

# **Strong Foundations Math & Literacy Framework Grant Technical Assistance Provider Information**

June 2022

# Webinar Logistics

- Mute yourself if not speaking
- Use the chat to ask questions as we go, we will reserve time at the end to address them
- Jot down longer questions to submit via our question form below





**Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant Information**



**Approved Vendor Roles & Responsibilities Supporting Districts in Grant**



**Strong Foundations Approved Vendor List Application**



**Next steps and Questions**



# Strong Foundations Math & Literacy Framework Grant Information

Strong Foundations offers districts supports intended to get more 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to read on grade level

The **Math and Literacy Framework Grant**, a component of the broader Strong Foundations Grant Program, provides **foundational planning supports** aligned to research and the TEKS to help districts build the “**why**” behind instructional changes for all stakeholders.



In  
Statute

TEC Sec. 29.0881. (a) The commissioner shall establish and administer a strong foundations grant program for campuses or a program at a campus serving students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade five to implement a rigorous school approach that combines high-quality instruction, materials, and support structures.

# The broader Strong Foundations Grant will support LEAs in key supports to get 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students reading on grade-level

## Support Type:

Depending on the level of funds available, supports provided directly to districts can include:

Foundational  
District Planning  
Supports

Technical assistance to district leadership teams on literacy & math cognitive research & instructional materials best practices, extended school year scheduling, early childhood systems, and instructional leadership strategic planning

Critical  
Implementation  
Supports

Summer and year-long job-embedded training for district and school administrators, coaches and teachers aligned to evidence-based literacy & math curricular resources

Aligned  
Resource  
Subsidies

Additional funding for districts to subsidize the costs they may incur on resources aligned to these instructional changes, including printed material costs & digital material licensing fees, educator stipends, and parent engagement stipends.

Grant is  
one part  
of larger  
bundle

# NOW OPEN: Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant

Goal of grant: Develop a content-specific framework, adopted by the district, aligned to the research of how kids learn

This grant will...

- Support **collective learning process** focused on the research of how kids learn; learning supported by ESCs & approved vendors so all district staff can be active learners
- Provide **change management** and **stakeholder engagement support** so district can effectively build buy-in and support learning across the district
- Provide districts with **project management capacity** to manage process and support learning efforts

# We found a key foundational district planning component in response to COVID to be the creation of an instructional framework

## What we heard from districts...



We looked at our data and had to acknowledge that what we are doing today isn't working



We agreed that best way to move forward was to revisit the research around how kids learn



Launched a collective learning series to dig deeper into what the research says



Created a new literacy or math framework (or vision) grounded in the research



Used updated framework or vision to make large programmatic decisions

## What this led to...

A shared understanding that a change needed to occur

Created a culture of openness and "relearning" for all staff, including us as leaders

Our current ideas of how to approach literacy or literacy were challenged. We wrestled with new ideas!

An aligned committee on what strong instruction looks like in math or literacy.

All changes and decisions are grounded in this new framework, so staff have a shared understanding of the "why" behind changes



# Districts are using their math and literacy framework to increase alignment in other critical areas related to curriculum and instruction

## Literacy and Math Framework

**Assessment (STAAR Redesign)** – Districts are observing how a new framework can directly connect to changes in the STAAR Redesign

**Adoption** – Districts are using the key research concepts identified in new frameworks to evaluate the quality of different instructional materials

**Instruction** – Districts are using their framework to reevaluate how they train, observe and coach teachers



# Awarded districts will be guided through this framework development process by a Technical Assistance Provider

LEAs can contract with an **approved provider** to go through the following steps, with the flexibility to customize this for their district

Step 1: Building your Roadmap	Step 2: Build Communications Plan	Step 3: Collective Learning Series	Step 4: Develop District Literacy / Math Framework	Step 5: Implement Framework
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build a committee</li> <li>2. Assess your current data and frameworks</li> <li>3. Backward plan from end goal</li> <li>4. Develop decision-making protocols</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine who are the larger stakeholder groups</li> <li>2. Develop customized communication plan for each group</li> <li>3. Set up systems of coaching for stakeholders throughout process</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop collective learning scope and sequence focused on research</li> <li>2. Complete collective learning</li> <li>3. Stamp key collective learning take-aways</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on learning, draft vision and framework</li> <li>2. Collect feedback and iterate upon the draft with the committee</li> <li>3. Vote on final framework</li> </ol>	<p>Use final framework to assess existing district resources and supports including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. curriculum and instructional materials</li> <li>2. professional learning focus and design</li> <li>3. coaching structures and tools</li> </ol>

# Literacy/Math Framework Grant Benefits and Requirements

## LEA Benefits

- Funding for **technical assistance** from SAVL to **facilitate collective learning series** for district and support stakeholder and project management
- Participate in **district leader community of practice** to hear progress and approach of similar districts
- Funds to **travel to other districts** doing this work
- Funds to support project manager and committee members (districts may choose to support staff with **salaries or stipends** based on local context)
- Access to **exemplars of key deliverables** that LEAs can adapt for local context
- Receive priority for future TEA grant awards aligned to literacy and math supports

## LEA Requirements

- Use funds to select from **State Approved Vendor List**
- Attend monthly community of practice sessions with other districts
- Identify primary point of contact or project manager to oversee grant requirements
- Develop literacy and/or math committees
- Submit artifacts to demonstrate progress of work (e.g., collective learning plan, stakeholder engagement plan, data on key metrics, and final vision)
- Submit survey and participate in focus group to share how LEA has implemented new framework

# To provide timing flexibility, LEAs can choose two timing options that allow for backward planning by school year



## Opportunities for Districts to Learn More

**Note:** Attendance of these opportunities are available to interested TA providers, but any TA provider attendees must act as **observers**.

Any participation of these district facing events from a TA provider will result in exclusion from future district facing events

- **Grant Webinars [Optional]:** District/campus staff may sign up for webinars covering details of grant
  - Date: June 28<sup>th</sup>, Registration [Here](#) and July 11th; Registration: [Here](#)
- **District Panels [Optional]:** Sign up for District Panels to hear from districts already engaging in this work
  - Date: 6/28; Registration: [Here](#)
  - Date: 7/14; Registration: [Here](#)
  - Date: 8/18; Registration: [Here](#)
- **Research Overview Series [Optional]:** Sign up for overview of research topics series aligned with STAAR Redesign to see if your district may want to explore further
  - Date: 6/29 ([Math](#)) and 6/30 ([RLA](#))
  - Date: 7/18 ([Math](#)) and 7/19 ([RLA](#))
  - Date: 8/19 ([Math](#)) and 8/25 ([RLA](#))
- **Apply to grant [Required]**
  - Open: June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022; Closing: July 29th *and* August 26<sup>th</sup>



# Approved Provider Roles & Responsibilities Supporting Districts in Grant

# Approved providers will work with LEAs to provide a variety of supports in the framework development process

Recap: All LEAs will produce a research-based math or literacy framework that is adopted and implemented by the LEA



Co-create a **roadmap** to guide LEAs through the framework development process



Support the **buildout of a communications plan** to bring stakeholders along



Design and deliver a collective learning series on the **research of how kids learn**



Support development, feedback, and finalizing the LEA **math and/or literacy framework**



Support creation and submission of an **implementation plan** for the framework



**Monitor, collect,** and **report** data throughout the grant to TEA on behalf of the LEA



Develop a **case study** outlining LEA process from start to finish

# Potential providers must agree to a set of non-negotiables to support LEAs in this grant and will be approved for math, literacy, or both subject areas

## To get on the Strong Foundations Approved Provider List...

	Non-negotiable	Description or Details	Timing
1a.	Complete the Strong Foundations Approved Provider List application and include minimum capacity of districts your organization can commit to serving in SY22-23	See TEA Strong Foundations Approved Provider List Application	July 2022
2a.	Appointment of primary point of contact for all grant-related activities	Primary contact must be responsive and attend all grant-related updates	July 2022
3a.	Completion of required TEA trainings and mastery of TEA-defined competencies prior to redelivery of collective learning series to districts	Trainings required by September 2022 are ~5 days total of training. This collective learning series will be a customized re-delivery of the Research Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS) produced by TEA as well as additional trainings to the development of a framework	By Sep 2, 2022
4a.	Ability to contract directly with awarded LEAs requesting services in alignment with the capacity the organization committed to in the application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vendors required to submit one template contract LEAs can reference to help expedite procurement</li> <li>• Vendors required to submit summary tracker of districts they are working that includes what components are covered in each district contract</li> <li>• Vendors required to submit signed contracts with LEAs</li> <li>• Vendors required to attend one focus group with TEA to share information on procurement process with districts (for purposes of TEA better supporting LEAs)</li> </ul>	Aug-Sep 2022
5a.	Recommended: Organizations are encouraged to attend the district facing webinars and the district panels to hear the questions LEAs are asking as a part of this application process.	See Strong Foundations website to sign up	June - August



# Potential providers must agree to a set of non-negotiables to support LEAs in this grant and will be approved for math, literacy, or both subject areas

## Completing the Work:

Non-negotiable	Description or Details	Timing
<p><b>1b. LEA Step 1: Create a Roadmap</b> Support districts in developing a math and/or literacy committee</p>	<p>Submit final LEA roadmap that includes specifics on following minimum components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LEA Committee:</b> Overview of LEA final committee, including size, roles and process to develop and finalize committee</li> <li>• <b>LEA Framework Development Process:</b> Overview of development process including LEA goals, milestones and norms. Note: Vendor should support LEA in backwards planning from future TEA grant application</li> <li>• <b>LEA Decision making process:</b> Overview of how LEA will make final decision on getting to final math/literacy framework</li> </ul>	<p>Sept - Oct</p>
<p><b>2b. LEA Step 2: Build a Communications Plan</b></p>	<p>Submit final LEA communications plan that include key criteria such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger stakeholder groups in the school system and community</li> <li>• Customized communications plans for those larger stakeholder groups in communicating updates and the final framework</li> <li>• Plans outlining communications to committee members throughout the framework development process to ensure a closed feedback loop</li> </ul>	<p>Sept – Oct</p>
<p><b>3b. LEA Step 3: Conduct Collective Learning Series</b> Design and deliver a collective learning scope and sequence aligned to the research for math and/or literacy. Vendor and district have flexibility to adjust scope and sequence of collective learning however underlying research must still be covered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit final scope and sequence with district and confirm it is aligned with TEA requirements</li> <li>• Create exit tickets for all sessions in alignment with TEA guidelines, submit exit tickets and results to TEA</li> <li>• Submit attendance tracker of required participants</li> </ul>	<p>Oct - Dec</p>

# Potential providers must agree to a set of non-negotiables to support LEAs in this grant and will be approved for math, literacy, or both subject areas

## Completing the Work:

	Non-negotiable	Description or Details	Timing
4b	<p><b>LEA Step 4: Develop LEA Literacy and/or Math Framework</b> Support LEAs in creating, editing, and finalizing a math and/or literacy framework aligned to the research of how students learn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of support may vary depending on LEA preferences.</li> <li>TEA will provide a rubric to evaluate final frameworks. Vendors must evaluate LEA final products against the rubric and submit results in a TEA provided tracker. TEA will audit framework scores submitted by vendor. The primary goal if the final framework is alignment to the research</li> <li>The final product must be signed off by the Sup/CAO and be agreed upon by the committee.</li> <li>Attend TEA focus group on supporting LEAs in framework development process</li> </ul>	Nov '22 – Jan '23
5b	<p><b>LEA Step 5: Implement Framework</b> Support LEAs in identifying a set of implementation priorities based on the final framework in a one-page memo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit LEA implementation framework memos</li> <li>Complete TEA provided summary tracker of what LEAs plan to implement/change based on completion of framework</li> </ul>	Feb 2023
6b	<p><b>General Support</b> Submit 1-2 LEA exemplars of each deliverable outlined above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit LEA exemplars of each deliverable in tracker with summary of deliverable strengths and opportunities for improvement</li> </ul>	Ongoing
7b	<p><b>General Supports:</b> Development of a case study outlining LEA process from start to finish; highlighting successes and challenges in the framework development process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEA will provide guidelines to the build-out of a case study</li> <li>Case study should be designed in a format that allows LEA leadership to share out their development process and final results</li> </ul>	Jan-Mar 2023

# Overall, vendors will be assessed on quality of final framework in alignment to research, LEA satisfaction, and ability so support LEAs in adopting HQIM

## To stay on the list...

	Non-negotiable	Description or Details	Timing
1c	Attend any future TEA required trainings related to the framework development process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEA will continue to improve RBIS over time as well as improve the framework development process based on lessons learned</li> </ul>	Ongoing
2c	Evaluation of math/literacy frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEA's primary goal is to help districts build math/literacy framework aligned to research and the TEKS. TEA will evaluate TA providers ability to stay on the list based on districts' final product</li> </ul>	Feb 2022
3c	Vendor performance metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of districts strongly agree/agree TA provider effectively supported district in developing its math/literacy framework</li> <li>% of districts served with final framework meeting requirements of TEA rubric</li> <li>% of districts adopting high quality instructional materials in math and literacy (defined by materials currently being used and/or district's that sign up ongoing adoption supports and/or sign up to use OER products)</li> <li>% of district complaints resolved in expected time frame</li> </ul>	Ongoing
4c	Ability to serve LEAs with broader set of Strong Foundations supports (more information coming in Fall 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong foundations is a bundle of supports available to districts over the course of 2-3 years. TEA seeks to transition to a future state where districts work with the same vendor for all supports.</li> </ul>	Ongoing



# Strong Foundations Approved Provider List

TEA will be developing a *new* **Strong Foundations Approved Provider List** comprehensive of third-party vendors and Education Service Centers (ESCs) to support LEAs in this work.

Interested technical assistance providers must:

1. Submit a digital application
2. Assign a primary point of contract
3. Complete a set of training requirements offered by TEA
4. Contract with LEAs for services approved for



# Becoming a Strong Foundations Approved Provider

**Ideal TA providers  
to support  
districts in this  
work will have...**

- ✓ Experience delivering high-quality professional learning on math or literacy
- ✓ Content expertise in math and/or literacy aligned to the research of how students learn in both subject areas
- ✓ Strong project management and stakeholder engagement experience
- ✓ Experience coaching district leadership and building relationships quickly
- ✓ Organizational capacity to support this work at scale
- ✓ Experience working with Texas districts
- ✓ Evidence showcasing positive impact of previous work with districts

# Interested TA providers must complete an application and training requirements to support districts for the earlier grant timeline

## Step 1: Digital Application

- **June 24-July 22:** A digital application will be posted for interested TA providers to complete
- **Early August:** TEA will process application on an ongoing basis and create the **Strong Foundations Approved Provider List** available to districts
  - This list will be comprehensive of all approved providers with the requirement those providers complete required trainings

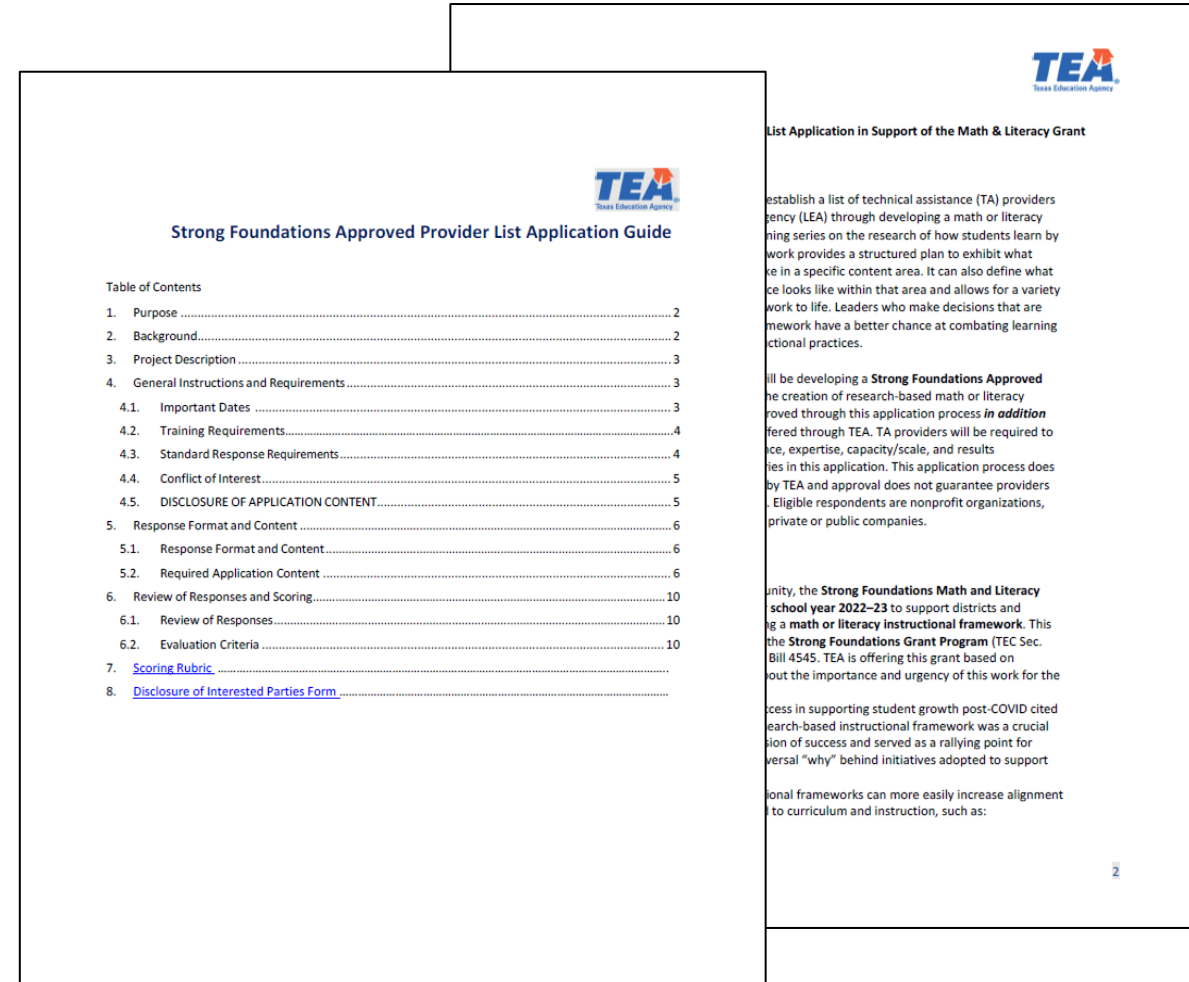
TEA will remove Approved Providers from the Strong Foundations Approved Provider List if required trainings are not completed by Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup>

# TEA created an application guide that goes deeper into the grant, requirements for vendors, and gives an overview of the application

## The application guide includes...

- Purpose and background of the grant
- Scope of approved provider requirements
- Key dates
- Training Requirements
- Application information with detailed descriptions of criteria
- Scoring rubric for application

This guide is **not** the actual application and TEA will not accept any emailed applications. All applications must go through the digital platform.





# Each submitted application will be scored against a rubric assessing each component of the application

TEA will be approving TA providers for this work based on the organizations...

1. Agreeance to assurances
2. Capacity of LEAs that can be served on the indicated timeline
3. Scores on a standard rubric for narrative responses and artifacts submission on the application

Strong Foundations Approved Provider List Application Scoring Rubric				
Points Available	1	2	3	4
	Not Qualified	Qualified with reservations	Qualified	Highly Qualified
<b>1A: Displayed Understanding of the Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant program</b>				
<b>1A.1 Understanding the Initiative</b>	Does not appear to have any understanding of the project, its purpose, or the intended outcomes. Fails to highlight the importance of the research around how students learn and the connection that exists between that research and high-quality instructional materials.	Has minimal understanding of the project, its purpose, or the intended outcomes. Fails to highlight the importance of the research around how students learn and the connection that exists between that research and high-quality instructional materials.	Has articulated sufficient understanding of the project, its purpose, or the intended outcomes. Fails to highlight the importance of the research around how students learn and the connection that exists between that research and high-quality instructional materials.	Has demonstrated comprehensive understanding of the project, its purpose, or the intended outcomes. Fails to highlight the importance of the research around how students learn and the connection that exists between that research and high-quality instructional materials.
<b>2A: Duration and Relevant Experience Doing Similar Work Nationally and/or in Texas</b>				
<b>2A.1: Duration and Relevant Experience</b>	Has less than 1 year of proven success in providing high-quality professional learning, collaboration, guidance with stakeholders at the senior educational leadership level and may not have Texas-based experiences.	Has between 1-2 years of proven success in providing high-quality professional learning, collaboration, guidance with stakeholders at the senior educational leadership level and may not have Texas-based experiences.	Has multiple years (at least 2) of proven success in providing high-quality professional learning, collaboration, guidance with stakeholders at the senior educational leadership level but may not have Texas-based experiences.	Has multiple years (more than 2) of proven success in providing high-quality professional learning, collaboration, guidance with stakeholders at the senior educational leadership level and has Texas-based experience.
<b>2A.2: Previous services or professional learning in math and/or literacy</b>	Lacks sufficient experience with providing similar services for professional development in math and/or literacy	Has minimal experience with providing similar services for professional development in math and/or literacy	Has had at least two experiences providing similar services for professional development in math and/or literacy	Has had multiple (more than 2) experiences providing similar services for professional development in math and/or literacy
<b>2A.3: Previous experience with priority supports</b>	Lacks sufficient experience with providing senior level coaching, case studies, collective learning series, data analysis or stakeholder engagement	Has minimal experience with providing senior level coaching, case studies, collective learning series, data analysis or stakeholder engagement	Has had at least two experiences providing senior level coaching, case studies, collective learning series, data analysis or stakeholder engagement	Has had multiple (more than 2) experiences providing senior level coaching, case studies, collective learning series, data analysis or stakeholder engagement
<b>2B: Building Internal Capacity to Scale to Support this Grant Program</b>				
<b>2B.1: Building Internal Capacity to Scale</b>	Does not appear to currently possess qualified personnel nor have the ability to hire up and/or train current staff on the unique educational landscape of Texas is unclear	Has minimal evidence of qualified personnel but has the knowledge and ability to hire staff that is familiar on the unique educational landscape of Texas	Has sufficient evidence of qualified personnel and the knowledge and ability to hire staff that is familiar on the unique educational landscape of Texas	Has significant evidence of current qualified personnel and the ability to hire additional staff and train all staff on the unique educational landscape of Texas.

# Interested TA providers must complete an application and training requirements to support districts for the earlier grant timeline

## Step 2: Complete Training Requirements

- All Approved Providers must preliminarily complete trainings on...
  - Research Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS) in math and literacy
  - Launching the Framework Development Process
  - Developing an Instructional Framework

*Additional trainings will be required in the future to maintain status on the Strong Foundations Approved Provider List*

### Staff supporting in different capacities may need to attend different trainings

Personnel Description	Required Trainings
Leads math and/or literacy framework creation with district grant participants or, Provides any district facing support related to this grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RBIS math and/or literacy trainings</li> <li>• Launching the Framework Development Process</li> <li>• Developing an Instructional Framework</li> </ul>
Trainer or facilitator for district in RLA or Math RBIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RBIS math and/or literacy trainings TOT and certification</li> <li>• Ongoing coaching support as needed</li> </ul>
<p>*Approved providers must attend trainings in subject areas they are approved for. Failure to complete trainings will result in <b>removal</b> from the Strong Foundations Approved Provider List.</p>	

# Approved providers supporting districts in this grant opportunity must complete a series of trainings offered through TEA

Required Training

Training Name	Timing	Training Details
<b>Math and RLA Research Based Instructional Strategies (RBIS) ToT</b>	August 2022	3-day in-person or virtual training
<b>Instructional Framework Development Training 1: Launching Development of an Instructional Framework</b>	Option 1: July 28 Option 2: August 15	Virtual training session
<b>Instructional Framework Development Training 2: Development of an Instructional Framework</b>	August 22 or August 29	Virtual training session
<i>Upcoming additional trainings below- more information to come!</i>		
Adoption Training Series: Using an Instructional Framework to Select HQIM	October-November 2022	Virtual training session
Adoption Training Series: Leading an Effective Review and Decision-Making Process	October-November 2022	Virtual training session
Adoption Training Series: Procuring, Ordering, and Preparing for HQIM Implementation	October-November 2022	Virtual training session

Approved providers must complete **bolded** trainings by September 2, 2022



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<i>Upcoming additional trainings below- must be completed by September 2, 2022</i>		
Adoption Training Series: Using an Instructional Framework to Select and Implement Instructional Materials		Virtual training session
Adoption Training Series: Leading an Effective Review and Decision Process		Virtual training session
Adoption Training Series: Procuring, Ordering, and Preparing for High-quality Implementation		Virtual training session

**Registration information will be sent out very soon! Save the dates now on your calendars if you plan to apply.**

Approved providers must complete **bolded** trainings by September 2, 2022





## Next Steps

- **Review application:** the application will be released by the end of the week. TEA will send out a follow up email on **Friday 6/24**, with a link to this recording application materials
- **Apply!** The application will close on July 22 at 5 PM CST
- **Learn More:** There will be a grant kick-off webinar for LEAs held on June 27 and July 11
- **Attend Required Trainings:** The first opportunity to attend the required learning series will begin July 28<sup>th</sup>

# Contact us!

(e): [StrongFoundations@tea.Texas.gov](mailto:StrongFoundations@tea.Texas.gov)

If you have additional questions, you can email us or use the QR code below:

