

2023 Approved Provider Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Posted on July 21, 2023

TEA received a limited number of questions for the Cycle 4 Approved Provider application. Given this, the FAQs below include some questions from past cycles that could be useful in completing the Cycle 4 application.

1. On the Qualtrics application, Attachment D1 (Evidence of Impact) is not showing up. How do I download that attachment?

To access all the attachments, please complete the first and second pages of the application in Qualtrics first. Then all attachments should be available on the third page. Contact mpa@tea.texas.gov if you are unable to access all attachments.

2. What are the minimum qualifications for an application to be considered?

As highlighted in the Approved Provider Guidelines, applications must meet the following requirements for their application to be considered:

- *Demonstrates strong evidence of impact*
- *Provides a research-based mentor training scope and sequence that meets the hours requirements and addresses the mentorship competencies*
- *Provides sample performance tasks from the mentor training that measure mentor teachers' proficiency on objectives-aligned competencies*
- *Provides a district and campus leader training scope and sequence that meets the hours requirements and addresses the leadership competencies*

3. What are the criteria for approval?

Please reference the Approved Provider Review Criteria for detailed guidance around success criteria for approval.

4. My organization has a program that provides mentor training, but coaches teachers of varying teaching experience, not just teachers new to the profession. Will our program still be considered a mentoring program?

Yes. If an organization has provided mentor training and mentoring support to teachers, they are considered a mentoring program. However, as outlined through the Approved Provider Guidelines, applicants must meet certain success criteria for approval. Specifically, the mentor training scope and sequence that applicants provide through Attachment B1 must demonstrate how it will effectively develop mentorship competencies. Additionally, the evidence of impact that applicants provide through Attachment D1 should reflect the impact on beginning teachers only. Applicants can indicate the type of teachers they supported and represented in their evidence through the second tab (Partnerships List) of Attachment D1.

- 5. Is it required for my organization's program to assign an individual mentor teacher to each beginning teacher, or could it have been a district or vendor coach who was assigned and met with the mentor teacher during regularly scheduled coaching sessions?**

Districts that participate in MPA are required to use MPA funds for and assign beginning teachers to mentor teachers who are current classroom teachers. Approved Providers may partner with MPA districts to provide coaching support to mentor teachers. However, the coaching support provided by the approved provider cannot replace the work and requirements of mentor teachers, such as meeting with their assigned beginning teacher(s) at least 12 hours per semester. Please reference the specific MPA requirements for mentor teachers in [TEC 21.458](#) and [19 TAC 153.1011](#).

- 6. What kind of data do we need to provide for Tier 1?**

As described in the Approved Provider Guidelines, Tier 1 data should reflect comparative improvement in summative appraisals and student growth measures for the beginning teachers that were supported. Applicants are encouraged to reference the example tab in Attachment D1 when completing their Applicant Data tab. Any relevant data or visualizations, district-generated or otherwise, can be included as part of Attachment D2 to supplement the evidence of impact provided in Attachment D1.

- 7. Can Tier 2 data include comparative improvement in retention rates of all teachers who were supported through our program, instead of just beginning teachers?**

The districts that participate in the Mentor Program Allotment are typically new to the profession. Applicants should only provide evidence of impact for beginning teachers who were supported through their program.

- 8. For the Narrative Responses Form (Attachment A), are the responses limited to the space within the boxes?**

All questions in Attachment A specify a word limit for the responses.

- 9. Is it possible to earn approval for training only but not implementation support and/or mentor coaching support?**

Yes. Each service type for which a district applies is reviewed independently of one another. However, training approval is a prerequisite for implementation and coaching support approval. Please reference the Approved Provider Guidelines for detailed guidance.

- 10. If my organization is approved through this Cycle 4 2023 process, when can we begin partnering with MPA districts?**

Organizations that are approved through this Summer 2023 process will be included in the updated approved provider list in September 2023.

- 11. What happens after our organization is added to the approved provider list?**

Upon approval, organizations will submit an external-facing overview of their organization, mentor training program, and contact information to be posted to TEA's [MPA website](#). The next cycle of district applications is tentatively scheduled for SY 2024-25. Districts interested in partnering with an external entity may consult the MPA website for approved provider contact information.