

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2027-2029 AP Computer Science (AP CSP) Grant Program Guidelines

Authorized by General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, 89th
Texas Legislature, Rider 59

Grant Application Due Date

December 1, 2026; 5:00 p.m. CT



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Introduction to the Program Guidelines

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) administers federal¹ and state grant awards to its subgrantees² to carry out a program. Such entities include primarily school systems (referred to as local educational agencies [LEAs] in statutes), including independent school districts and charter schools; education service centers (ESCs); and, to a lesser degree, institutions of higher education (IHEs), nonprofit organizations (NPOs), and other statutorily allowable organizations. The following Program Guidelines apply to all eligible subgrantees for the designated grant program.

The Program Guidelines, as part of the request for application (RFA), are to be used in conjunction with the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) and any application instructions or other RFA requirements, as listed for the grant on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. The Standard Application System (SAS) consists of Application Part 1 (PDF narrative schedules) and Application Part 2 (Excel budget schedules). An eligible applicant must submit both parts of the SAS to apply for funding, unless specifically delineated in these guidelines.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

Requirement for Username and Password

To access eGrants and apply for this grant, you must have access to the [TEA Login \(TEAL\)](#). Follow these steps to apply for usernames and passwords on TEAL:

1. Visit the [TEA Login \(TEAL\)](#) page of the TEA website. Select [Request New User Account](#) to begin the process of applying for a TEAL account online.
2. Once you have been assigned a TEA Login (TEAL) account, log into TEAL and under Self-Service select My Application Accounts.
3. The My Accounts tab will open. Select Request New Account, then find eGrants in the list and follow the instructions to submit your request.
4. Entities with existing TEAL accounts but no eGrants accounts should email competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov to ensure proper access to eGrants and this application.

¹ TEA is the grantee and pass-through entity for federal education funding. *Grantee* is defined as the legal entity to which a grant is awarded and that is accountable to the federal government for the use of the funds provided. The term "grantee" does not include any secondary recipients, such as subgrantees and contractors, that may receive funds from a grantee pursuant to a subgrant or contract. (34 CFR 77.1) *Pass-through entity* is defined as a recipient or subrecipient that provides a subaward to a subrecipient (including lower tier subrecipients) to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR 200.1)

² *Subgrantee* is defined by TEA to be the same as a *subrecipient*, which is defined in 2 CFR 200.1 as an entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal award. The term does not include an individual that is a beneficiary or participant of the program. For purposes of the request for application (RFA), TEA may use the terms *subgrantee*, *grantee*, *subrecipient*, and *applicant* synonymously.

5. If the application does not appear in your “Apply for Eligible Grants” section on your eGrants homepage, please email competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov.
6. For entities without a prior relationship with TEA and without TEAL accounts, please email competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov with the following information prior to requesting a TEAL account:
 - a. Entity name.
 - b. Entity full address: street, city, state, and ZIP code.
 - c. County.
 - d. Entity phone number.
 - e. Entity email address.
 - f. Entity legal authority: name, title, email, and phone.
 - g. Entity legal authority backup: name, title, email, and phone.
 - h. Vendor ID/FEIN.
7. All requests for TEAL and eGrants accounts must be submitted well in advance of the application deadline to avoid delays. Please note that this application process is both detailed and time intensive. It is the applicant’s responsibility to plan accordingly and allocate sufficient time to complete, certify, and submit the application before the deadline.

Late submissions caused by delays in obtaining TEAL or eGrants access, or by technical issues, will not be accepted under any circumstances. To ensure a smooth process, we strongly recommend initiating account setup and application work as early as possible.

Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines

The Program Guidelines provide information specifically relevant to this grant program. The [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) provide information relevant to all TEA grant programs. Throughout the Program Guidelines, cross-references are given to applicable sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#). It is critical that the grantee review all cross-referenced sections when preparing the application.

Errata Notices

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Errata Notices.

Overview of LASO Process

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC), including submitting an IDC application and being selected for funding:

1. TEA publishes IDC applications and supporting documents on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#).
2. Eligible applicants submit the LASO application via Qualtrics by the specified deadline in this document.
3. IDC applications are reviewed and scored. Note: The highest scoring applicants may be required to attend an oral interview or respond to questions regarding their IDC application.
4. TEA announces applicants selected for funding on the TEA [Grants Awarded Data](#) webpage.
5. Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit and certify an eGrant funding application including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding. Note: All data submitted in the needs

assessment application is incorporated into the eGrants funding application under the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the IDC application.
7. Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) is issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

Email Bulletins

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), GovDelivery Bulletins, as applicable.

Contact for Clarifying Information

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *TEA Contacts*.

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions.

Primary Program Contact: Kay Humes, Statewide Coordinator for Advanced Academics

Primary Program Contact Email: kay.humes@tea.texas.gov

Primary Program Contact Phone: (512) 463-8823

Additional Program Contact: Krystal Garza, Postsecondary Preparation Program Director

Additional Program Contact Email: krystal.garza@tea.texas.gov

Additional Program Contact Phone: (512) 463-9371

Funding Manager: Competitive Grants Unit, Grants Administration Division

Funding Manager Email: competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov

U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations

The following is provided in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education Appropriations Act:

Category	Amount
Total funds available for this project	\$1,292,550
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	0%
Amount of federal funds	\$0
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	100%
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$1,292,550

**Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may add it to the base amount indicated above and fund additional qualifying awardees until all funding is exhausted.*

LASO Timeline

For all dates related to LASO, including reporting dates, see the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. If a report due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the report will be due on the following business day. All dates except the grant ending date may vary slightly as conditions require.

Date	Event
September 14, 2026	General Webinar #1 Registration link 1 Webinar registration link can be found on the LASO website
September 18, 2026	General Webinar #2 Registration link 2 Webinar registration link can be found on the LASO website
September 23, 2026	LASO application available LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on September 23, 2026. Please see the LASO website for more information.
September 28, 2026	FAQ Publishing The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the TEA Grant Opportunities page and LASO website no later than the date listed on the Grant Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Frequently Asked Questions
October 12, 2026, 1:30 p.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website
October 26, 2026, 10:30 a.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 18, 2026, 1:30 p.m. CT	Office Hours Registration links found on the LASO website
December 1, 2026	Due date for the LASO Qualtrics application. The LASO application must be received by the TEA by 5:00 p.m. CT. See TEA Grant Opportunities , LASO Application Due Date and Time
December 2, 2026- January 30, 2027	Application review period See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Review Process
February 8, 2027	Anticipated award announcement
February 8, 2027	eGrants ADC and Application opens for awarded applicants
March 2, 2027	Due Date for eGrants Application
March 2, 2027	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period

January 30, 2029	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
April 30, 2029	End date of grant (if selected for funding)

Resources Available to Help Applicants Select the Most Appropriate Initiative(s)

An applicant that is eligible to apply for more than one initiative is encouraged to carefully review all available program information before submitting an application. To support applicants in determining which initiative or combination of initiatives best aligns with local needs, program goals, and eligibility requirements, the following resources are available:

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Resource**

Applicants may submit program-specific questions through the FAQ process to obtain clarification regarding eligibility requirements, allowable activities, program priorities, application expectations, and other grant-related topics. Responses to frequently asked questions may also provide additional guidance and interpretation of program requirements that can assist applicants in making informed decisions about which initiative(s) to pursue.

- **Webinars**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) may offer informational webinars designed to provide an overview of available initiatives, application requirements, timelines, funding considerations, and program expectations. These live virtual presentations may include slide decks, demonstrations, and opportunities to address commonly asked questions. Recordings and presentation materials may be made available for later reference.

- **Office Hours**

TEA program staff may conduct designated office hours to provide technical assistance and support to prospective applicants.

- **Additional Best-Fit Guidance Resources**

TEA has developed supplemental resources to assist applicants in selecting the initiative or combination of initiatives that best aligns with local needs and strategic priorities. These resources include initiative-specific one-pagers, best-fit guidance presentations, and initiative coherence supports designed to help applicants understand program distinctions, identify complementary funding opportunities, and make informed application decisions. Resources can be found via the [LASO Cycle 5 website](#).

Note: Programmatic support is only available via webinars and the FAQ process. Office hours are for technical support only regarding application submittal prior to the application deadline.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize these resources prior to submitting an application. Participation in webinars, review of FAQ guidance, and engagement during office hours can help ensure a clear understanding of program requirements and assist applicants in identifying the funding opportunity that best supports their intended outcomes.

LASO at a Glance

Authorizing Legislation

Authorized by General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, 89th Texas Legislature, Strategy A.2.4, Rider 59, Grants for Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Course.

Where to Submit the LASO Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on September 23, 2026. Please see the [LASO website](#) for more information.

Purpose of Program

The purpose of the AP CSP Grant is to assist each school system in the state in making an Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course available at each high school in the school system. This grant application requires grant funds be used only for technology, teacher training, and other expenses related to offering an Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course.

Eligible Applicants

- Independent school districts with high schools that serve students in grades 9-12.
- Charter schools with high schools that serve students in grades 9-12.

Charters not **yet** serving students are not eligible.

***If a charter school closure is pending review, the award will be placed on hold pending a final determination regarding closure. If the final determination is to keep the charter open, the funding will be released. If the determination is to close the charter, making the charter ineligible, the award will be voided, and no funds will be disbursed.*

Eligibility List

There is no eligibility list for this grant.

Shared Services Arrangement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Shared Services Arrangements.

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed.

Application Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#): *Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds*.

It is anticipated that approximately 40-50 applicants will be awarded between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

* Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may add it to the base amount indicated above and fund additional qualifying awardees until all funding is exhausted.

*** If a charter school closure is pending review, the award will be placed on hold pending a final determination regarding closure. If the final determination is to keep the charter open, the funding will be released. If the determination is to close the charter, making the charter ineligible, the award will be voided, and no funds will be disbursed.*

Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in rank order.

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Cost Share/Match Requirement.

There is no cost share or matching requirement for this grant program.

Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration's [Training and Other Resources](#) page.

The supplement, not supplant provision does apply to this grant program.

Limitation of Administrative Funds

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Administrative Costs*.

NOTE: Administrative funds include **both** direct administrative costs **and** allowable indirect costs.

Note Regarding Grantee Determination of Grant-Funded Position Functions as Administrative or Programmatic: The grantee is responsible for making case-by-case determinations to determine whether the functions of a grant-funded position are **administrative or programmatic**, or divided between both. There may be overlap in characteristics and activities, and no single factor or combination of factors is necessarily determinative. There are no uniform federal regulations that define how to characterize costs as either direct program or direct administrative costs. However, the organization must be consistent across programs in how they charge these costs. For more information, including considerations for making a determination regarding a grant-funded position, see the [Universal Errata](#) issued by TEA on July 15, 2026.

Direct Administrative Costs

TEA limits the amount of direct administrative costs for this grant program to no more than 15% of the total grant award.

Indirect Costs

For this grant program, the grantee may claim a maximum for allowable indirect costs equal to its current approved restricted indirect cost rate.

To calculate the maximum indirect costs that can be claimed for a grant, complete the [Maximum Indirect Costs Worksheet](#), located on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page.

Pre-Award Costs

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Pre-Award Costs.

Pre-award costs are not permitted for this grant.

LASO Application Requirements and Assurances

This section identifies the types of requirements with which applicants must comply to be eligible for funding:

- Statutory requirements (requirements defined in the authorizing statute).
- TEA program requirements (requirements defined by TEA program staff).

Statutorily Required Responses

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Statutory Requirements.

Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fingerprinting Requirement.

The following requirements are defined in the statute that authorizes this program.

The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

1. Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) grant funds will be used only for technology, teacher training and other expenses related to offering a course. *GAA, Article III, Rider 59, 89th Texas Legislature 59. Grants For Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Courses.*
2. The teacher assigned to teach the AP CSP course will hold a baccalaureate degree and certification to meet the Texas Teaching Assignment requirements for the AP CSP course. TEC 19 TAC §231.587 — *Fundamentals of Computer Science, Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles, Grades 9–12.*

TEA Application Required Responses

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), TEA Program Requirements.

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements.

Applicants must address within the application how they will achieve the following:

1. Identify an AP CSP Grant Manager to receive correspondence, participate in grant management meetings, complete surveys, and submit requested data.
2. Identify the phase of implementation for which the school system is requesting funds.
3. Report current data representing the school system's experience with the AP CSP course.
4. Identify the anticipated AP CSP expansion goal for the grant period.
5. Indicate how the school system plans to use grant funds.

Statutory or Program-Specific Assurances

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Provisions and Assurances.

1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this IDC will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
2. The applicant assures that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
3. The applicant assures adherence to the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the AP CSP Program Guidelines.
4. The applicant assures adherence to the Performance Measures, as noted in the AP CSP Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess program success.

5. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.
6. The applicant acknowledges that per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fingerprinting Requirement.
7. Equal Treatment of All Persons: Consistent with Article I, Section 3a of the Texas Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, federal and State law, and Executive Order No. GA-55, Subrecipient represents and warrants that: 1. All conduct under this Subaward shall be administered and performed neutrally without regard to race of persons; 2. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, elevate one person over another, or advantage any one person over another, due to race; 3. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, employ practices or engage in any advancement of the programs known as DEI, critical race theory, affirmative action, or other similar, divisive agendas; 4. Subrecipient's staff, agents, subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors that are selected and employed in the specific performance of this Subaward shall be selected and employed solely on merit and the ability to perform; and 5. Subrecipient shall ensure that any subgrantees, contractors, and their subcontractors participating in the specific performance of this Subaward represent and warrant compliance with the provisions of this clause.
8. Biological Sex and No Preferred Pronouns: Subrecipient represents and warrants that it shall ensure that all actions in specific performance of this Subaward shall comply with federal and state law and reflect that there are only two sexes. Subrecipient's employees, officers, representatives, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, and agents shall not, in performance of this Subaward, present, direct, request, or suggest the use of preferred personal pronouns in professional correspondence or presentations.

The applicant assures the school system will:

1. Include a description of the AP CSP course in the school system high school catalog and the master schedule, ensuring availability for student enrollment.
2. Secure and support a qualified teacher who is computer science CTE-certified, completes AP CSP course training, and the College Board's course Audit process.
3. Employ a multifaceted student recruitment plan that includes counselor engagement and outreach activities.
4. Develop a student support plan that includes academic tutoring, AP exam preparation, technical support, mentoring, and work-based learning.
5. Select an AP CSP curriculum and provide the required technology, equipment, and materials needed for course and student success.

The program-specific assurances for this LASO program are listed in the Qualtrics application.

Program Elements

Description of Program

The purpose of the AP CSP Grant is to assist each school system in the state in making an Advanced Placement

Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course available at each high school in the school system. This grant requires funds to be used only for technology, teacher training, and other expenses related to offering an Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course.

The LASO 5 AP CSP program is designed to expand access through a rigorous computer science education for students by increasing the availability and quality of AP CSP courses in high schools. The program supports local school systems in implementing and strengthening AP CSP instruction, enabling more students to develop foundational knowledge in computer science, computational thinking, programming, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

By increasing student participation in the AP CSP course, school systems can provide more students with access to challenging, college-level learning experiences that build critical computational thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. Expanded access to AP CSP strengthens students' readiness for college, careers, and military service while helping develop the skilled workforce needed to support a Talent Strong Texas.

Qualifications and Experience

The applicant agrees to provide the qualifications and experience data of the existing or future staff members, as required by program guidelines, as follows:

The AP CSP teacher will meet the Texas Teaching Assignment requirements for the AP CSP course. 19 TAC §231.587 — *Fundamentals of Computer Science, Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles, Grades 9–12* — sets the certification and work approval requirements for teachers assigned to teach the AP CSP course.

- **Education Requirement:** A bachelor's degree is required for all eligible assignments.
- **Eligible Certificates:** A teacher may be assigned to teach AP Computer Science Principles with one of the following educator certificates:
 - Computer Science: Grades 8–12.
 - Grades 6–12 or Grades 9–12 – Computer Information Systems.
 - Junior High School (Grades 9–10 only) or High School – Computer Information Systems.
 - Secondary Computer Information Systems (Grades 6–12).
 - Technology Applications: Early Childhood–Grade 12.
 - Technology Applications: Grades 8–12.
 - Trade and Industrial Education: Grades 6–12.
 - Trade and Industrial Education: Grades 8–12.
 - Trade and Industrial Workforce Training: Grades 6–12.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to set goals, collect data, and report on the following performance and evaluation measures:

End-of-School-Year Data Reports.

- Student enrollment in AP CSP course each semester and % of demographics, including race/ethnicity, English Learners, economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities. The report will include:
 - The number and percentage of CTE completers taking an AP course.
 - The number and percentage of CTE completers taking an AP CSP course.

- The number and percentage of non-traditional students enrolled in an AP CSP course.
- The number and percentage of students enrolled in AP CSP who earned course credit.
- The number and percentage of AP CSP-enrolled students who took the AP CSP exam.
- The number and percentage of exams with a score of 3 or higher.
- Annual year-end evaluation of student and teacher recruiting and support plans.
- End-of-grant-period sustainability plan.

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Refer to the [Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook](#) on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Note regarding travel costs, if allowable per guidance below: Any personnel approved in this grant must be reimbursed for travel according to the applicant's written policies and procedures; however, reimbursement may not exceed State of Texas mileage allowance, General Services Administration (GSA) hotel rate, and per diem rate existing in the current Texas State Appropriations Act. The state travel guidelines require only reimbursement of actual costs paid and, therefore, prohibit per diem payments to travelers without reconciliation to actual costs expended. Note: Contractor travel is paid as it is described in the individual contract, not to exceed the State rates, and may or may not be delineated out specifically in the contract.

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Allowable activities and use of funds for this Grant include only the following within school system guidelines. Expenditures must directly support delivery of the AP CSP course and student learning.

- Payroll costs.
 - Expenses above a teacher's base salary that support AP CSP implementation.
 - Stipends for training, planning, course implementation, AP exam coordination, and administration.
 - Supplemental pay for recruitment, student outreach, and family engagement activities related to AP CSP implementation.
- Professional and contracted services.
 - Approved AP CSP providers, curriculum contracts, and contracted services supporting program outcomes.
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials/capital outlay.
 - Classroom instructional resources, supplies, student project materials, robotics or computing kits tied to AP CSP projects, printing supplies for student projects, supplies used for coding, prototyping, and computational projects, etc. Student AP exam fees
 - Calculators, tablets, and instructional technology accessories; microcontrollers and sensors; headsets, webcams, and microphones; technology solutions categorized as supplies under local procedures.
 - Teacher laptop for AP CSP instruction, student desktop computers, student coding workstations, high-performance computers needed for course delivery, interactive displays or Smartboards, specialized computer science lab equipment, classroom printers used for

student products, network equipment directly supporting instruction, and any other durable equipment necessary for AP CSP implementation.

- Equipment related specifically to the delivery of AP CSP instruction.
- Other operating costs.
 - AP Summer Institutes and teacher training costs.
 - Recruitment and marketing materials and activities.
 - student outreach and family engagement activities.
 - Student showcase expenses for recruiting and building community capacity for the AP CSP course.

Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel costs for teacher professional development that meets school system guidelines are allowable.

Out-of-state travel costs should be minimal. Travel costs are allowable as long as the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items are only incurred by employed teachers attending AP CSP course training after being assigned to teach the AP CSP course by the Grantee and following the Grantee's regular business operations and written travel policy.

Out-of-state travel will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Justification for Out-of-State Travel form, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Travel for Students to Conferences (Does Not Include Field Trips)

Costs for travel for students to conferences may be funded under the Grant program (does not include field trips).

Travel costs should be minimal and must follow the Grantee's written travel policy. Only travel costs for students to the following types of conferences may be allowable:

- AP CSP student competitions with student engagement.
- STEM student conferences with student engagement.

Travel for students to conferences and competitions will require pre-authorization in writing. To access the pre-authorization form for participant support costs, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Field Trips

Field trips may be funded under the Grant program. Only the following types of field trips may be allowable:

- Corporate and Tech-company visits to observe distinct roles and workflows within the tech ecosystem.
- University or college Labs and tech centers where students can participate in hands-on tasks and demonstrations.
- Student field trips to colleges with computer science programs and trips to local business and industry to identify and experience the use of computer science principles in everyday situations.

Field trips will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA

upon request. To access the Justification for Educational Field Trips form, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

Refer to the [Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook](#) on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page for general guidance on unallowable costs. *General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 59, 89th Texas Legislature* "requires that grant funds be used only for technology, teacher training, and other expenses related to offering an Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles course."

The following activities are not allowed:

- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include:
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514).
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526).
- Audit services for state-funded grants.
- Non-employee costs for conferences.
- Out-of-state travel for anyone except a teacher assigned to teach the AP CSP course.
- Stipends for non-employees other than those included in 6419.
- Travel costs for officials such as executive director, superintendent, or board members.
- Cost of membership in any civic or community organization.
- Hosting or sponsoring conferences.
- Advisory council.

Expenditure Reporting (ER)

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Cash Management, as well as the [Expenditure Reporting](#) webpage.

The grant program will be funded by reimbursement once the NOGA has been issued and the grantee submits payment (drawdown) requests through the Expenditure Reporting (ER) system. The grantee is required to request payment regularly, at minimum quarterly, for allowable expenditures as grant program requirements are carried out. However, it is best practice to request funds monthly to support program implementation.

LASO Scoring and Review

This section provides information on the scoring and review of LASO applications.

LASO Review and Funding Criteria

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Review Criteria*.

School systems will be distributed into the following tiers.

- **Tier 1: New to AP.** School systems offering the AP program for the first time.

- **Tier 2: New to AP CSP.** School systems offering the AP CSP course for the first time.
- **Tier 3:** All remaining school systems.

All systems falling into a tier will be awarded prior to moving to the next tier. Within each tier, school systems will be ranked by total priority points, listed below. In the event of a tie, school systems will be prioritized by the highest Economically Disadvantaged percentage.

Priority Points

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Priorities for Funding.

- **Rural Schools: 10 Points.** A list of TEA-classified rural schools can be found at [School System Type Data Search | Texas Education Agency](#).
- **AP CSP Teacher Training: 8 Points.** The school system will increase the number of teachers trained in AP CSP.
- **AP CSP Expansion: 7 Points.** The school system is adding AP CSP sections to increase enrollment.
- **Program Expansion: 7 Points.** School systems that are expanding their current AP CSP program through additional students, sections, and/or campuses.

Total maximum number of priority points available: 32 points.

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Oral Interviews for Funding*.

Oral interviews do not pertain to this initiative.