

Advanced Academics Professional Development Q and A

Q: How do I get my initial 30-hour certification?

A: Attend an Advanced Academics Academy, which are held twice a year: the first week in August and 5 Saturdays during the school year (usually September through February.)

Q: How do I get my renewal credit?

A: There are a few options for securing six hours of professional development to keep your g/t certification up-to-date.

Teachers: By completing the requirements for the mini-unit (See PD/mini-unit memo) Teachers will attend a 3-hour professional development session (TAG), June 11th or 12th, or another session scheduled during the Math Summer Festival or the Advanced Academics Academy August 3-7. There will be other opportunities for obtaining this 3-hour session throughout the year during the Academy dates.

LCT's/Coaches: By attending LCT/Coaches training in which AAS provides updates and participating in Learning Walks

AP teachers: By attending AP Summer Institutes or AP Citywide sessions

Q: How will I complete my last 3 hours for renewal this summer?

A: After attending the TAG session for 3 hours you will gain a greater understanding of what is required. You will turn in a "mini-unit" that is tied to the curriculum frameworks and includes 3 or more gifted strategies (See requirements)

Q: How will AAS know I have completed this requirement?

A You will be given a criteria chart and rubric that outlines when and how you are to submit your mini-unit. You will send it to AAS by August 14, 2009 to receive your renewal credit before the start of classes for the 2009-2010 school year as outlined in the *Texas State Plan for the Education of the Gifted and Talented*.

Q: Do I have to teach this "mini-unit"?

A: Yes. You will set up a time to teach your mini-unit and notify your LCT/Coach so they may conduct a learning walk. After you teach the unit and enjoy your learning walk, you will receive your next 3 hours. You will then turn in a portfolio that includes the learning experience plan, teacher reflections, and student products. Teachers will receive all forms to be used and a portfolio that delineates the criteria to be turned in.

Q: What if I already have my 6 hours of renewal credit for 2009-2010

A: You may count those hours towards 09-10. You may also participate in this new professional development opportunity to earn more hours.

Q: What about subsequent renewal hours?

A: In the district we are moving to a tiered professional development process. If you are certified through the AAS Academy then you are ready for Tier II. You are required by state mandate to earn 6 hours annually of gifted education professional development. In Tier II you will follow the format outline above-3 hours of “seat time” and 3 hours for development of a “mini-unit” for your gifted learners. You move through that cycle multiple times before moving to Tier III.

Renewal cycle: 3 hours of seat time

3 hours learning experience development

6 hours: Implementation of LE,

Learning Walks, and portfolio

Q: What does Tier III look like?

A: Tier III will be an independent project chosen by the teacher. It may be a book study, a collaborative project with another school, etc. Teachers will have some choice in how they will increase their knowledge of issues affecting the gifted. Teachers must be a part of the AAS model cadre to move to Tier III.