

TIA Same-Level Early Redesignation Policy

Guidance for Data Collection and Data Submission Effective April 2026

Background Information

District-issued TIA designations are valid for five full school years. Districts with local designation systems may annually submit new teacher designations based on prior school year performance data. New designations are submitted in the fall and formally awarded in the spring, marking the first school year of the five-year designation window.

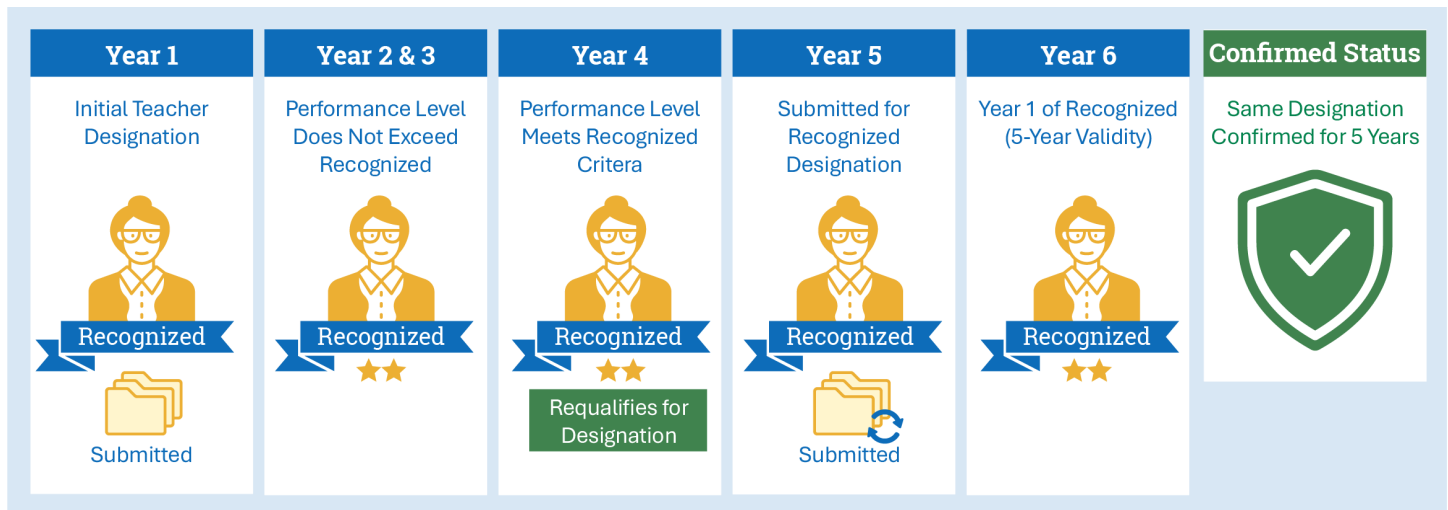
Prior Policy

For teachers who did not qualify for a higher level of designation, the original designation had to expire before the district could resubmit them for a new designation. While the prior policy did maintain the TIA funding if the teacher was resubmitted after the designation expired, it resulted in an undesignated status during the window of data validation and eligibility checks.

Updated Policy, Effective April 2026

Beginning with Fall 2026 data submission, districts may choose to submit **qualifying** teachers entering their final year of designation for a **same-level redesignation**, allowing the new designation to begin immediately after the original expires—without a gap period during data validation.

How Same-Level Redesignation Works



The image above shows a teacher who does not qualify for a higher designation through Year 4 but requalifies at the same level and is resubmitted in the fall of Year 5, resulting in uninterrupted designation status.

Next Steps for TIA Participating Districts

1. Track and identify teachers in Year 4 of designation.

- Track designation expiration dates using SCOMS.
 - **Payout by Teacher** page (will display 087 teachers who qualified for payout's each year).
 - **Fall PEIMS Report** – all designated teachers reported in the district's fall PEIMS collection.
 - Identify teachers in their Year 4 of designation who are not pending a higher designation.

Current Designation Expiration Date	Year 4 of Current Designation (Data Collection/Requalifying Year)	Early Same-Level Redesignation Fall Data Submission Year
7/31/2027	2025-26	Fall 2026
7/31/2028	2026-27	Fall 2027
7/31/2029	2027-28	Fall 2028
7/31/2030	2028-29	Fall 2029

2. Verify eligibility and work toward complete data collection

- Cross check which designated staff are working as teachers in an eligible assignment.
- Communicate new eligibility policy with teachers during stay conversations and staff meetings.
- Work towards complete data collection. Teachers working in an eligible assignment must have a full appraisal and complete student growth data to be submitted for a same-level redesignation in the fall.
- Note, submission for early same-level redesignation is not required. A district may choose to enact this policy change with the start of the 2026-27 data collection year, submitting teachers who qualify for early same-level redesignation beginning in fall 2027. Districts may also choose to wait until designations expire before awarding new designations.

3. Determine designations with same-level redesignation policy in mind

- Once the district has determined which teachers qualified for each level of designation, ensure the teachers in Year 4 of designation are flagged and considered with this new policy in mind.

FAQ

What is the rationale for this policy change?

Master teachers had no pathway to extend their designation status until the current designation expired. Based on feedback from public comments, the redesignation policy was expanded to include all levels of designation. This allows a continued display of recognition for teachers that have maintained their level of effectiveness.

What if a teacher in their fourth year of designation is on an appraisal waiver or not in an eligible assignment?

The updated policy provides the option to redesignate early, but it is not required. Teachers may still be submitted for any level of designation after their designation expires without a gap in funding.

Should we expect most of our designated teachers to requalify at the same level?

No. Designation outcomes will depend on teacher performance data from the prior school year. Districts should continue to collect data for all teachers in eligible assignments and determine designations according to local cut points and performance standards. Districts should only redesignate under this new pathway if the teacher's performance in Year 4 of designation requalified at the same designation level.

When will a same-level redesignation start and expire?

The new designation will be held in a dormant, inactive status in SCOMS until the original designation expires July 31. On August 1, the original designation will expire, and the new designation will become active and begin the renewed designation Year 1 of 5.

What if a teacher qualifies for a higher designation after the same-level redesignation?

The district can still submit the teacher for higher designation in the fall of any year if the prior-year performance qualifies. In this case, same-level redesignation would be replaced in the spring with the higher designation and would generate the higher designation allotment.

The TIA Online Portal usually assists districts with checking teacher eligibility during data submission. Will this update be incorporated into the portal?

TEA will work to provide assistive resources in the portal, including reports to identify teachers with a current designation and their eligibility the following year. Note that the list of staff reported in eligible assignments may not include all teachers and is only a guide. Upon data submission, the portal will still validate if a teacher is not eligible to be submitted and will factor in the new same-level redesignation policy.