



**District Awards for Teacher Excellence (DATE)
Fact Sheet**

Overview:

- Created by House Bill 1, Article IV of the 79th Texas Legislature in 2006 (T.E.C. Ch 21, Subchapter O, § 21.701).
- Appropriated \$147.5 million in state funds.
- 510 eligible districts. District grant award amounts are based on the average daily attendance (ADA) of the 2007-2008 school year.
- District level planning committees will develop a district awards plan based on the district goals and strategic plan.
- Districts will determine which campuses will participate. If not a district wide plan, campus participation must be approved by a simple majority of the campus' classroom teachers.
- Following the 2008-2009 school year, the TEA or a third party designated by the TEA through the RFP process will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of DATE.

Use of Funds

Part I - Teacher Awards	Part II – Other Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 60 percent of the grant must be used to award classroom teachers who positively impact student academic improvement, growth and/or achievement. • Utilize criteria to measure individual teacher and/or group /team impact on student achievement. • Annual award amounts must be equal to or greater than \$3,000 unless otherwise determined by the local school board. Minimum awards must be no less than \$1,000 per teacher. • Funds should be distributed based on criteria that is quantifiable, reliable, valid and objective. Criteria must be generally viewed as a measure of student excellence and quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 40 percent of the district award can be used for other allowable activities including stipends and awards for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ recruitment and retention of teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in critical shortage subject areas • in subject areas with high percentages of out-of-field assignments • certified and teaching in their main subject area • with postgraduate degrees in their teaching area ○ career, mentor, and master teachers ○ on-going applied professional growth ○ increasing local data capabilities to support instruction and accountability ○ awards for principals who increase student performance ○ other campus employees who demonstrate excellence ○ implement elements of the T.A.P.

Target Campuses

If a district awards plan is not implemented district wide, districts must identify a certain number of target campuses, consistent with district goals to select for participation. Target Campuses are those that meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Rated academically unacceptable (2007 accountability ratings);
- Performs lower than the district's average proficiency on TAKS (by subject, by grade, and/or by campus to be determined by the district);
- Receives comparable improvement (CI) ratings in the bottom quartile relative to other campus types in the district;
- Experiences above average dropout/non-completion rates relative to other campus types in the district;
- Ranks in the bottom half in gains on the Texas Growth Index (TGI);
- Ranks within the top quartile of campuses enrolling high percentages of economically disadvantaged students; or
- Demonstrates other academic or non-academic indicators, such as experiencing high rates of teacher migration and attrition, free and reduced lunch, etc.

District Requirements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a district award plan with goals to improve student academic improvement, growth and/or achievement. • Provide matching funds (year 1: 15%). • Create an awards system consistent with district goals that address Target Campuses. • Demonstrate teacher participation in the development of the plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure district award plan approval from a district level planning committee, the superintendent, and local school board. • Establish performance measures consistent with district goals. • Participate for at least two consecutive grant cycles. • Participate in required technical assistance. |
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For more information: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ed_init/eeg/datex/

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