

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting – Master Teacher
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Today, we are privileged to recognize 8 Worthington teachers who made the decision to continue their professional growth and take on leadership responsibilities in a very visible way.

Obtaining Master Teacher status is, as these individuals can no attest to, not a trivial exercise. The successful candidate must demonstrate 5 criteria:

Describe how you have demonstrated consistent leadership in your school community and the teaching profession

Describe how you have contributed to focused collaborative efforts with other educators, students, families and/or the community to support student learning.

Describe how you have demonstrated distinguished teaching through a focus on students and environment, fostering rich learning opportunities and creating a safe, enthusiastic learning environment in which all students can achieve at high levels

Describe how you have demonstrated distinguished teaching through a focus on content, instruction and assessment.

Describe your professional growth activities from the last three to five years.

Of course, the trick isn't just the documentation required to provide the necessary evidence of these things, the trick is actually doing these things, every day in the classroom.

I want to make one more point before calling the teachers up. The State of Ohio modified teacher licensure back in 2009 with the inclusion of the Lead Professional Educator License and the Senior Professional Educator License. In both cases, the designation of "Master Teacher" in one mechanism whereby the teacher can demonstrate meeting the criteria for the accomplished or distinguished level of performance described in the Ohio standards for the teaching profession. The intent of advanced professional licenses was to provide a career ladder for teachers but other than the intrinsic rewards associated with moving up on the career ladder, the state never provided any tangible benefit to the teacher, or the school district, for encouraging these things, so many teachers don't bother. If Worthington wanted to locally encourage advancement on the career ladder, we are certainly free to do so. Please join me in congratulating our new Master Teachers!

