

## Master Teacher Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

There are a number of reasons teachers would apply for the Master Teacher (MT) designation:

- an entry point for a teacher leadership position
- school, district and community recognition
- possible preparation for seeking National Board Certification
- a benchmark to strive for in a teaching career
- some districts offering CEUs
- aligned with the licensure structure starting January 2011
- meets one criteria to be eligible to seek advanced-level licenses

### ***What is the new licensure structure that is available in January 2011?***

- Resident Educator License – 4-year non-renewable
- Professional Educator License – 5-year renewable
- Senior Professional Educator License – 5-year renewable
  - Master’s Degree
  - 9 years’ teaching experience
  - Successful completion of the Master Teacher Program
- Lead Professional Educator License – 5-year renewable
  - Master’s Degree
  - 9 years’ teaching experience
  - National Board Certification **OR** Teacher Leader Endorsement with successful completion of the Master Teacher Program

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

With the MT and NBCT moving into the licensure structure, it allows an individual to be recognized for the separate accomplishments. NBCTs 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). Also the number of MTs is no longer reported in EMIS.

### ***Who is on the MT committee?***

The makeup of the committee is a local decision. It must, however, be comprised of at least five members, and the majority must be teachers.

### ***Are Master Teacher committees subject to the Sunshine Law?***

ODE believes that Master Teacher committees are subject to Ohio’s Sunshine Laws as they meet the definition of a “public body” and a “public office” under the law. This means

that committees must adhere to requirements of the Open Meetings Act and Public Records Act. Districts are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel on these issues.

***Where do I submit my application?***

Submit your application to your local MT committee. The committee will score the application and determine designation based on a statewide standards-based rubric.

***How is this process different from an evaluation?***

This process is completely separate from evaluation. Evaluation is a negotiated item for the purposes of employment. Master Teacher designation is a state teacher recognition program and is a voluntary process for teachers.

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

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

***Does substitute teaching and out-of-state experience count toward the seven years of experience?***

As long as you received a full year's credit for the experience, it can count toward the seven years of experience.

***Are Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists and psychologists eligible?***

To be eligible for the Master Teacher designation, the candidate must have a teaching license. If the candidate holds a teaching license in addition to a pupil service license then he/she would be eligible.

***Is a teacher on an Alternative License eligible?***

A teacher needs to be on a five-year professional license, eight-year certificate or hold a permanent certificate. A teacher with an Alternative License would not be eligible.

***Does my master's degree count?***

While some of the projects you may have worked on will provide a benefit to you in completing the MT application, a master's degree does not automatically qualify you for the Master Teacher designation.

***Is there funding available?***

Currently, there is no state funding available to districts for implementing the Master Teacher program. Some districts are exploring financial incentives or assistance to their teachers who want to seek the MT designation.

***What research was used to support this program?***

The Educator Standards Board (ESB) examined state and national recognition programs and research, particularly research related to standards-based teaching and reflection. Practices of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Phi Delta Kappan, McRel and the National Staff Development Council were some of the sources considered.

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

The district needs to 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.

***What is the renewal process for MT?***

During the 2011-2012 school year, the ESB will determine the process for master teachers seeking to renew their designation.

***Do I have to apply for the advanced level license if I obtain the MT designation?***

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