

Texas Thespian Aspiring Educator Commitment Contract

The Texas Thespian Aspiring Educator program is committed to supporting the growth and development of students through a variety of leadership programs, including the **Texas Thespians Aspiring Educator Program**. These experiences provide students with future-ready skills that will equip the next generation of passionate, confident, and impactful theatre educators across Texas!

The **Aspiring Educator Program** offers focused mentorship and hands-on training to develop passionate, confident, and capable future educators. Students gain valuable experience that supports their journey into collegiate programs and careers in theatre education.

Aspiring Educator Program

Our cohorts will meet bi-monthly via Google Meet for training and mentorship opportunities, and hands-on opportunities will be managed through Google Classroom. Students will need to create a professional, non-school based G-Mail email to participate.

Texas Thespians Aspiring Educators will:

- Serve as an example of the ideal Thespian
- Be in training and serve Texas Thespians for one year (October - October)
- Receive Future Ready training on:
 - Lesson planning, TEKS, classroom management, teaching strategies
 - Resume creation, portfolio development, explore college programs, and meet with college representatives
- Be paired with a Texas Thespians Mentor
- Create lesson plans or play studies ready for classroom use for TTM once a month
- Prepare and present a workshop with a mentor that will be evaluated on a rubric by adult mentors at a regional Junior Festival
- Participate in State Festival tailored activities:
 - Participate in focused workshops at State Festival with their cohort
 - Assist with tours on Admin Day
 - Greet at Educator Breakfast
 - Write "Thank You" notes to all teachers in attendance
- Serve Texas Thespians by honoring Texas Thespian Teachers:
 - Create social media posts for Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Curate Teacher of the Month and create social media posts monthly
 - Assist with Teacher Award publicity and slideshow for Teacher Conference
- Must meet deadlines and have good time-management skills

Expectations of Texas Thespian Aspiring Educators

As representatives of the Texas Thespians Aspiring Educator Program, participants are expected to uphold the values of Texas Thespians by demonstrating the following:

- **Lead with Purpose**
Embrace leadership roles with integrity, confidence, and humility—serving as role models in rehearsal spaces, classrooms, and community settings. Keep a positive attitude, and respect for your peers, the adults, and theatre.
- **Engage with Passion**
Show enthusiasm for theatre education by actively participating in all program activities, discussions, and mentorship opportunities.
- **Act with Professionalism**
Represent your school and Texas Thespians in person and on social media with respect, accountability, and a commitment to excellence in conduct, communication, and collaboration, always abiding by your school’s Student Code of Conduct, and the rules governing their Thespian Troupe.
- **Foster Inclusive Community**
Promote a supportive and welcoming environment by uplifting peers and celebrating diverse voices and experiences in theatre. Cooperate with all State Thespian Leadership teams, Chapter Thespian Adult Leadership, State Festival participants, and other members of the Texas Thespians Organization.
- **Commit to Lifelong Learning**
Approach every opportunity with curiosity and a growth mindset, seeking to strengthen both personal skills and the future of theatre education.
- **Advocate for Theatre Education**
Champion the importance of theatre in schools and beyond, inspiring others through a commitment to teaching, creativity, and student impact.

Membership Guidelines

The following membership guidelines are categorized under Application and Selection, Leadership/Teamwork, Attendance, Transportation, Appearance, Responsibilities, and Expectations.

Troupe Director Responsibilities:

- Assistance in providing information in the application process.
- Moral support and mentorship of the Texas Thespians Aspiring Educator program throughout their term.
- It is suggested to provide financial assistance for transportation with troupe funding, if possible.
- Notify the Theatre Education chair of any changes, problems, or issues that may keep the Aspiring Teacher from succeeding, including but not limited to, communication regarding campus eligibility status and potential behavioral concerns.

Aspiring Teacher Application and Selection

Any sophomore or junior who is an inducted Thespian and is in good standing with their troupe may apply.

Three students per school may apply for the Texas Thespian Aspiring Educator Program.

Application Process through Submittable

Opens: August 9, 2025 (with opening of Troupe Days)

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Notification via email by: November 1, 2025

- No fee to apply, but would pay \$50 if selected (covers resources and Lanyard/Badge)
- Basic information about the student, school, director, and troupe
- Free Response Questions:
 - Why do you believe theatre education is important for young people?
 - What qualities do you think make a great theatre teacher? Which of those do you already have and which would you like to develop?
- Video link to an unlisted YouTube video to include:
 - An introduction to the student (2 min.)
 - A well-planned statement describing a moment in their theatre journey that made them realize they wanted to teach theatre.
- Headshot/Resume
- Permission Forms
- Letter of Recommendation from the student's theatre teacher confirming their dedication to the craft, strengths on and off the stage, and likelihood of success as a theatre educator in the future.
- Finalists will have a Zoom interview with a Theatre Education Committee member.

Students who successfully complete the program's initiatives are invited to return for Year 2.

Attendance

Aspiring Theatre Educators are required to:

- Have regular school attendance in all classes
- Attend meetings and assigned Texas Thespians events. Students will be provided with a tentative working calendar for the following year at the first meeting of their term.
- Missing meetings or events can result in being removed from our Aspiring Educator Program at the discretion of the Education Chair.

Transportation for Texas Thespians Events

- Each Aspiring Theatre Educator is required to secure and provide all transportation to and from Texas Thespians-sponsored events.
- **Students are not allowed to drive themselves to Texas Thespians Events.** They must be driven by a parent or guardian, or their school district sponsor. Aspiring Educators will be responsible for communicating their transportation plans with the Education Chair.
- Housing for events, meetings, etc, at the student's school will be provided and paid for by the student's school.

Appearance

When representing Texas Thespians, the Aspiring Theatre Educator is expected to dress in a manner that is professional and appropriate to the event.

- Light blue button down or polo
- Navy or Khaki bottoms with
- Special Lanyard with Aspiring Teacher Badge provided by Texas Thespians

All Aspiring Theatre Educators shall:

- Maintain neatly groomed hair and ensure that facial hair is trimmed and neat
- Ensure that the face is free of piercings, and earrings worn should be in the bottom hole only
- Ensure tattoos are completely covered
- Nails are of professional color, shape, and length
- No short shorts or athletic shorts. Dresses and skirts are at school-appropriate lengths.
- No midriff-baring tops
- No pajamas or slippers
- No open-toed shoes
- Ensure clothing does not have rips, holes, or tears

Financial

Texas Thespians Aspiring Theatre Educators are responsible for their own expenses not covered by Texas Thespians. This may include travel and meals that are not provided by Texas Thespians, which will be indicated prior to any and all events.

Aspiring Educators will also pay \$50 after being accepted. They will keep their lanyard and badge.

Behavioral Expectations

Texas Thespians have specific conduct expectations, as outlined in the following Code of Conduct:

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TEXAS THESPIANS - CODE OF CONDUCT

Rev. 1/6/23-TT

Texas Thespians are committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, Texas Thespians staff, service providers, and all others are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct.

This policy applies to all Texas Thespians meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than Texas Thespians, but held in conjunction with Texas Thespians events, on public or private platforms.

Texas Thespians have zero tolerance for any form of discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to sexual harassment by participants or our staff at our meetings. If you experience harassment or hear of any incidents of unacceptable behavior, Texas Thespians please inform Amy Jordan, Executive Director/Chapter Director, (Amy.Jordan@texasthespians.org) so that we can take the appropriate action.

- **Act well your part.** Texas Thespians events engage participants with a wide range of beliefs and ideas about the subjects they're discussing. We encourage an open dialogue but require that participants remain courteous and respectful at all times.
- **There are no small parts.** Everyone is essential in an online community. Visit often, participate, and encourage others to do the same. You have answers that others are seeking, and they are just as capable of helping you.
- **Know your audience.** This is an educational tool, used to connect students, teachers, and people passionate about the arts. Just as you would in any educational environment, refrain from posting pictures or comments with inappropriate content.
- **YES and...** The event is meant to be a positive experience for anyone who chooses to participate. Feel free to post helpful and relevant advice or suggestions, but do not be abusive, profane, threatening, or offensive. Think before you post/speak. Is it necessary? Is it kind? Is it true?
- **SHHHHH!** The participants themselves do the best monitoring of a community. If you see any inappropriate or offensive content, please notify your Leadership Liaison immediately. We do not discuss any user's account with another user, so your report will remain anonymous, as will the actions we have taken.
- **All the world's a stage.** On the internet, you always have an audience. If you wouldn't say it to your mother, your boss, or a child, don't put it in our chat. Respect the privacy of others. The Educational Theatre Association/Texas Thespians is not responsible for any consequences you experience resulting from anything you have posted at this event. Please refrain from using any information that would lead to exposing your personal identity (last name, email address, or other personal information).
- **Copyright.** If it's not yours, get permission before you post it, or cite the necessary sources.

Unacceptable behavior is defined as:

- Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form.
- Verbal abuse of any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, Texas Thespians staff, service provider, or other meeting guests.
- Examples of verbal abuse include but are not limited to, verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion,

national origin, inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations, or threatening or stalking any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, Texas Thespians staff, service provider, or other meeting guests.

- Disruption of presentations during sessions, in the exhibit hall, or at other events organized by Texas Thespians throughout the virtual meeting. All participants must comply with the instructions of the moderator and any Texas Thespians virtual event staff.
- Presentations, postings, and messages should not contain promotional materials, special offers, job offers, product announcements, or solicitations for services. Texas Thespians reserves the right to remove such messages and potentially ban sources of those solicitations.
- Participants should not copy or take screenshots of Q&A or any chat room activity that takes place in the virtual space.

Texas Thespians reserves the right to take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting without warning or refund, in response to any incident of unacceptable behavior, and Texas Thespians reserves the right to prohibit attendance at any future meeting, virtually or in person.

Texas Thespians reserves the right to update or change these guidelines without notice; be sure you keep up to date.

Permanent Dismissal

Reasons for permanent dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Expulsion;
- Truancy;
- Alternative school placement;
- Academic ineligibility;
- Refusal to follow the Texas Thespians Code of Conduct

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Texas Thespians Aspiring Educator Commitment Contract

By signing this document, I acknowledge receipt and that I have read the Aspiring Educator Commitment Contract and understand all that is included within. I will abide by all the expectations and guidelines listed in this document. If I do not, I risk removal from the candidacy process.

Candidate:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Troupe Director:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Principal:

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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