendors to be approved providers of mentor and induction training in summer 2020 and will likely publish the approved provider list in fall 2020 for district consult moving forward.*
- *Organizations looking to join TEA's list of commissioner-approved, research-based mentor and induction training programs should check TEA's MPA website in the summer of 2020 for more information on the approval process.*

5. Can districts use an Education Service Center (ESC) for their mentor and induction training?

- *Yes, districts may partner with an ESC to train mentor teachers for the first year of MPA implementation. The district must describe in the application how the training provided by the ESC is research-based and must meet the approval criteria.*
- *As stated above, TEA will develop a mentor-specific approved provider list and ESCs may apply to be on this list.*

6. Can districts hire retired teachers to serve as mentors?

- *LEAs may choose to hire retired teachers to mentor beginning teachers. As noted above, LEAs will be funded \$1,800 for each beginning teacher whose mentor teacher meets the requirements in statute and rule. If LEAs opt to hire retired teachers, they will only be funded based on beginning teachers whose mentor teachers meet all the requirements of statute and rule. Please note the original HB 3 in 30 presentation noted LEAs could seek waiver to use retired teachers in their mentor program. Since posting the webinar, the agency has updated the process*

7. Can districts use MPA funds to support their current mentor programs?

- *Yes, districts may use MPA funds for existing mentor programs by, as long as the current mentor programs meet the requirements for approval. These requirements will be outlined in the MPA application and guidelines.*

8. Where can we find the MPA application?

- *The application will be shared through the TEA MPA website and a To the Administrator Addressed (TAA) correspondence by April 20, 2020.*
- *TEA will also release MPA Guidelines on April 20, 2020. The guidelines will include deadlines for the application and other pertinent information.*
- *Districts may apply for MPA funding on April 20th through June 8th, 2020.*