2020 Teacher Application
Purpose
Created in 2002, the H-E-B Excellence in Education® Awards are designed to honor outstanding public school professionals and to thank them for their dedication and commitment. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators who go the extra mile each and every day to serve their students and their communities and who inspire others to do the same.

Eligibility
The following state-certified public school educators currently teaching in Texas are eligible to apply:
• Public classroom teachers - grades Pre-K through 12.
• Special area teachers performing instructional support services with students.
• Team teachers are eligible to apply with the understanding that all monetary awards will be equally divided.
  • Each member of the team should complete the biographical information on the form and submit a résumé.
  • Essays may be jointly submitted.
• All applicants will be judged based on total years of experience in the classroom regardless of location.
• Teachers who have been previously selected as statewide winners are not eligible to re-apply until they have entered a new award category based on years of experience.
• Teachers that have been chosen as a statewide finalist must wait one (1) year before reapplying (ex: a statewide finalist in 2019 cannot reapply until 2021).

Criteria
• Passion and commitment to the teaching profession
• Innovation and creativity in the classroom
• Professional growth and development

Evaluation Process
All written applications will be screened and scored by a team of professional readers. Regional finalists will be selected by a panel of judges comprised of educators, administrators and community leaders. There are five identified regions within the H-E-B service area and six (6) finalists will be selected from each area, one elementary and one secondary, in each of the three award categories. Applications from the thirty (30) finalists will then be reviewed by the statewide selection committee. The committee will conduct personal interviews with each candidate during a special two-day event to be held in May 2020. The event will culminate with the announcement of six (6) overall statewide winners during a recognition dinner and celebration.

Awards
The thirty (30) regional finalists will be notified of their selection on their individual campuses beginning in February. During surprise visits from H-E-B officials and members of the community, each finalist will be presented with a check for $1,000 for themselves plus a $1,000 grant for their schools. In addition, each finalist will receive an all-expense paid trip to the awards celebration in May and a special reception in their honor.

Award Categories
RISING STAR – Less than 10 years of classroom experience
One elementary and one secondary teacher will each receive a $5,000 cash prize plus a $5,000 grant for his/her school.
LEADERSHIP – 10 - 20 years of classroom experience
One elementary and one secondary teacher will each receive a $10,000 cash prize plus a $10,000 grant for his/her school.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT – more than 20 years of classroom experience
One elementary and one secondary teacher will each receive a $25,000 cash prize plus a $25,000 grant for his/her school.

Application Guidelines
Applications may be submitted online or mailed in. To complete an online application, please visit www.heb.com/education. The online application will be available until midnight on December 9, 2019. If an applicant is mailing an application rather than completing it online, please follow the guidelines below:
• Use no more than one page (8.5” x 11”) to answer each professional question.
• NOTE: Professional résumés can be more than one page.
• Type your name and the corresponding professional question at the top of each page.
• Use no smaller than 10 pt. type and no less than 1.5” line spacing.
• Please retain a copy of the application for your records, as materials will not be returned.
• Please DO NOT submit additional materials. They will not be used in the judging process.
• Applications must be postmarked by midnight on December 9, 2019.
• Staple your completed application in the top left corner.

Please submit your completed application to:
H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards
8100 Cameron Rd.
Bldg. A, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78754

Once your application has been received, you will be notified via e-mail. Please allow 3 - 5 days for processing.
Applicant Name: ____________________________________________________________
First                                             Last
Dr.   Mr. Mrs. Ms.
Home Address: ____________________________________________________________
Street                         City                                                State                       Zip
Home Phone: (  )_________________ E-mail: __________________________________
Total number of years as a teacher:________________________________________
Total number of years at current school:____________________________________
Full Name of School:________________________________________________________
School Address: ___________________________________________________________
Street                         City                                                State                       Zip
Telephone: (  )_________________ Fax Number: (  )___________________________
School E-mail:_________________ School Web Site:_____________________________
Principal’s Name:___________________________________________________________
Principal’s E-mail:___________________________________________________________
Type of School:Elementary Middle School High School Other
Classification:Urban Suburban Rural
School District:_______________ ESC Region:__________________________
District Superintendent’s Name:_______________________________________________
Current School Enrollment:_________________ Grade Levels (e.g. Pre-K - 5):_____
Class Size:______________________
Percent of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch:_____________________
Demographic breakdown of student population:_________________________________

STAAR Passage Rates: Reading _______ English/LA _______ Science _______
                      Writing _______ Mathematics _______ Social Studies _______

Categories (Select One):
Elementary: Grades Pre-K through 5
_____ Rising Star – Less than 10 years experience
_____ Leadership – 10 - 20 years experience
_____ Lifetime Achievement – More than 20 years experience
Secondary: Grades 6 through 12
_____ Rising Star – Less than 10 years experience
_____ Leadership – 10 - 20 years experience
_____ Lifetime Achievement – More than 20 years experience

Signature of Applicant: ___________________________________________ Date:_________________
Education History and Professional Development

*Please provide a copy of your current résumé with the following information:

a. Colleges and universities attended and degrees earned
b. Employment history including school names, locations and dates
c. Professional association memberships and offices held
d. Developmental activities and leadership training
e. Honors and awards
f. Community involvement

NOTE: Résumés can be more than one page in length.

PROFESSIONAL QUESTIONS (essays)

**Commitment**
1. Why did you decide to become an educator and what do your future career plans entail?
2. In today’s environment, explain the characteristics and qualities that you believe a great educator must possess. How do you bring these to life in your classroom?
3. As a professional educator, what accomplishment or achievement would you point to if you were asked to name the one about which you feel the best?

**Innovation**
4. Explain what you do to continue to learn and grow as a professional educator and incorporate new techniques and research-based programs into your classroom curriculum and across your campus.
5. How do you define and measure success for yourself and for your students?

**Education Issues and Trends**
6. What is the single biggest challenge facing Texas teachers today and what solutions can be provided either through policy or process changes or resource allocations?

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**
Include a letter of support from your principal or administrator