

Teacher Apprenticeship Incentive Program FAQ Sheet

1. We already have a grant from the Houston Endowment to work with apprentice teachers - do we qualify for this program?

Yes, organizations with existing grants, including those funded by the Houston Endowment, are eligible to participate. TAIP is intentionally designed to complement and support Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Programs (RTAPs) by helping to offset startup costs while also providing an opportunity to better understand how to effectively maximize and braid funding across multiple funding streams.

2. Does this apply only to Houston Region?

Eligibility is focused on organizations within our service area, including Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties, through the Teacher Apprenticeship Incentive Program. Organizations located outside of these counties, but within the Gulf Coast Workforce Board region, are encouraged to connect with us to explore additional funding opportunities.

3. Can we use this for pre-apprenticeship programs?

To access Teacher Apprenticeship Incentive Program (TAIP) support, districts must participate in a U.S. Department of Labor-recognized teacher apprenticeship program. Separate funding opportunities for pre-apprenticeship activities may also be available through the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. Please contact us for additional information.

4. What is a level 1 apprentice?

A Level 1 apprentice typically has 0–30 college credit hours. Terminology may vary by program (e.g., “on-ramp” vs. “level”), but all RTAPs use a progression framework to track advancement toward teacher certification.

5. Are applicants eligible to apply if they are currently completing coursework but have not yet begun the residency component? The anticipated residency start date is January 2027.

Yes. Apprentices who are currently employed and enrolled in a Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP) are eligible, even if they have not yet begun the residency component. Districts may submit their information for review, and eligibility will be confirmed as appropriate.

6. Could you provide follow-up training focused on tracking hours in RAPIDS, as well as an overview of edVera, including its functionality and intended purpose?

Absolutely. Follow-up technical assistance opportunities and additional guidance will be provided to participating districts. These sessions will focus on the following topics:

- Accurate tracking and reporting of on-the-job learning hours in RAPIDS
 - The role of edVera as a data management and compliance support platform
 - Accessing and utilizing the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system
 - Best practices for documentation, monitoring progress, and maintaining audit readiness
7. Will incentives be awarded for all apprentices, or only for those who are determined to be eligible?

Incentives will be provided only for apprentices submitted by the district who are participating in a Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP) and are enrolled in the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) program. All individuals must be registered in RAPIDS (or will be registered within 45 days of employment) and actively working toward teacher certification. Submitted apprentices will undergo a review and confirmation process to determine eligibility. Incentives will be awarded only to those individuals who meet all program requirements and are approved through this evaluation.

8. Could follow-up workshops be offered to further deepen understanding of each component required for a successful Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP)?

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board will host a series of convenings for organizations with established Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Programs (RTAPs), as well as for those interested in launching their own programs. These sessions will be offered through two distinct workshop tracks, with additional details to be shared by June 30. If there are specific components of RTAP design for which you would like targeted technical assistance or consultation, please reach out to us, and a member of our team will follow up directly.

9. How do edwell and CREW align within this framework, and how do their roles and services complement or differ from what was presented today?

The Teacher Apprenticeship Incentive Program (TAIP) is available to all districts implementing a Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program (RTAP), including those in partnership with EdWell or Dallas College's CREW initiative. TAIP funding, along with technical assistance provided by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, operates independently from the services offered by these organizations and is designed to complement existing supports.

10. How does the level of weekly engagement (e.g., part-time participation such as three days per week) impact eligibility for the teacher apprenticeship incentive?

Residents participating in a Registered Apprenticeship Program are generally expected to maintain full-time employment to qualify as apprentices. Full-time status is typically defined as working a minimum of 30 hours per week; however, exceptions may apply depending on how the apprenticeship role is structured and the number of compensated hours. If your district believes an exception may be warranted or has questions regarding work hour requirements, we encourage you to reach out for further guidance and review.