



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

MEMORANDUM

To: Local Educational Agency Superintendents

From: Rebecca Estes, Director of Leadership and Innovation

Date: September 10, 2021

Subject: House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001-Teacher Appreciation Grant Guidance

Background:

The previously released [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) pertaining to teacher salary requirements included in HEA 1001-2021 prompted some general questions related to Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) distribution.

Indiana Code (IC) 20-18-2-22(c) states that for the purposes of IC 20-43-10-3.5 (TAG), the term ‘teacher’ means “a professional person whose position with a: (1) school corporation; (2) special education cooperative established under IC 20-35-5; (3) cooperative career and technical education program; (4) special education program established by an interlocal agreement under IC 36-1-7; (5) joint program agreement established under IC 20-26-10; or (6) charter school; requires a license (as defined in IC 20-28-1-7) and whose primary responsibility is the instruction of students in the classroom or virtual classroom.”

Guidance:

- Eligibility determinations for TAG remain consistent with previous years. Eligibility is directly tied to locally defined roles and responsibilities that are aligned to the definition of ‘teacher’ above.
- All eligible, licensed teachers who are (1) employed in the classroom; (2) rated as effective or as highly effective; and (3) employed by the school as of December 1 should receive teacher appreciation grant funds.
- If effectiveness ratings for newly hired teachers with previous experience have not been previously obtained, they may be requested by having the teacher submit an email request to eel@doe.in.gov. The request should include the teacher’s full name and SPN or license number and a request to release the information; including the contact information to whom it should be released.
- The amount of a stipend awarded to a teacher rated as Highly Effective must be at least 25 percent greater than the amount of a stipend awarded to a teacher rated as Effective.



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Distribution

Pursuant to IC 20-43-10-3.5(b), schools in Indiana may qualify for a TAG if one or more licensed teachers employed in the classroom or directly providing virtual education were rated as effective or highly effective, using the most recently completed teacher ratings. Under subsection (f) of that section, the department is to distribute the TAGs to qualifying schools by December 5 of that state fiscal year. Once a school receives their TAGs, they must distribute the stipends to individual teachers within 20 business days. Any portion not distributed before February must be returned to the state (IC 20-43-10- 3.5(j)).

Questions:

Please contact [Rebecca Estes](#), Director of Leadership and Innovation, with any questions.