

TLLP: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Teacher Leadership and Learning Program (TLLP)?

The TLLP is a project-based professional learning opportunity for individual experienced teachers or teacher-led groups consisting of experienced teachers and other experienced educational workers (e.g. educational assistants, social workers). Interested teachers are invited to submit project proposals for self-directed professional learning and knowledge exchange activities.

What are the goals of the TLLP?

The TLLP has three objectives:

1. Support teacher professional learning in the context of ministry/board/school goals
2. Foster teacher leadership in effectively managing learning projects and encourage awareness of adult learning styles needed to share learning with colleagues; and
3. Facilitate the sharing of exemplary practice.

Who is eligible to participate in the TLLP?

Experienced teachers (including occasional teachers) from all publicly funded district school boards, school authorities and provincial schools are eligible to apply. Individual teachers or groups of teachers may apply. Groups must be teacher-led but may include other educational workers, such as education assistants.

For the purposes of this program, eligible teachers are defined as teachers who are beyond the induction career stage and whose primary assignment is teaching students (e.g., classroom teacher, teacher-librarian, guidance counsellor, co-op teacher, itinerant teacher). Teachers working in system level or administrative positions (e.g. principals, coordinators, consultants) cannot submit an application or lead a TLLP project; however, these educators can provide extremely valuable input as team members. Previous successful TLLP teams have included support staff of all types.

The focus of the program is on experienced teachers who have chosen not to pursue system level or administrative roles and therefore do not have the opportunities to share their knowledge and experience as do, for example, consultants.

What is required of successful applicants?

Successful applicants are required to meet the following expectations:

- Develop a proposal
- Attend the *Leadership Skills for Classroom Teachers* session in May, prior to undertaking their approved project
- Carry out the activities as described in their proposal application
- Participate in an on-line community of practice
- Share their learning
- Conduct an analysis of their learning
- Produce a report on their learning (see TLLP Teacher Participant Final Report Form)
- Attend the TLLP Sharing the Learning Summit in November, following the completion of their project

See TLLP Program Guideline for more details.



What are the timelines for the TLLP?

Specific timelines for submitting an application and participating in a TLLP project are outlined in TLLP Timelines – 2012-2013 posted on the Ministry website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tllp.html>).

Will the TLLP continue after this school year? Can I apply again?

The TLLP is an annual program. Previous applicants can apply again in subsequent years.

Questions from Applicants

When is the deadline for submitting project proposals?

Project proposals must be submitted to your director of education/supervisory officer of school authority by mid-November of any given year. See the TLLP Timeline – 2012-2013 posted on the Ministry website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tllp.html>) for more details.

My team received a TLLP grant in a previous year. Can I apply again for a TLLP grant this year?

Previous recipients of TLLP funding may submit another project proposal, however it must be noted that the TLLP is not intended to fund ongoing programs. To be eligible for consideration, proposals from previous program participants must be significantly different in topic and/or scope from the previously funded project.

What is the maximum grant available?

There is **no set maximum amount** since it will depend on the scope of the activities of the proposed project. However, the most common range of funding is expected to be approximately \$5,000 for small-scale projects, up to \$12,000 for projects involving teams or possibly more depending on the scope of the project.

Can technological equipment be included in a project budget?

Technological equipment could be included in a budget on condition that:

- it is not already available at the school or through the board,
- it is not already funded by the ministry,
- it is a necessary resource for the project's learning activity, and
- it will benefit the learning of other teachers or other educational workers.

Are there specific topics projects must focus on?

Proposals must focus on professional learning topics related to effective practices for student learning and development. Topics of interest could include, but would not be limited to, the following:

- equity of outcome (e.g. innovative strategies to address the needs of a targeted student population)
- teaching and learning strategies in and across content areas (e.g. innovative strategies to support student achievement in literacy and numeracy)
- competencies and strategies for teaching in a minority context (e.g. innovative strategies to help foster increased capacity to work in a minority setting to support the academic learning and identity building of every student)

Teacher Learning and Leadership Program for **EXPERIENCED TEACHERS**

- integrated curriculum (e.g. innovative approaches to the use of interdisciplinary studies or integration of subjects)
- community partnerships (e.g. innovative strategies to help develop school-community projects that serve essentially to apply students' learning, develop their sense of belonging to a community, and provide them with opportunities for self-affirmation outside of school)
- integrating technology to enhance curriculum delivery and pedagogy in order to address a specific learning need (e.g. innovative approaches to the use of communications technology)
- impact of professional learning communities/networks (e.g. school/board teams –including staff in educational support roles – share skills/knowledge on any of the above topics)

How will proposals be selected?

Directors of education/supervisory officers of school authorities will convene a committee comprised of federation representatives and board staff to review the proposals. The committee will identify the proposals (maximum of two) to be recommended to the Ministry of Education. These proposals will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education along with the topics of all other proposals received by the board. A Provincial Teacher Learning and Leadership Committee comprised of ministry staff and representatives from each teacher federation will make the final selection decision.

What selection criteria will the board review committee and the TLLC be following?

- The extent to which the proposal is guided by the following five characteristics of effective professional learning (see Appendix A of the TLLP Program Guideline):
 - Coherent
 - Attentive to Adult Learning Styles
 - Goal-oriented
 - Sustainable
 - Evidence-informed
- The quality of the proposal (i.e., to what extent the proposal is well thought out and realistic)
- The background and experience the teacher/group of teachers brings to the subject matter or the project
- The potential impact for the learning of participating teachers
- The extent to which the topic would have an impact on student learning and development and reflect ministry/board/school goals
- The potential of the plan for sharing with others in the school, board, and/or other boards (i.e. the potential for replication and interest on a larger scale)
- The potential impact for the learning of other teachers
- The extent to which the learning and sharing outcomes can be measured

Note that the TLLC will also be considering the funding available and equity of distribution.

When will successful applicants be notified?

Decision letters are sent by email to all project leaders in February. Specific timelines are outlined in TLLP Timeline – 2012-1013 posted on the Ministry website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tllp.html>).