

# Oklahoma Teacher Empowerment Program (OTEP)

## District Guidance

The Oklahoma Teacher Empowerment Program (OTEP) enables excellent educators to advance their professional growth and compensation without transitioning into an administrative role. Oklahoma's Education Lottery Trust Fund has placed an additional \$22 million into the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund. This brings the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund total to nearly \$58M as year three of the program begins. These funds allow districts to identify and designate up to 10% of their excellent teachers as advanced, lead, or master teachers. Districts that receive Title I funds within the top quartile of individual student allotment amounts may designate an additional ten percent (10%) of teachers employed at school sites that receive Title I funds as advanced, lead, or master teachers.

Depending on the designation level, teacher contracts will include additional days and a stipend of \$3,000 to \$10,000 is provided by Teacher Empowerment Funds. Teachers employed at an economically disadvantaged school (enrollment of 40% or more) or teachers at a district with an enrollment of below 1,000 students will receive an additional one-time award of \$1,500 to \$5,000, depending on their designation.

Designation	Salary Increase	Additional Contract Days to Strengthen Instructional Leadership	Additional One-Time Stipend (if applicable)
Advance	\$3,000	5	\$1,500
Lead	\$5,000	10	\$2,500
Master	\$10,000	15	\$5,000

Teachers who receive these designations will be provided with additional training opportunities by the State Department of Education.

### Eligibility

All public school districts are eligible to apply. All certified teachers are eligible for designation.



## Guidelines

Participating districts must submit designation system plans to OSDE for evaluation and approval. Districts will have local control and flexibility in determining how to evaluate teachers and assign designations, but all designation systems **must** include the following components:

- Teacher observation
- Out-of-classroom time, and
- Student performance

Designation systems may incorporate additional factors, including:

- Student surveys
- Teacher leadership responsibilities
- Teacher mentorship responsibilities
- Family surveys
- Demonstration of district core values
- Teacher peer surveys
- Contributions to the broader school community

Possible criteria when selecting high-quality teachers could include, but are not limited to, the following:

Advanced Teachers	Lead Teachers	Master Teachers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of three (3) years of experience as a teacher</li><li>• Earned a “highly effective” or “superior” rating on TLE</li><li>• Mentoring new teachers</li><li>• Team or school committee leader</li><li>• School Teacher of the Year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of five (5) years of experience as a teacher</li><li>• Earned a “highly effective” or “superior” rating on TLE</li><li>• Mentoring new teachers</li><li>• School or district committee leader</li><li>• Leading school-wide professional development</li><li>• District Teacher of the Year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of seven (7) years of experience as a teacher</li><li>• Earned a “superior” rating on TLE</li><li>• Holds a National Board certification</li><li>• Coaching teachers</li><li>• District or State Committee Leader</li><li>• Leading district-wide or state-wide professional development</li><li>• State Teacher of the Year or Finalist</li></ul>

Districts should retain justification and evidence that show nominated teachers meet the criteria for lead, advanced, or master teachers. Artifacts must be uploaded to the application.

## Application

Districts may submit designation plans for evaluation and approval once they have been approved by the local board.

## Contact

Oklahoma Teacher Empowerment Program  
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