

BIOGRAPHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION cont. (required)

(Type application and use no smaller than 10 pt. type and no less than 1.5 spacing.)

List the professional organizations to which you belong and any honors, awards and recognitions conferred upon you by them or the FWISD.

Describe your students.

What would you like the committee to know about you as a teacher?

PART 2: APPLICATION NARRATIVES (required)

Respond to the following topics **each on its own page** with **the title of the topic as the heading**. Include your name and the Chair category for which this application is intended. Please type and use no smaller than 10 pt. type and no less than 1.5 line spacing.

1. What do you consider to be the major issues in public education today? Address one in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.
2. What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?
3. Describe how you stay abreast of trends in your area and cite sources or resources that you have used to improve your delivery of instruction.
4. How have you engaged stakeholders, such as parents, district personnel and business partners, in the education of your students?

PART 3: THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (required)

Instructions for the nominee:

Your application must include three letters of recommendation: your current principal or principal's designee (co-signed by principal), a teaching colleague and a parent or a current or former student. Letters must be typed and enclosed in individually sealed envelopes with the writer's name across the seal.

Instructions for writers of recommendations:

- 1.) At the top of the letter indicate your title- principal, assistant principal, teaching colleague, parent, current or former student.
- 2.) Address in your letter the extent to which the nominee (1) has a command of his/her subject, (2) has the esteem of fellow faculty members, and (3) has the respect of students and parents.
- 3.) Sign the letter.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

Teachers selected as Chairs can demonstrate through written materials, an interview and teaching demonstration that they have:

- Acquired a thorough knowledge of their subject area and stayed abreast of current trends,
- Developed innovative strategies to ensure rigor and relevance in their subject areas,
- Sponsored, supported and encouraged students' academic participation in educational experiences outside the classroom,
- Engaged parents, business partners and other stakeholders in the education of their students,
- Participated in professional organizations and activities to increase their own effectiveness and/or encouraged other teachers to strive for excellence,
- Received honors or awards from professional organizations, institutions or higher learning and/or other highly respected entities, and
- Been recognized by their principals and other references as clearly outstanding in all areas.

Selections of Chairs, if any, will be made without regard to race, religion, color, gender, national origin or disability.



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHAIRS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE ELIGIBILITY AND INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose

The purpose of the *Chairs for Teaching Excellence* program is to recognize outstanding teachers in the Fort Worth ISD by conferring upon them for one school year the honorary title Chair for Teaching Excellence and reward them with a \$5,000 honorarium. The Chairs may be asked to provide staff development, work one to one with other teachers, confer and consult on teaching techniques, lend advice on improving programs, and/or provide assistance to District programs and departments.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be full-time, certified and highly qualified FWISD teacher in good standing. (Good standing means that no disciplinary action, pending or completed, has been taken against the teacher during the year including and prior to application. Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to, suspension without pay or other restrictive measures based on a violation of policy or law. Determination of good standing is at the sole discretion of the FWISD.)
- Nominees must work in the FWISD during the entire year served as the Chair.
- Nominees who meet the eligibility criteria must complete and return all required forms by the date published as the deadline.
- If selected for an interview, nominees must be prepared to demonstrate effective teaching techniques to the selection committee.
- Teachers who have been named as any Chair for Teaching Excellence are not eligible.

Eligibility requirements for each Chair are described below:

Grades Pre-K-2: Early Childhood

Grades Pre-K-12: Special Education & Health and Physical Fitness
Performing Arts+ (*instrumental music, choral music, general music, theater and dance*)
Visual Arts (*submission of teacher and student portfolios required*)

Grades Pre-K-5: Elementary Mathematics & Elementary Science & Elementary Reading****

Grades 6-12: Secondary Mathematics ** & Secondary Science & Secondary English****
& Secondary Social Studies** (*World Cultures, Texas History, US History, World Geography, Government/Economics, Human Geography*)
Business & Technology** (*certification in business, marketing or technology education required*)
Acquisition of Language (*teachers who teach in language centers and teachers whose classes taught are at least 50% foreign languages for which students receive credit for graduation*)

+ follows a different application and calendar for selection in 2009

** (Lead Content Teachers, Reading and Math Coaches are eligible)

Application Instructions:

Please follow the instructions below when completing the application. Applications that do not follow the instructions will be disqualified.

- All responses to the narrative topics (**narrative topics are subject to change each year**) must be 500 words or less.
- **Type** your name, the corresponding narrative topic and the Chair category at the top of each page.
- **Please DO NOT** submit additional materials. Lesson plans and student work will not be used in the judging process this year.
- **Include** a copy of current Teacher's Certificate. (Go to www.sbec.state.tx.us to acquire a copy of your certificate.)
- **Selection committees composed of** representatives from the sponsoring organizations, the business community, higher education and parents select the Chairs. The committees will review all submitted applications. Finalists will be named in the fall of 2009 and interviewed by the selection committees at that time. The Chairs will be named upon completion of the interviews.
- **Please submit your completed and signed application to:** Chairs for Teaching Excellence, Fort Worth ISD, Parent and Public Engagement, Attn: Nancy Ricker, Executive Director, 100 N. University Drive, Suite 259NW, Fort Worth, TX 76107 Applications must be delivered to the Parent and Public Engagement office by **5:30 p.m. or postmarked by midnight Tuesday, May 26, 2009!**