



Texas Thespians Premier Communities for Theatre Education

Texas Thespians is an affiliate of the Educational Theatre Association and includes numerous branches of the organization which offer multiple opportunities to Texas Theatre Educators and middle and high school students throughout our state. Our mission is to create an artistic, educational and professional network for theatre arts educators, students, professionals, and enthusiasts to share ideas and support the effort to have theatre arts recognized in all phases of education and lifelong learning.

The mission of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) is to shape lives through theatre education. EdTA honors student achievement in theatre, supports teachers by providing professional resources, and influences public opinion that theatre education is essential for building life skills.

EdTA is an outgrowth of the [International Thespian Society \(ITS\)](#), the only theatre honorary of its kind for middle and high school students. Since 1929, ITS and its troupes have affirmed the quality of affiliated theatre programs, bringing credibility and distinction to both students and schools.

Texas Thespians is pleased to recognize school districts who support innovative approaches to theatre education, active involvement in The Educational Theatre Association's International Thespian Society, The Texas Thespians Chapter, and who achieve a high level of excellence in theatre education.

School districts that meet and/or satisfy the point requirements will be recognized as a Texas Thespians Premier Community for Theatre Education. This designation is determined by the total number of points a district is eligible to earn in each category. Districts are encouraged to apply annually to receive recognition for commitment to excellence in theatre.

Winners will be announced and recognized annually.

Award winners receive the following:

1. Official certificate
2. Customizable press release template
3. Recognition on Texas Thespians social media platforms
4. Digital signature banner
5. Letter of commendation from Texas Thespians to the school board and superintendent
6. Award presentation at a Texas Thespians event

How are districts chosen?

The Texas Thespians Executive Board will secure a review committee to check criteria and determine whether the district submission meets the qualifications to receive the designation of a Texas Thespians Premier Community for Theatre Education. All districts fulfilling the rigorous criteria shall be awarded the prestigious title.

<i>Texas Thespians Premier Communities for Theatre Education Tiers/Awards</i>	
<i>80 - 100 points</i>	<i>Exceptional</i>
<i>50 - 79 points</i>	<i>Quality</i>

Rubric is based on district events/activities September - June.

Texas Thespians Premier Communities for Theatre Education

Eligibility Criteria

- Program uses standards-based instruction
- Program offers curricular theatre courses
- Performance space is safe as proven by regular inspection from certified technicians and inclusion of first aid/safety materials and instruction
- Program adheres to licensing, copyright, and intellectual property laws
- Program provides production opportunities to students
- Program has certified theatre teachers on staff
- Program provides teachers with qualified evaluators who use meaningful evaluation methods to measure instructional design and effectiveness, classroom management, and pedagogy in the theatre classroom
- Program provides theatre students many opportunities to explore a potential career path in theatre

Submission Requirements

- District classification
- Grade level enrollment
- Race/Ethnicity enrollment
- Course enrollment rates
- Budget (including Title I and Title IV usage)
- Theatre Curriculum & Scheduling
 - Standards used for assessing theatre education
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- Staffing
 - Theatre educators & qualifications
 - Theatre Courses
 - Professional Development
- Resources & Equipment
 - Literary resources
 - Technical resources
 - Production elements
 - Technology Access
- Safety
- Facilities
- Troupe Engagement & Involvement

Districts that earn the Texas Premier Communities award are eligible to apply for the Educational Theatre Association's national award.

RUBRIC

Texas Thespians Premier Communities for Theatre Education

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Curriculum and Scheduling

Curriculum

Quality aligned curriculum through district created matrix, scope and sequence and unit plans.

Curriculum supports general age-appropriate instruction in directing, acting, playwriting, technical theatre, and design.

3 Points

Exceptional aligned curriculum through district created matrix, scope and sequence and unit plans.

Curriculum supports in-depth age-appropriate specialized instruction in directing, acting, playwriting, technical theatre, and design.

5 Points

Potential Evidence:

Theatre Course Syllabus, Year At A Glance, Scope and Sequence, Unit Plan Sample.

Additional evidence: Student rubric example, student work sample, production contract sample

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Curriculum and Scheduling

Scheduling

Theatre classes are scheduled to allow all students the opportunity to participate in at least 135 minutes of instruction weekly for the entire school year.

All theatre classes meet during the regular school day, and after-school rehearsals and production work serve to supplement the learning that takes place within the school day.

3 Points

Theatre classes are scheduled to allow all students the opportunity to participate in a minimum 225 minutes of curricular period of instruction weekly for the entire school year.

All theatre classes meet during the regular school day, and after-school rehearsals and production work serve to supplement the learning that takes place within the school day.

5 Points

Potential Evidence:

District Master Scheduling Recommendations for Theatre Arts, Sample campus schedule.

Additional evidence: Production schedule/calendar, master course schedule

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Staffing

Teacher Qualification

In-depth instruction in specialized course work is provided by certified theatre teachers with general content training and/or demonstrated industry experience and pedagogy.

3 Points

In-depth instruction in specialized course work is provided by certified theatre teachers with specific content training and/or demonstrated industry experience, pedagogy, and/or are considered highly qualified.

5 Points

Potential Evidence:

List of teachers district-wide indicating proof of highly qualified/effective teachers (years of experience, awards, etc.)

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Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Staffing	
Teaching Load	
District values and acknowledges best practices for master scheduling class load and course offerings. TEA-approved theater courses (MS Theater 1-3 or HS Theater 1-4, Tech Theater 1-4) are offered and capped with facility restrictions, student safety, and teacher consideration for maximum educational opportunity.	District values and acknowledges best practices for master scheduling class load and course offerings. Multiple TEA-approved theater courses are offered and capped with facility restrictions, student safety, and teacher consideration for maximum educational opportunity.
3 Points	5 Points
<i>Potential Evidence:</i> List of theatre courses offered district-wide, sample master schedule of classes	

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Staffing	
Professional Development	
Attended at least two to three Texas Thespians-offered theatre-specific professional development conferences.	Attended at least two to three Texas Thespians-offered theatre-specific professional development conferences and/or EDTA Theatre Education Conference or EDTA International Thespian Festival.
3 Points	5 Points
<i>Potential Evidence:</i> List of professional development opportunities provided to teachers	

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Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Resources and Equipment

Literary Resources

Every student has their own script, textbook and/or other print resource, or equivalent digital access to the content.

The annual school and/or district budget includes an allocation for purchasing production rights to copyrighted scripts, consistent with a planned production schedule.

Every theatre class has access to grade-appropriate scripts and textbooks/resources that reflect diverse theatre genres and support instruction in the four artistic processes.

Classes are taught using recognized theatre education textbooks/ resources that allow for scaffolded standards-based learning in what students should know and be able to do in theatre at each grade level.

3 Points

Every student has their own script, textbook and/or other print resource, or equivalent digital access to the content.

The annual school and/or district budget includes an allocation for purchasing production rights to copyrighted scripts, consistent with a planned production schedule.

Every theatre class has access to grade-appropriate scripts and textbooks/resources that reflect diverse theatre genres and support instruction in the four artistic processes.

Classes are taught using recognized theatre education textbooks/ resources that allow for scaffolded standards-based learning in what students should know and be able to do in theatre at each grade level.

Theatre classes have access to specialized resources in acting, musical theatre, technical theatre, playwriting, directing, and production management. Theatre is included in the district's schedule of textbook/resource adoption and updates for purchasing specialized resources.

5 Points

Potential Evidence:
Evidence of district script library, list of script and literary resources used in theatrical studies, sample scope and sequence with script titles by grade level, et cetera.

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Resources and Equipment

Technology

Every theatre class has convenient and consistent access to appropriate classroom technology that allows for scaffolded standards-based learning.

Teachers have consistent access to email, online storage, a school-sanctioned web portal, and other online services for professional and curricular development, and research.

Teachers have quality projectors and/or interactive boards, and other technologies consistent with the tools provided for other well-rounded academic content area classrooms.

3 Points

Every theatre class has convenient and consistent access to appropriate classroom technology that allows for scaffolded standards-based learning.

Teachers have consistent access to email, online storage, a school-sanctioned web portal, and other online services for professional and curricular development, and research.

Teachers have quality projectors and/or interactive boards, and other technologies consistent with the tools provided for other well-rounded academic content area classrooms.

Students have consistent access to email, online storage, a school-sanctioned web portal, and other online services for learning.

5 Points

Potential Evidence:
List of technology related items provided to the theatre classroom.

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Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Resources and Equipment

Production Elements

Every theatre class has access to set, lighting, sound, properties, costume and makeup resources, theatre software, hardware, and tools in support of the theatre curriculum.

Every theatre class has access to dedicated space, tools and materials to support the full spectrum of theatrical production.

All production equipment is regularly inspected and maintained and supplies are replenished.

3 Points

Every theatre class has a convenient dedicated space that provides climate-controlled storage for set, lighting, sound, properties, costume, and makeup resources.

Every theatre class has convenient access to state-of-the-art lighting, sound and other media as required to address production and technical theatre.

All production equipment is regularly inspected and maintained and supplies are replenished.

Replacement schedules for equipment ensure that students have continued access to state-of-the-art production equipment and supplies.

5 Points

Potential Evidence:

List of production elements and equipment provided, equipment maintenance schedule, et cetera.

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Safety

Safety

Teachers and students are trained in safe tools and materials use and handling.

All theatre instruction in technical theatre includes stage, fire protection and shop safety protocols.

An annual school and/or district budget is provided to check and service all electrical, rigging, fire equipment, and tools, performed by certified technicians.

Every teacher and student engaged in hands-on technical theatre activities has ready access to goggles, earplugs, dust masks, respirators, and gloves.

Every theatre production space features a regularly reviewed safety kit and fire extinguishers. All teachers are aware of their location and how to operate them.

3 Points

Teachers and students are trained in safe tools and materials use and handling.

All theatre instruction in technical theatre includes stage, fire protection and shop safety protocols based on guidelines from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

An annual school and/or district budget is provided to check and service all electrical, rigging, fire equipment, and tools, performed by certified technicians.

Every teacher and student engaged in hands-on technical theatre activities has ready access to goggles, earplugs, dust masks, respirators, and gloves.

Every theatre production space features a regularly reviewed safety kit and fire extinguishers. All students and teachers are aware of their location and how to operate them.

5 Points

Potential Evidence: District Shop Safety and Technical Theatre Safety plans, facility maintenance and inspection schedule, et cetera.

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Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Facilities

Facilities

Teachers and students have access to a classroom space dedicated to theatre instruction and adequate in size to accommodate the largest group of students taught and adaptable to serve as a rehearsal or performance venue.

Suitable space is available for multiple computers with appropriate power and internet connection.

Teachers and students have scheduled access to a handicapped accessible high-quality performance space to produce, rehearse, and stage several formal and stage several formal and informal presentations before an audience during the school year.

3 Points

Theatre teachers are provided with dedicated, climate-controlled and easily accessible storage space for all supplies and equipment required for a full-scale production.

A handicapped accessible dedicated performance space to accommodate actors, technicians, technical elements, and an audience size appropriate to the school population.

The space includes:

- dressing rooms with appropriate lighting and mirrors
- a rigging system
- a high-quality sound system, including a control console capable of using current audio recording technology and adequate microphones to support production needs
- state-of-the-art lighting that includes a control console and lighting units suitable to the size and depth of the performance space
- access to climate controls for HVAC systems.

5 Points

Potential Evidence: List of theatrical spaces with square footage, list of classroom spaces and storage spaces, et cetera.

Criteria/Rubric 2023-2024: Troupe Engagement

Troupe Involvement	Participation in festivals, conferences, and workshops	6 points
Troupe Productions	Producing full scale productions on campuses	3 Points
Troupe Competitions	Participation in local, state and national competitions	8 points
Troupe Leadership	Students are provided opportunities to develop leadership skills	4 Points
Troupe Administrative Support	District level administration displays support of theatrical programs	4 Points
Troupe Recognition	District recognizes and supports involvement in Thespians	7 points
Troupe Campus Involvement	Troupe collaborates and is involved in all facets of the campus	5 points
Troupe Community Involvement	Troupe displays philanthropic efforts and a desire to serve the community	4 Points
Troupe Advocacy	Troupe is active in advocacy efforts at the district and community level	9 points
Total Troupe Engagement Points		50 points

