

Guidance for the Optional Virtual T-TESS Rubric

What is the Virtual T-TESS Rubric?

The Virtual T-TESS Rubric is an optional rubric that describes the teacher and student actions captured in the descriptors of the original T-TESS rubric from the context of virtual teaching and learning. In this rubric, Domains 1 through 3 of the original T-TESS rubric have been modified to better fit virtual teaching assignments. Domain 4 descriptors on the Virtual T-TESS rubric are the exact same language as the original T-TESS rubric.

How should the Virtual T-TESS Rubric be used?

If the district's appraisal timeline allows, it is recommended that district appraisers use the original T-TESS rubric to conduct formal observations and appraisals for teachers whose standard teaching assignment is in-person instruction, once staff and students are on campus.

For virtual teaching assignments that persist far enough into the school year where formal observations and appraisal needs to be conducted in order to be timely, this rubric can be used as the basis for teacher ratings in lieu of the original T-TESS rubric.

Outside of formal appraisal, this rubric can be used as a tool to observe, coach, and support teachers who are instructing students virtually.

How does a district “adopt” this virtual rubric?

Use of the Virtual T-TESS Rubric is optional. If a district does choose to use the Virtual T-TESS Rubric in its formal appraisal process, the district would not have to go through the local adoption process for a locally developed rubric, as the Virtual T-TESS Rubric would be considered a part of the Commissioner's recommended appraisal system, in accordance with Texas Education Code, §21.351.