Mentor Program Allotment FAQ
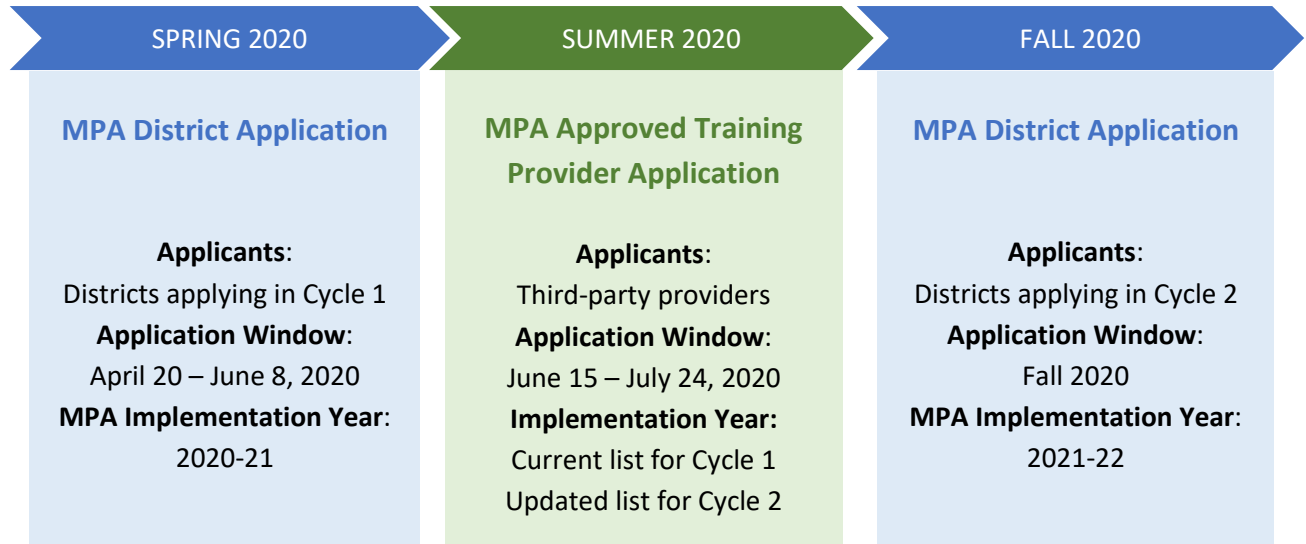## May 20, 2020

1. What are the upcoming applications associated with the Mentor Program Allotment (MPA)?

SPRING 2020	SUMMER 2020	FALL 2020
MPA District Application **Applicants**: Districts applying in Cycle 1 **Application Window**: April 20 – June 8, 2020 **MPA Implementation Year**: 2020-21	**MPA Approved Training Provider Application** **Applicants**: Third-party providers **Application Window**: June 15 – July 24, 2020 **Implementation Year:** Current list for Cycle 1 Updated list for Cycle 2	**MPA District Application** **Applicants**: Districts applying in Cycle 2 **Application Window**: Fall 2020 **MPA Implementation Year**: 2021-22

2. Can you provide more information on the district and approved training provider applications?

	Districts Applying in Cycle 1	Districts Applying in Cycle 2
MPA implementation year	2020-21	2021-22
District application window	April 20, 2020 – June 8, 2020	Fall 2020
District notification of approval	Early July 2020	January 2021 (tentative date)
Can a district seek commissioner approval for its own **district-created** mentor and induction training program?	Yes. The commissioner will approve district-created mentor and induction training programs on a case-by-case basis through the annual MPA district application process. Districts that have created their own mentor and induction training program are encouraged to apply.	Yes. The commissioner will approve district-created mentor and induction training programs on a case-by-case basis through the annual MPA district application process. Districts that have created their own mentor and induction training program are encouraged to apply.
Is there a list of **approved training providers** for mentor and induction training programs districts can use if they do not have one that is district-created?	Yes. Approved training providers are: • New Teacher Center (NTC) • National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)	Yes. Approved training providers are: • New Teacher Center (NTC) • National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) TEA will add any new approved training providers to the list by early September 2020. Districts applying

	Districts Applying in Cycle 1	Districts Applying in Cycle 2
		in Cycle 2 may consult the updated list.
Do you have contact information for the **approved training providers**?	• NTC contact: Nichole Cooley • NIET contact: Stephanie Mosqueda	TEA will post contact information for the updated list of approved training providers by early September 2020.
Our district would like to use a **third-party provider** (e.g., ESC, IHE, or other organization) to deliver our mentor and induction training, but they are not on the commissioner-approved list. Is it possible to include a third-party provider that is not on the approved training provider list in our district application?	Yes. Districts applying in Cycle 1 may include third-party providers that are not on the approved training provider list in their application. If third-party providers would like to be included on the approved training provider list for future years, they must submit an approved training provider application. TEA will post more information regarding this process to the MPA website by June 15, 2020.	No. Starting with Cycle 2, districts have two options for delivering a commissioner-approved mentor and induction training program. Option 1: Use a district-created training program that will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis through the annual MPA district application. Option 2: Use a training program created by an organization on the MPA approved training provider list.
If our district application is approved and we are using a third-party provider that is not NTC or NIET, will that provider be automatically added to the approved training provider list?	No. See the previous row for more information.	Not applicable; beginning with Cycle 2, TEA will only consider district applications using a mentor and induction training program created by either the district or an approved training provider.
We do not have a district-created mentor and induction training program and may not be able to build one or partner with a third-party by the application deadline. Do you have any guidance?	Districts are encouraged to engage with stakeholders and carefully plan a mentor and induction program. If districts need additional planning time, they might consider applying for MPA in Cycle 2.	TEA will add any new approved training providers to the list by early September 2020. Districts applying in Cycle 2 may consult the updated list. Please note, Cycle 2 applications will be released in fall 2020 with notifications tentatively scheduled for January 2021. This allows districts applying in Cycle 2 to use the spring of 2021 to prepare for the 2021-22 school year.

3. **Does a district need to go through both the district application process and the approved training provider application process?**
   No. Please reference the first two pages of this FAQ for more information.

4. **When will the TEA release the MPA Approved Provider application?**
   TEA will release the MPA Approved Provider application on June 15, 2020 and will issue approvals in late August 2020.

5. **Our district plans to deliver most of the mentor and induction training. However, we intend to use a third-party provider to deliver parts of the training. Is this permissible in Cycle 1 and, if so, how should we indicate this approach on our application?**
   In their application, districts applying for Cycle 1 may indicate that the training will be delivered by the district and a third-party provider. The training program will be reviewed in its entirety to ensure it meets the requirements in TEC §21.458 and TAC §153.1011. If districts choose this approach for Cycle 1, they should follow the application guidance below.
   - *Attachment A, Question 5: Check both boxes and include the third-party provider information.*
   - *Attachment A, Question 7: Check each box if the training, in its entirety, meets all requirements.*
   - *Attachment A, Question 8: The district may consult with the third-party provider to complete their response to question 8.*
   - *Attachment B, Scope and Sequence: The district should indicate which entity will deliver the different parts of the training.*
   Please see the first two pages of this document for information about Cycle 2 applications.

6. **Will all district applications, provided they meet the requirements of TEC §21.458 and TAC §153.1011, receive MPA funding?**
   Due to funding limitations, it is not guaranteed that all applying districts will receive MPA funds. Please see pages 3-4 of the MPA Guidelines to review how priority points will be allocated.

7. **Is it permissible to use MPA funds to support a subset of beginning teachers?**
   Yes. Districts may designate how the MPA funding will support a subset of campuses and/or a subset of beginning teachers.

8. **Will TEA publish guidance and recommendations on providing mentoring to beginning teachers during remote learning due to COVID-19?**
   We are reviewing the need for guidance on mentoring programs for school districts; TEA expects to provide information within the next month.

9. **Will the 12-hour minimum requirement for mentoring activities per semester be reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the remote learning taking place throughout the state?**
   No. Although we understand that mentoring of beginning teachers may look differently if campuses and classrooms are operating remotely in school year 2020-21 due to COVID-19, districts across the state will still need to ensure that mentors and beginning teachers meet the 12-hour requirements per semester for mentoring activities as stipulated in TEC §21.458 and TAC §153.1011.

10. **Does the district need to add a contingency plan for implementing its mentoring program remotely due to COVID-19 on the MPA application?**
No. Although a district is not required to include a contingency plan for remote mentor training or remote mentoring activities due to COVID-19 on the MPA application, a district still must meet the requirements of TEC §21.458 and TAC §153.1011 in order to be eligible for MPA funds.

11. **Does Texas Teach Like a Champion Online (TLAC Online) meet the full requirements of an MPA mentor and induction training program?**
No. While TLAC Online is a valuable and free resource that mentors may use as a coaching tool, it does not meet all the MPA mentor and induction training requirements in TEC §21.458 and TAC §153.1011. Please reference item 11 in the assurances section of the MPA Application (Attachment A) for more information.