



Frequently Asked Questions

What does TDES stand for?

Teacher Development and Evaluation System.

What is TDES?

TDES is the Teacher Development and Evaluation System of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The Cleveland Teachers' Union and the CMSD have worked together to create a new system for evaluating Cleveland's teaching staff. Our model is informed by the research of [Charlotte Danielson](#) and is founded on a research-based framework for evaluating four domains of teacher effectiveness.

In Ohio, [HB 153](#) requires school districts to develop a standards-based evaluation system by July 1, 2013. As a recipient of Race to the Top funds from the federal government, Cleveland must comply with state and federal demands for a new teacher (and principal) evaluation system.

During the 2011 - 2012 school year, 25 pilot schools began the process of implementing the new evaluation framework. These schools have provided valuable feedback about the new system. In 2012 - 2013 all Cleveland schools piloted the new evaluation system. In 2013 - 2014, all Cleveland schools used the new portal, [Great Teachers & Great Leaders](#), to evaluate their staff in TDES.

Whose idea was this?

Cleveland is part of a national movement to overhaul teacher evaluations. The transition to TDES is funded by federal grants through the Race to the Top grant. The model we are using in Cleveland is based on the Danielson Framework, which was developed by Charlotte Danielson, a nationally recognized expert in education.

Did the Cleveland Teachers' Union agree to this?

TDES is a collaboration between the CTU and the CMSD. The CTU signed off on the Race to the Top grant application, which is the source for the funds to implement TDES. The CTU is actively and directly involved in the design and implementation of TDES. TDES is also an integral part of the new CMSD teachers' contract.

Why do teachers have to be evaluated in TDES?

TDES Quick Links

[TDES Portal - Great Teachers & Great Leaders](#)

[PD360](#)

[ODE Teacher Evaluation Information](#)

[House Bill 153](#) was signed into law on June 30, 2011. This legislation makes changes to the teacher evaluation process throughout Ohio, not just in Cleveland. HB 153 requires that all Ohio school districts have new evaluation system in place by July, 2013. ODE has a good [FAQ on HB 153](#) for more information.

Is TDES part of the Mayor's Plan?

TDES was in development prior to the passage of the [Mayor's Plan](#). However, TDES was incorporated into the Mayor's Plan (also known as the Cleveland Plan, or [HB 525](#)) and will be an integral part of Cleveland's plan going forward.

What is OTES?

OTES is the State version of TDES. It stands for Ohio Teacher Evaluation System. Our system, TDES, is aligned to OTES, but they are not identical. Evaluators must receive training in OTES in order to be state-certified evaluators. They take a computer-based test that they must pass in a proctored setting in order to conduct valid evaluations for the State of Ohio.

Who will evaluate the teachers?

Usually the building principal will be the evaluator. In large buildings with assistant principals, the AP may do the evaluation instead. A CIS may also conduct evaluations. If you work under a teaching contract, but are not a classroom teacher, then your department head should do your evaluation.

Can teachers choose their evaluators?

Generally, no.

Will Teach for America teachers be evaluated using TDES?

Yes. All CMSD teachers, including new teachers and TFA teachers, will be evaluated using TDES.

Are substitutes evaluated in TDES?

No. The State does not require that we evaluate substitutes.

How do test scores figure into the teacher's final rating?

HB 153 requires that 50% of a teacher's final evaluation score be based on student achievement data. If you are working in a grade that has standardized testing data, that data will be used in part to determine your effectiveness. If your grade or subject does not have standardized testing data, then student learning objectives (SLOs) will be used to measure student progress throughout the school year.

[HB 555](#) added more detail to the way that student growth measures would be used to determine the other 50% of a teacher's score.

If I was rated Accomplished last year, must I be observed again this year?

No. If you were rated overall Accomplished in eTPES (observation and student growth measures combined) then you do not have to be observed for the subsequent school year.

You said the "D" was for development. What does that mean?

The CMSD will provide in-person and on-line professional development for teachers who need or want to improve in areas of instruction and classroom management. We have purchased the complete library of [PD360](#) videos for educators to use for professional development. In addition, we are working to align our district-wide professional development opportunities with areas identified in our evaluations as likely topics for further learning and growth.

Will a teacher's rating affect his or her pay?

HB 153 does include provisions for performance-based compensation as part of a district's salary schedule. In many other states excellent teacher performance is recognized and rewarded by additional compensation. Cleveland's Differentiated Compensation System also takes evaluation ratings into consideration when awarding an increase in pay.

Where can I get more information?

Keep an eye on the [ODE Teacher Evaluation web site](#). They frequently update their content. Also check back on the [TDES Announcements site](#) for CMSD updates.