



APEX

Achieving Professional Excellence Program Guide



APEX Program

The APEX (Achieving Professional Excellence) program empowers chapters to engage in diverse projects across five key categories.

APEX is a record of goals achieved and activities carried out by PA Ed Rising chapters, with recognition and awards bestowed at the annual state conference. To participate, chapters are encouraged to designate an individual to oversee all documentation as outlined within the rubric throughout the year.

APEX provides an avenue for chapters to showcase their dedication to Educators Rising Pennsylvania and its mission statement:

Mission Statement

Educators Rising is cultivating a new generation of highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path from high school through college and into their teaching careers.

It offers numerous leadership opportunities for members within their Educators Rising PA chapter, both on and off campus.

It's important to note that APEX is not a competition. Instead, it's a platform for chapters to showcase their achievements. Chapters that complete the required projects are encouraged to submit their project documentation for awards at the annual Ed Rising PA Conference. Project documentation can be in various forms, including electronic portfolios, videos, computer slide shows, and other creative ideas.

We strongly encourage you to thoroughly review the following pages and ensure your chapter complies with all APEX requirements. This is crucial for your eligibility for awards. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact cclayton@psea.org or klewis@psea.org.



All participating chapters that submit an APEX will be recognized at the annual state conference, and the top three APEX entries will receive an award.

The categories are as follows:

Ed Rising PA “Pillars”
Community Service
Leadership & Membership Development
Professional Development
General Organization & Quality

Entries can be digital portfolios, videos, computer slide shows, and other creative ideas.

All entries must be electronically submitted to klewis@psea.org. Please include the university name in the subject line (i.e., Bob Smith High School Apex Submission).

APEX Program Reports

All entries **require the following** enclosed APEX Chapter Information and Activities Information sheets for chapters to provide general information with the **Teacher Leader's signature** (scan and attach). Submit the completed APEX Chapter Information and Activities Information sheets with your entry. **Incomplete submissions will not be considered.**

About the Categories

- ❖ Each activity must document **at least three to five members** involved in the planning and implementation to qualify as an activity.
- ❖ Activities that qualify for two or more categories must be identified as such.
- ❖ When having an event with an EDGE speaker, **clearly identify the speaker as an EDGE speaker.**

Categories:

1. **Community Service**
 - ❖ Must be of a service nature.
 - ❖ May be done as a joint campus organization project or can involve outside community organizations.
 - ❖ Examples of previous APEX entries:
On-Campus:
 - ◆ Prepare care packages for teachers.
 - ◆ Establish a campus tutoring service.
 - ◆ Organize a blood drive.***Off-Campus:***
 - ◆ Adopt-a-Highway.
 - ◆ Food drive.
 - ◆ Nursing home visits.

2. Leadership & Membership Development
 - ❖ Should be designed to increase membership growth (retention, recruitment, diversity, and class).
 - ❖ May include leadership opportunities for members.
 - ❖ Increase communication among chapter members and/or the community.
 - ❖ Examples of previous APEX entries:
 - ◆ Membership drive.
 - ◆ Publish chapter newsletters.
 - ◆ Monthly chapter meetings.
3. Professional Growth
 - ❖ Must be a professional education focus.
 - ❖ Must be geared to expanding your members' professional knowledge and/or experience.
 - ❖ Examples of previous APEX entries:
 - ◆ Partnering with local school districts in an educational project.
 - ◆ Sponsoring EDGE programs.
 - ◆ Read Across America.
 - ◆ American Education Week activities (participate in a lesson/activity, not just reading a book).
4. General Organization and Quality
 - ❖ See APEX rubric for presentation guidelines (page 7)

APEX CHAPTER INFORMATION SHEET

CHAPTER: _____

TEACHER LEADER: _____

CHAPTER PRESIDENT: _____

CHAPTER VICE-PRESIDENT: _____

CHAPTER SECRETARY: _____

CHAPTER TREASURER: _____

OTHER OFFICERS: _____

Teacher Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

List all your activities for each category.

Community Service	Leadership & Membership Development	Professional Development

APEX Rubric

Community Service – 1 pt each if at least 3-5 members participate in the activity.

	A continuous community project held off campus (4 or more visits with dates listed) (Ex. Local Library) *
	Joint project (off/on-campus) with another campus organization (define project and list dates)
	At least 1 project that benefits the off-campus community (Ex. Pen-pal) (2 projects 1pt, 3 or more 2 pts)
	At least 1 project that benefits the on-campus community (2 projects 1pt, 3 or more 2 pts)
	Community outreach within your community* (2 projects 1 pt, 3 or more 2 pts)

Leadership & Membership Development – 1 pt each if at least 3-5 members participate in the activity.

	Involvement with Educators Rising – attended chapter meeting*
	Involved with Educators Rising – 2 or more types of activities (Ex. Phone bank)
	Increase in membership from the previous year
	Attend at least 1 Ed Rising event that is not just your chapter event (e.g., Ed Rising webinar)
	Proof of communication among membership
	Held regularly scheduled meetings
	Recognition event or documentation for member involvement

Professional Development – 1 pt each if at least 3-5 members participate in the activity.

	Held professional growth activity (1 point for each type)
	Held a leadership activity – 1 point for each type of activity (Ex. EDGE speaker)
	Organized and participated in Ed Rising educational activity (1 activity 1 pt, two or more 2 pts)
	Participated in American Education Week

General Organization/Quality – 1 pt each

	APEX Chapter Information page
	Activities Information (list of activities and table of contents)
	Activities correctly categorized
	No blatant spelling or grammatical errors
	Activities verified and valid within entry (date/title/category)
	Presentation is of professional quality
	Speakers identified by qualification/organization/profession
	Participants are identified either by name or photograph
	Meeting minutes submitted from the current school year*

*Used in a tiebreaker situation

