

## Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG)

### Overview:

- Local education agency (LEA), to include charter schools and virtual charter schools, must adopt an annual policy for distribution of TAG funds
- **TAG policy must be submitted to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) by September 15, 2020 for approval ([tag@doe.in.gov](mailto:tag@doe.in.gov))**
- **Once policy approval is received via email, LEAs will upload policy to INtelligrants through the LINK portal to initiate the TAG distribution process by September 25, 2020.**
- Policies may differentiate award amounts between school buildings
- A stipend awarded to a Highly Effective teacher must be at least 25 percent higher than the award to an Effective teacher
- Grants may be given as cash stipends; and/or
- Grants (up to 50 percent of award amount) may be given as increases to the base salary
- Additions to the base salary do not have to be bargained but must be discussed with the exclusive representative of the teachers
- LEAs may allocate up to 20 percent of the grant to provide a supplemental award to teachers with less than five years of service (who are rated as effective or highly effective). The supplemental award is in addition to the award made from the part of the grant that is allocated to all eligible teachers
- Distribution must occur within 20 business days of receipt from IDOE
- Any part of the teacher appreciation grant not distributed as stipends to teachers before February must be returned to IDOE on the earlier of the date set by June 30

### Eligibility:

- For purposes of the TAG, **teacher** means a professional person whose position with a:
  - \* school corporation
  - \* special education cooperative established under IC 20-35-5;
  - \* cooperative career and technical education program;
  - \* special education program established by an interlocal agreement under IC 36-1-7;
  - \* joint program agreement established under IC 20-26- 10; or
  - \* charter schoolrequires a license (as defined in IC 20-28-1-7) and whose primary responsibility is the instruction of students in the classroom or virtual classroom
- Rated Effective or Highly Effective
- Must be employed in the LEA as of December 1, 2020
- **LEAs may include in their TAG distribution newly hired teachers who were rated Effective or Highly Effective by their previous LEA**

