

# Ohio Master Teacher Program

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### ***Who is eligible to apply for the Master Teacher designation?***

To be eligible for the Master Teacher designation, the candidate must hold a valid professional teaching license or certificate; have taught a minimum of seven years and currently in the eighth year of teaching; and worked a minimum of 120 days during the current school year under a teaching contract and employed as a teacher. If a candidate, such as a therapist, speech language pathologist or school psychologist holds a teaching license in addition to a pupil service license then he/she would be eligible.

### ***Why would a teacher consider applying for the Master Teacher designation?***

There are a number of reasons teachers would apply for the Master Teacher designation, such as an entry point for a teacher leadership position, positive recognition, a benchmark to strive for in a teaching career, and/or meeting one criteria to be eligible to seek advanced-level licenses. In addition, teachers that successfully complete the Master Teacher Program in Strongsville will receive 90 PDU's (3 semester hours) toward their subsequent licensure renewal.

### ***What is the process for an interested teacher to submit a Master Teacher application?***

Completed applications should be submitted to the LPDC by the designated deadlines. The LPDC will score the application and determine designation based on a statewide standards-based rubric.

### ***What are the deadlines for the Master Teacher application process?***

Candidates interested in completing the Master Teacher application process will submit two letters of intent (Form G) with the appropriate signature(s) to the LPDC no later than the October or May meeting. Completed applications with supporting evidence must be submitted to the LPDC for review no later than the October meeting if the letters of intent were submitted in May or the May meeting if the letters of intent were submitted in October. In either situation, the completed applications with supporting evidence must be submitted in the manner set forth in the *Master Teacher Style Guide and Submission Requirements* document.

### ***What records must be maintained?***

The district will maintain a copy of the written narratives submitted as well as the official score sheet with feedback. The teacher is required to maintain the evidence.

### ***Is Master Teacher status the same as Highly Qualified Teacher status (HQT)?***

No. HQT is a federal mandate, whereas the Master Teacher Program was created as a result of Ohio legislation and is a voluntary recognition program.

### ***What about Master Teacher Program and National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT)?***

With the Master Teacher and NBCT moving into the licensure structure, it allows an individual to be recognized for the separate accomplishments. NBCT's are able to apply for the highest level of licensure (Lead Professional) and would have no need to be considered a Master Teacher. The MT designation meets one of the criteria for the third tier of licensure (Senior Professional).

### ***Do I have to apply for the advanced level license if I obtain the Master Teacher designation?***

No, it would still be the educator's decision whether to apply for the license.

### ***What are some suggestions in submitting a successful Master Teacher application?***

A Master Teacher application should exemplify and support activities and achievements above and beyond expected duties. Be detailed in the narrative. Clear descriptions and evidence should address the points of the rubric. Evidence should elaborate on the narrative.

### ***I already hold the Master Teacher designation. How do I renew my Master Teacher designation?***

To be eligible for the Master Teacher Renewal, educators must have obtained Master Teacher designation. Renewal candidates may choose either Year Four or Year Five of their Master Teacher designation to complete the renewal process. If a Master Teacher successfully renews his/her designation during Year Four, his/her renewal status does not take effect until their current designation expires.