

To: All District Faculty
From: Telluride Teacher Academy Governance Board

Re: Telluride Teacher Academy

Overview

Telluride School district values professional development for its teachers on the continuum and has established the *Telluride Teacher Academy* in an effort to both encourage and support teachers taking the initiative to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to best meet the needs of the students in their charge.

The newly created *Telluride Teacher Academy* offers opportunities for Telluride School District teachers to engage in professional growth activity. By taking the initiative to engage in such activities, teacher accrue initiative unit credit(s), continuing education tuition reimbursement or stipends. Compensation is specific to the initiative and is outlined in the attached, *Telluride School District R-1 Teacher Academy Guidelines* document. All Telluride School District teachers are strongly encourage to thoroughly read this document at their earliest convenience.

Telluride Teacher Academy offers multiple avenues to accumulate initiative units, outlined in three broad categories (examples of each):

Continuing Education

(TTA Credit only available for teachers at MA-50)

Graduate Degrees
College/University Coursework

Leadership

Curriculum Chair
Team/Grade-Level Chair
Student Teacher Mentor
Mentor Teacher
Committee Participation

Professional Development

Workshop/Conference Attendee
Workshop/Conference Presenter
Professional Writing
Curriculum Writing

How It Works

Acquiring *Telluride Teacher Academy* initiative unit credit starts with the teacher applying online using the *Teacher Academy Proposal for Credit* form, which is located on the TTA webpage, under Staff Services on the District home page. Once the form has been submitted online, it is first routed to the building principal for comment and then re-routed to the Telluride Teacher Academy Governance Board. The Telluride Teacher Academy Governance Board assumes the role and responsibility of making the final recommendation for approval of the proposed initiative to the Superintendent or his designee. The fairness of the awarding of *Telluride Teacher Academy* initiative unit credit is continually under review by both the Superintendent and the Telluride Education Association.

The *Teacher Academy Proposal For Credit* form is used by teachers to apply for *Telluride Teacher Academy* initiative unit credit related to one or more of the three broad categories outlined above and includes the opportunity for the teacher to identify other teachers working collaboratively on the initiative and the opportunity to identify the *Board Goal* most closely related to the initiative. The Telluride School District Board of Education Goals have been attached for your reference.

Course Offerings

Periodically throughout the school year and summer, *Telluride Teacher Academy* will issue course catalogues/fliers announcing upcoming professional development opportunities in which teachers may choose to participate. Local professionals, national consultants or District personnel may lead these offerings.

Tracking of Credits/Stipends:

The District is in process of determining a tracking program that will automate the procedures for accumulating hours toward initiative units (TTA credits) and stipends.

Let's Get Started!

The *Telluride Teacher Academy* will continue to evolve over time.. For now, all questions should be directed to Tava Smathers and Colin Hubbard. It all starts with the *Teacher Academy Proposal for Credit* form located under forms on the District Web Page.

Telluride Teacher Academy Governance Board:

Members of the Governance Board for 2013-2014 include the following members:

TTA Co-Chairperson:	Tava Smathers
TTA Co-Chairperson:	Colin Hubbard
TES Teacher Rep:	Susan Altman
TMS Teacher Rep:	Laura Ianacone-Taschek
Superintendent:	Kyle Schumacher
Principal:	Mike Conran
School Board Member:	TBA